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Message from our Director

Dear Central MN neighbors,

On one of the first (very cold) days of 2018, a couple hundred Central MN folks gathered at the Whitney Senior Center in St Cloud for food and stories from 12 different countries around the world! The opening of our Central MN Green Card Voices exhibit was definitely the most exciting addition to our programming in 2018. Our exhibit traveled around the state, from places in our area like schools and the VA Medical Center, all the way to the Grand Rapids/Itasca area. In 2019, it will continue to line the hallways of schools, colleges, and even Centracare buildings across Central MN!

Amplifying the voices of marginalized folks in our area is what #unitecloud is all about. We believe by sharing these stories within our Green Card Voices exhibit and #unitecloud blog, as well as when you, our community, partner with us to bring #unitecloud’s diverse speaking team to your school, faith center, or community space, hearts that were once hardened begin to soften. Soft hearts allow for empathy to change long-held, damaging beliefs that we may have about our neighbors. When we understand our neighbor, we can easily love our neighbor - and, the great news is that people stand up for those whom they love. One beautiful thing about the human race is that, when we love someone, we simply cannot be indifferent about their suffering.

The truth is that there are still neighbors of ours who are suffering. Children are called derogatory names by their next-door neighbor and told to get out of the only country they’ve ever known. Families are yelled at to “speak English” while they are speaking their native language with their family while grocery shopping (little does the aggressor know that our immigrant neighbors usually speak 2-7 languages - including English). Elders are harassed at our government offices while getting the help they need. Community members are demeaned while pumping gas, simply for having a rainbow keychain.

We can do something about this. Some of you already are doing something and we are so inspired by you. Together, we are becoming a community that is known for our radical welcome, unity, and celebration of all humanity.

Thank you for joining us in ensuring that ALL are welcome in Central MN,

Natalie Ringsmuth, #unitecloud Founder and Director
Mission

#unitecloud provides education and actionable steps to resolve tensions and restore dignity to all people in Central MN.

Vision

#unitecloud seeks to foster an empathetic community that chooses to stand up for one another regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, abilities, or socio-economic background. We believe that our commitment to this vision will lead to a sense of greater safety and hope and a decrease in fear and suspicion of those who are different from us.
Programs

Love Your Neighbor Merchandise

In 2018, we expanded our Love Your Neighbor merchandise line to include T-shirts! These T-shirts, bumper clings, and yard signs make it clear that it IS a MN value to care for and support your neighbors. That heart with a MN inside of it speaks volumes and has become a simple way to stand up against hatred and bigotry. All of our #LYN merch is available to order right on our website!

Central MN Green Card Voices

Our exhibit features 18 first generation immigrant and refugee stories from 12 different countries of origin. The stories that make up this exhibit are Central Minnesota stories, told by our neighbors. The exhibit features full-color banners displaying highlights of each incredible and unique story. Each banner includes a portrait, their 200-word bio, a quote and a QR code (viewers can scan them with smart phone/ipad and watch the first-person video story).

Speaking and Training

In our educational sessions, our diverse speaking team brings people together to know their neighbors and learn how to move out of indifference and into action to stand up against hatred and bigotry. In November of 2018 we kicked off a year-long program called “Connecting Communities through Education and Engagement” which will allow over 700 people to access our trainings across Central MN.
Resources and Fiscal Management

Budget report - 2018

2018 Expenses

SPEAKING/TRAINING TEAM $7,795.14

PAYROLL EXPENSES (Director) $30,666.80

PROJECTS (TOTAL: $10,458.63)
- Green Card Voices $766.56
- Ramadan Date Project $1,743.03
- When Home Won’t Let You Stay $7,419.69
- Love Your Neighbor merch $529.35

OTHER COSTS $2,279.02

TOTAL 2018 EXPENSES: $51,199.59

2018 Income

SPEAKING FEES $9,093.29

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS $4,935.11

GRANTS $28,125

PROJECTS (TOTAL: $13,140.30)
- Green Card Voices: $4,795.01
- Ramadan Date Project: $2,012.47
- When Home Won’t Let You Stay: $3,994.98
- Love Your Neighbor merch: $2,337.84

OTHER $298.05

TOTAL INCOME: $55,591.75

2018 In-kind donations

Westwood Church - room for monthly board meeting, Jan-Dec $480
Booth registration fees: $10
Web/Marketing Project Manager (8hr/wk @ $60/hr) $24,960

TOTAL IN-KIND DONATIONS: $16,360
Connect with us!

facebook: @unitecloud

twitter: @UniteCloudMN

instagram: @unitecloud

info@unitecloud.org

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