

America's Unfinished Business...

America is at a crossroads. One road leads to community, the other to the chaos of competing identities and interests.

Race is at the core of the crises facing America's cities. It is deeply embedded in our history and our institutions. For many of us, race determines where we live, where we send our children to school and where we worship.

In cities across America, bold experiments are taking place. People of all backgrounds are coming together in honest conversations on race, reconciliation and responsibility.

Hope in the Cities offers experience, resources and a process to enable such conversations to take place.

Hope in the Cities:

- ☑ **Convenes national, city and neighborhood dialogues to provide opportunities for honest conversation.**
- ☑ **Develops public education programs to recognize the nature and root causes of racism and to point to the possibility of healing.**
- ☑ **Highlights and encourages models of hope which demonstrate effective partnerships and personal responsibility.**
- ☑ **Creates a spirit of community across jurisdictional lines.**

A Proven Process for Change

- **Listening carefully and respectfully to each other and to the whole community.**
- **Bringing people together, not in confrontation, but in trust, to tackle the most urgent needs of the community.**
- **Searching for solutions, focusing on what is right rather than who is right.**
- **Building lasting relationships outside our comfort zone.**
- **Honoring each person, appealing to the best qualities in everyone and refusing to stereotype the other group.**
- **Holding ourselves, communities and institutions accountable in areas where change is needed.**
- **Recognizing that the energy for fundamental change requires a moral and spiritual transformation in the human spirit.**

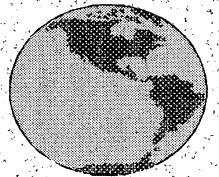
Resources

Hope in the Cities offers a unique perspective for human relations task forces, civic and religious organizations, and others involved in building partnerships.

Experience: To facilitate the acknowledgment specific unhealed history as a process of trust building.

Support Teams: To help identify issues, and to initiate dialogue and programs for effective change.

Networking: To offer a link to established national and international networks to place local issues in a broader context.



Publications and videos:

❖ *A Call to Community*

A working document designed to inspire honest dialogue and create a vision of community that transcends our divisions.
"Just what is needed."

William Raspberry,
Washington Post

❖ *Healing the Heart of America*

A prize winning video documentary. A southern city walks through its past to build relationships for its future.
"This video should be in every school and library."

Rabbi Robert Reiner
President B'nai Brith, Cincinnati

📖 Resource guide for use with schools and discussion groups is available

Partnerships for Healing

In June 1993, building on sustained inter-racial work in Richmond, Virginia, Hope in the Cities sponsored a national conference, Healing the Heart of America. This has inspired ongoing initiatives in many other cities.

- ✱ Multi-cultural/multi-ethnic dialogues in Los Angeles, the Twin Cities (MN), Portland(OR), and Hartford (CT).
- ✱ Community forums with political, business and religious leaders in Cincinnati and Philadelphia.
- ✱ A strategy to address institutional racism by the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation.
- ✱ A symposium hosted by members of Chicago city council and other city leaders.
- ✱ The launching of *A Call to Community*, a contribution to the national debate drawing on experiences from cities across America. Supported by a bi-partisan leadership group including Senator Bill Bradley (NJ), Congressmen Rob Portman (OH), Dick Chrysler (MI), and Jesse Jackson, Jr (IL), and Mayors Kurt Schmoke of Baltimore and Roxanne Qualls of Cincinnati.

"We must redefine community beyond our own street and precinct."

Judge Nathaniel R. Jones
U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals
Hope in the Cities Forum, Cincinnati.

Some comments from participants in Hope in the Cities activities....

"The process for moving past and not getting stuck in the blame game is critical for real growth. The mentality of victimhood or guilt-ridden shame anchors us in inaction. Hope in the Cities provides the arena for unselfish leadership and partnerships for building trust and hope."

◆ Walter T. Kenney, Mayor
Richmond, Virginia

"Never before have I heard people speak so openly and passionately about things that really matter."

◆ Michael McQuillan, Director
Intergroup Relations
Brooklyn Borough, N.Y.

"It has helped me to reconcile and erase the line I drew between the north and the south; to feel that I can embrace the United States as one nation made up of many diverse people who must work together."

◆ Carolyn Leonard, Coordinator
Multi-Cultural/Multi-Ethnic Education
Portland Public Schools, Oregon

Hope in the Cities is an inter-racial, multi-faith coalition of individuals in business, government, education, media, religious and community organizations. Its purpose is to set in motion a process of healing through honest conversations on race, reconciliation and responsibility.

To see this video in
Cambridge call
Edith Staton

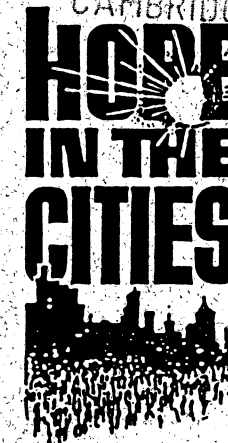
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A program of OMRA Initiatives for Change

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CAMBRIDGE MA.



***Healing our cities
through honest
conversation on race,
reconciliation and
responsibility...***

Mrs. Edith B. Staton

17

993 Memorial Drive #403, Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear City of Cambridge Council
Members,

Thank you so much for your
resolution wishing me a happy
100th birthday.

I am proud to be a citizen of
Cambridge. You have pioneered by
putting historic signs on the homes of
former African American leaders. I hope
we can persuade the sightseeing buses
to include a few of them when they bring
tourists to Cambridge.

If any of you would like to see
the Richmond video on race relations
I will be glad to try and meet your
convenience.

Thank you all, I am honored.
Edith Blain Staton

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

Consent Communication #12

S-4/5

Communication was received from Mrs.
Edith Staton, transmitting her
appreciation for the resolution adopted
by the City Council on her One Hundreth
birthday.

In City Council September 9, 1996.

Placed on file