

On June 26th of 2008, the Trustees voted on and adopted a newly worded mission statement:

OUR STATEMENT OF BELIEFS AND MISSION

We believe that:

- ♦ **HONEST DIALOGUE** between racial groups without the constraints of fear is essential to **BUILDING MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS** with-in our organization and in our community and in our world.
- ♦ **RACIAL INTEGRATION**, true inclusion, and racially sensitive communities of faith will ultimately benefit the entire community in all areas that contribute to **QUALITY OF LIFE**, including schools, housing values, civic life, business, and government.
- ♦ Our efforts to achieve a racially integrated and **INCLUSIVE** community need to be both intentional and clear in language and actions.
- ♦ The benefits of a racially integrated and truly inclusive community cannot be attained without **TAKING RISKS** and positions that may challenge existing ideas.

Therefore, our mission is to become a community that fully exemplifies thriving racial integration and true inclusion.

Continued from page 1

We are excited—and honored—to have the privilege of serving as Executive Director and Board Chair of this organization at this historic time. The election of President Barack Obama shows how far our country has come. That he has been chosen to offer his talents to serve the nation's common good is a sign of our strength. At the Community Coalition on Race, we work to reach out to all members of our towns to

encourage them to bring their talents to benefit our local community. Only by working to make it possible for anyone to participate in any aspect of community life will we begin to live together in a truly inclusive community. We encourage you to support our work with your financial contributions and we welcome you to join our efforts by attending an event or joining one of our committees!

Living the Vision



Audrey Rowe, Coalition Program Director

SHARING What We Have Learned

On September 26th, the Coalition was invited to share its experience in organizing arts events that encourage integration at the “Strengthening Diverse Communities

Through the Arts” conference jointly sponsored by Rutgers University, Fund for an OPEN Society and NJ State League of Municipalities in Camden. Coalition Program Director, Audrey Rowe, made a presentation on past Coalition and community events including *Two Towns in Harmony*, *Two Towns—the Play*, *Two Towns Sing-ins*, and . The invitation affirmed the progress that the Coalition has made towards its goal of our towns becoming the model for a vibrant and stably integrated community in the state of NJ, the region and the nation.

ENGAGING Our Leadership

The Trustees began October—Coalition Month—with a Gala fundraiser. They celebrated their achievements and honored pro-integrative advocate Don DeMarco, from Fund for an OPEN Society, who spent ten years as our advisor and consultant.



South Orange Village President—Doug Newman, Trustees Sue Willis and Carol Barry-Austin, past Maplewood Mayor—Ken Pettis, Maplewood Township Committee Member—Kathy Leventhal, current Maplewood Mayor—Vic Deluca, State Assemblyman John McKeon at Coalition 2008 Gala



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.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

A Courageous Community

We believe that we live in a courageous community. There are few towns in our nation that have taken integration as seriously as we do here in Maplewood and South Orange. We know that it takes courage to do what it takes to be a truly inclusive community. That's why we can proudly say that we stand as the rejoinder to Attorney General Eric Holder's recent comment that America is “a nation of cowards” when it comes to talking about race. We do talk to each other about race and have been for the 12 years the Coalition has been in existence. With the very concrete efforts of the Community Coalition on Race, willing to take on the tough questions and to take positive steps toward integration, we build a stronger community—a more desirable place to live—every day.



Nancy Gagnier, Executive Director and Marlon K Brownlee, Board Chair

HOW DO WE BENEFIT OUR COMMUNITY?

