

NATIONAL CIVILITY CENTER UPDATE

March 2004

National Civility Center Opens Office in Oakland County

As of the first full week of April the National Civility Center will have a field office located in Oakland County, Michigan. The new office will be located at 50 Wayne Street in downtown Pontiac. The United Way of Oakland County owns the building and we will be residing on the 4th floor. We will be sending out announcements soon with all the pertinent information. We are excited about the possibilities that exist with this dynamic opportunity.

During the first three months of this year we have visited Oakland County on five different occasions for a total of twenty days. These days have steadily encouraged us in partnership with many organizations and individuals, we are making progress. We continue our work with the Oakland Community Quality Council (partnership of the Public, Private, Non-Profit and Education sectors) we have had various meetings to increase the capacity of this organization. The Council has asked the Civility Center to be the neutral facilitator to help bridge their past "quality work" and the ideas of our Center. Being a neutral entity will also help in seeing their efforts in the "bigger picture context" rather than coming from one segment of the community.

We will keep everyone informed on the specifics of our work within the County. To the boardrooms to the back rooms we have the opportunity to demonstrate the principles associated with the Civility Center. The documentation of our efforts is important and we know the learning curve will be raised. We invite you to follow the progress and we welcome your ideas during the various stages of growth and development of this innovative project.

Director's Presentations in Minnesota and Wisconsin

Kent Roberts the Director of the Center has had his traveling shoes on. Besides sharing time in Michigan and Iowa he made presentations in Northfield, Minnesota and New Glarus, Wisconsin. In Minnesota he keynoted a Civility Conference at St. Oalf College in Northfield. The Southern Minnesota Initiatives Foundation held the conference. He was excited and encouraged by the many grassroots effort there to promote civility and improving communities. In New Glarus, Wisconsin Kent helped for the third straight year with their Gift of Community Day. As more people are introduced to the work and books of the Center they become interested in having personal contact with the Center.

Aspen Institute & National Civility Center's June Gathering

The planning is almost complete for the June gathering co-hosted by the Aspen Institute and the Civility Center. The event will take place in Muscatine, Iowa June 1st, 2nd and 3rd. This gathering will convene corporate executives, innovative community builders and a few foundation observers. The purpose is to correlate principles and beliefs that can be shared in creating profound change within the private and community sectors. Co-chairs of this event will Diane Bell, Director of Empower Baltimore and Marty Carver, CEO and Chairman of the board of the Bandag Corporation.

To capture the context and lessons learned from the event we have asked Leila Fiester, who has edited books by both the Aspen Institute and Civility Center, to write a summary of this unique gathering. The summation will be published and shared with the public in a variety of ways. It is our sincere wish that this publication would serve as a catalyst in leading dialogue within communities.

We have been formulating the list of invitees. We are extremely excited about the initial response to this event. We are sure bringing together such dynamic individuals will produce a remarkable outcome. We ask anyone wanting to know more about the gathering to contact the Center (563) 263-2891.

Marty Carver's Visit to Oakland County and the University of Michigan

On March 9th and 10th Marty Carver CEO and Chairman of the Board of the Bandag Corporation traveled to Southeast Michigan. Kent Roberts, Director of the Civility Center accompanied Marty. During these eventful two days Marty had the opportunity to meet with a wide variety of individuals and organizations. He also made two major presentations during his all to brief stay in Michigan.

The first day was devoted to Oakland County. The day was filled with meetings from corporate executives, grassroots leaders, government officials, education leaders, and other representatives of the community. One highlight was a presentation at one of Oakland Schools. Marty told the story of Bandag's journey in changing the culture of the organization. This was a timely discussion for their executive leadership and cultural teams and was well received.

The second day was spent entirely at the University of Michigan. Beginning with meeting the President, Mary Sue Coleman and ending with Marty presenting to faculty and students, the day was jam-packed with insightful and delightful conversation. An article concerning Marty's presentation can be seen on University's Business Review. The main purpose of this visit was to see the interdisciplinary effort between the graduate departments of business and environmental/natural science. Their Corporate Environmental Management Program is very innovative and highly regarded. The hope is that Marty, the Civility Center and the University will continue to dialogue and share ideas.