



# South Orange/Maplewood COMMUNITY COALITION on Race

*Our Vision: To achieve and sustain the  
benefits of a thriving racially integrated and truly inclusive  
community that serves as a model for the nation.*

## 2010 ANNUAL REPORT



Hundreds of South Orange/Maplewood residence demonstrate their **Commitment to Integration** at the 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration

### *A Commitment to Integration*

The towns of South Orange and Maplewood demonstrated their commitment to building an integrated community throughout 2010 under the leadership and focused work of the Community Coalition on Race. We have worked hard at strengthening our two communities through internal as well as external marketing, working with local businesses, realtors, community organizations, educational and government institutions using a broad and holistic approach to develop solutions to issues of integration as they arise. As you read this Annual Report and review our year of pro-integrative efforts, join us in celebrating all that we have accomplished together and make a commitment to help us in 2011 as we strive to expand intentional integration in our two towns.

We view our work as unifying and strengthening. Our progress—integrated neighborhoods, serious attention to the achievement gap, open dialog about race, affirmative community marketing—has required the undaunted effort of our trustees and many volunteers. We claim that achieving a thriving, integrated, truly inclusive community is an on-going process: we need dedicated and resolute leadership to keep integration and inclusion viable.

As we celebrate 15 years in 2011 of building an inclusive community, we have planned a full calendar of programs and events planned. Here are just some of the highlights:

- ♦ For parents facing the tough questions kids ask about race, the Schools Committee is sponsoring a workshop this February, “How to Talk to Children about Race”
- ♦ For families with young children, we have an **Integration through the Arts** program coming up in March—a musical based on Dr. Suess stories that help kids deal with prejudice and offers a message of racial inclusion
- ♦ For aspiring or practiced photographers, we have an **Integration through the Arts** program featuring workshops that focus on the subject of integration—in our personal lives, our homes, our schools and our community
- ♦ For everyone, including town leaders, we are holding our annual *Conversations on Race*; this year’s topic is “Our Towns and NJ First Suburbs: The Importance of Intentional Integration”

As Chair and Executive Director of the South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race we would like to thank our individual donors for their strong support of the Coalition on Race’s mission of building and sustaining an integrative and inclusive community. Without your financial support and volunteerism, there wouldn’t be a South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race. We invite you to join the conversation and be part of the effort. Visit our website—[www.twotowns.org](http://www.twotowns.org)—to stay in touch with what’s happening in our towns and in your neighborhood!

Nancy Gagnier, Executive Director

Chip Madsen, Chair

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# 2010 Highlights in Their Own Words...

## Conversations on Race

*"Many people find that talking candidly about race to those outside our racial group is often uncomfortable and difficult, so the Coalition's leadership through these annual skill building workshops is a real benefit to our community."*

Audrey Rowe, Program Director  
South Orange/Maplewood Community  
Coalition on Race



Dreamcatcher Repertory Theater brought Race scenarios to life in a group discussion



Marc H. Morial and Nancy Gagnier following his speech at the Coalition on Race's 2010 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

## 9th Annual MLK, Jr. Celebration

*"When we moved north from New Orleans, we looked for a place to raise our kids in a vibrant and racially diverse community. We found that in the South Orange/Maplewood Community, and the Coalition has played a large part in that accomplishment."*

Honorable Marc H. Morial, SO Resident  
CEO & Pres., National Urban League

## Preschool Open House

*Having the Coalition on Race recruit and organize 26 preschool and child care agencies under one roof was "like (finding) a gold mine" for South Orange/Maplewood parents.*

Dace Spanier



Liam and parents, Dania & Brian Murphy at Preschool Open House.



(Photo courtesy Mary Mann/MaplewoodPatch.com)  
Parents and teachers discuss de-leveling at Coalition's Schools Committee workshop

## Minding the Gap Follow-up Workshop

*"I was inspired to produce the [Mind the Gap](#) documentary on this national problem after attending the Coalition on Race's workshops on the achievement gap."*

Nancy Solomon  
South Orange Resident and  
NPR Journalist



Sing-in participants Jason Asbury, Andrea Barnett, and Arlene Silikovitz

## Two Towns Sing-in

*"Participating in the Coalition's Sing-ins is often the lightest and most stress-relieving part of my day. It brings me together with people I would not otherwise have met to share something we all love"*

Omisanya Karade  
South Orange Resident

## Green Day Participation

*"A community with a high standard of living is attractive to ALL people, so joining in efforts to save and improve our environment is pro-integrative and makes perfect sense for the Coalition on Race."*

Suni King, Trustee  
South Orange/Maplewood Community  
Coalition on Race



Trustee Suni King chats with Maplewood resident at Coalition table during Maplewood Green Day.



## ...Residents and Others Comment on the Coalition on Race and Its Work



Coalition Executive Committee joins Attorney General Dow and honorees Pettis and Thompson at Annual Dinner.

### Celebrating Integration

*"What you've accomplished here is extraordinary. You've achieved on-going, honest discourse among racial groups without enmity or fear, made great strides towards genuine integration, and you've achieved true inclusiveness by choice--not by mandate."*

NJ State Attorney General Paula Dow  
Maplewood Resident



Nancy Gagnier, Audrey Rowe and Chip Madsen accept PlanSmart Regional Award for the Coalition on Race.

### PlanSmart NJ Award

*"We can all learn from South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race how giving everyone a seat at the table and a valued voice can make our communities stronger--vibrant and vital to our state's urban-suburban fabric."*

Dianne Brake, President  
PlanSmart NJ

### Report to the Community

*"My family and I have lived in Maplewood for 19 years and this is the first time that I have come out to one of these meetings. I had no idea of all the things the Coalition does and now I plan to volunteer and get more involved."*

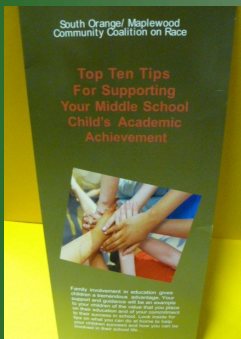
Jesse Horowitz  
Maplewood Resident



South Orange/Maplewood residents discuss projects and make suggestions at Coalition on Race's Annual Report to the Community.

### Supporting Parent Advocacy

*The Coalition's brochure promotes parent engagement in our schools by providing effective, clearly stated tips on advocating for your child. "*

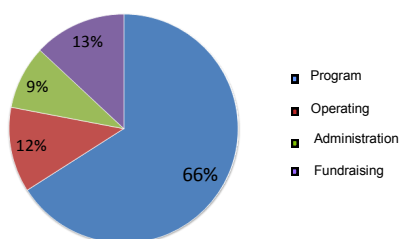


Schools Committee's Top Ten Tips for Middle School Parents brochure

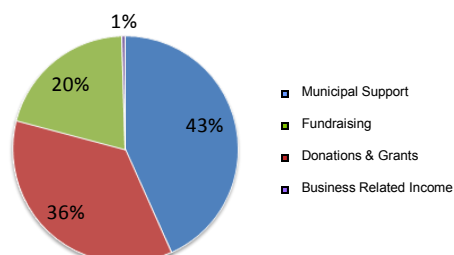
Superintendent Brian Osborne  
South Orange/Maplewood School District

## 2010 Financial Summary

2010 Expense Summary—Total Projected \$121,263



2010 Income Summary—Total Projected \$121,775



# Contributors 2010 Thank you for your support!

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