The Coalition brings value by:

- ♦ Stimulating a slowing housing market through story placements, advertising, and free tours
- ♦ Promoting excellence and equity in our schools for all students
- ♦ Engaging residents of all races in community building activities and providing opportunities for learning and conversation that are critical to building a racially inclusive community, one that is a model across the state
- ♦ Engaging a diverse and talented group of volunteers to run the committees that are essential to our pro-integrative efforts

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P.O. Box 1309 Maplewood NJ 07040 ♦ 973-761-6116 ♦ info@twotowns.org ♦ www.twotowns.org

The Community Coalition on Race

is a nonprofit, community-based organization, supported by the town governments of South Orange and Maplewood, private donations, foundations and grants, that strives to build and sustain a community that is truly inclusive and racially integrated in schools, civic life, housing patterns, business and government. Our events and committee work in 2008—highlighted in this annual report—show just how much we foster the health and welfare of our two towns. Read on to see how we are **Living the Vision...**



CELEBRATING Our Inclusiveness

Imam Wahy ud-Deen Shareef praised the bold and unique vision of the Coalition and the South Orange/Maplewood Community to invite a Muslim imam to speak in a Jewish synagogue in celebration of the African American Baptist preacher, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. That sentiment was shared by more than 400 residents and neighbors who gathered on Jan. 21 at Congregation Beth El to celebrate the Coalition's Seventh Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Imam Shareef's message, calling individuals to serve, was combined with interfaith readings and selections from local choir—Voices in Harmony, followed by a Volunteer Fair offering attendees community service opportunities. The South Orange/Maplewood Community Coalition on Race Partnered with the African American Jewish Coalition to plan and host this event.



Congressmen Payne & Pascrell join Community Coalition Chair Carol Barry-Austin and African American Jewish Coalition Chair Richard Kuperman at MLK Service

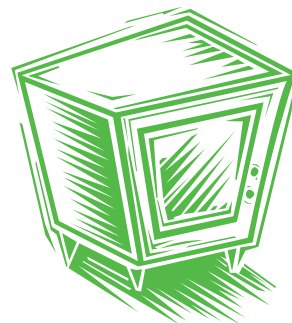
Living the Vision

PUBLICIZING Our Great Community



Realtors Take the 2008 Coalition Tour

The Coalition marketed South Orange and Maplewood through free tours of the community for homebuyers and realtors. The Coalition's Realtor Tour, held on April 16th, and the Coalition's Tour Committee efforts were featured by The Star Ledger newspaper and NJ TV station WMBC. Our Marketing Committee also attracts homebuyers and visitors with regional and national media placements and paid advertising.



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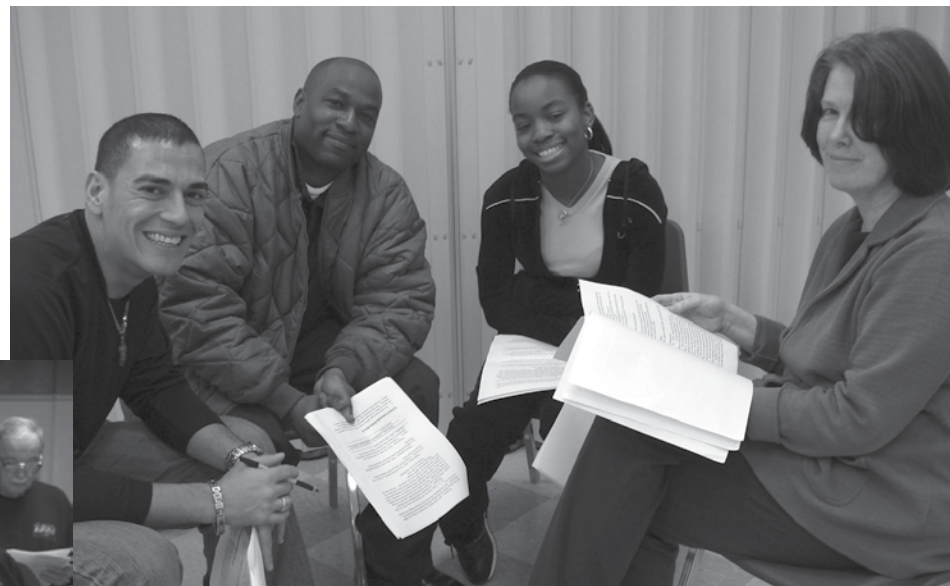
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Please accept our apology if your contribution was omitted in error. Notify our office and we will make corrections in our next print publication.

Living the Vision



Playwrights' Theatre of NJ Council on the Arts Actors



2008 Two Towns Sing-in Rehearsal

BUILDING COMMUNITY Through Shared Experiences

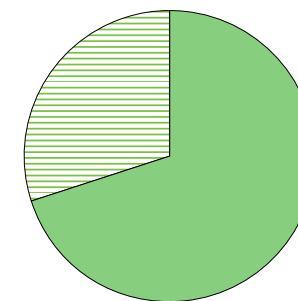
Over 50 residents who love to sing gathered weekly from October 15th through November 19th to learn music from diverse traditions, taught by a racially diverse team of professional music performers who also live here. The results were enriching musical experiences, new friendships and a stellar performance shared with neighbors, friends and family at the SOMS Little Theater on November 23rd.

This was the third year for *Two Towns Sing-in* and it is now officially a cornerstone of the Coalition's *Integration Through the Arts* program. By bringing people of different races together around common and relaxing interests, such as singing, reading, theater, etc., we seek to nurture relationships across racial boundaries. This program, as well as the MLK Celebration, was made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and administered by the Essex County Division of Cultural and Historic Affairs.

INNOVATING to Promote Integration

The Coalition's Spring Forum, *CONVERSATIONS ON RACE: Language, Stereotypes and Communication* opened in the CHS cafeteria with improvisations based on real conversations by South Orange/Maplewood residents. After viewing the reenactments, the fifty attendees were eager to discuss their interpretations and expand their understanding. Moderator Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern was joined by panelists Rev. Sandye Wilson and Dr. James Van Oosting who offered their perspectives on bias in language. This use of drama to deepen interaction is part of the Coalition's *Integration through the Arts* program.

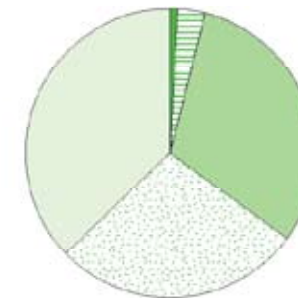
2008 Expense Summary



Programs Expense—70%
Operating Expense—30%

TOTAL \$118,387

2008 Income Summary



Gifts—37%
Village of South Orange—28%
Maplewood Township—31%
Grants—3%
Other—1%

TOTAL \$121,033

2008 BOARD of TRUSTEES

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New South Orange Residents Visit Coalition Ambassador Table

REACHING OUT to the Community

In 2008, the Coalition staffed Ambassador tables at community-wide events. These outreach efforts provide a means for interacting with South Orange/Maplewood residents to inform them about the work of the Coalition and how that work impacts the quality of life in our community. The goal is to enlist residents as participants and volunteers with the Coalition, as well as with other civic and governmental organizations, with special emphasis on attracting the racially underrepresented to particular committees, projects and organizations.

Contributors

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Kenny Vaughan Re-enacts Dr. King "Drum Major" Speech

COMMUNICATING Candidly & Respectfully

The eloquence and wisdom of Dr. King’s speeches were used as catalysts for a small group discussion series that explored a different speech each week between October 18th and November 19th. The series closed with a rousing reenactment of Dr. King by local resident Kenny Vaughan. The event was sponsored by the Interfaith Outreach Committee of the Coalition, with support and participation from the Ethical Culture Society of Essex County.




2008 Preschool Open House Attendees



PREPARING For Equity and Excellence

Close to 200 parents and 23 pre-K programs participated in the Seventh Annual Preschool Open House event hosted jointly by the Coalition’s Neighborhood Association & Civic Life and the Schools Committees at Columbia High School on November 11th. This effort assists parents in finding early child education options that successfully prepare all children in our community to perform equally well in Kindergarten and beyond.



South Orange/Maplewood
COMMUNITY COALITION *on Race*

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