

Year of Unity News

Project Unity

Unity Begins With You!

April 2017 News

Together We Dine Upcoming Events

Two Dining Events Set to Discuss Race

Together We Dine is a dining event that is geared to spark courageous and safe conversations about race at the dining table among total strangers. Led by a facilitator, participants will engage in healthy and

Dallas. Members of the Dallas Bar Association will facilitate the discussion tables.

Honorary Co-Chairs and Ambassadors will participate in a special dining event on Monday,

“When I begin to see you as my brother, neighbor and friend... My response to your plight is different than when I see you as a stranger.”

Pastor Richie Butler

structured dialogue that builds relationships and trust.

On Wednesday, April 26, students from SMU, Paul Quinn College and UNT Dallas Law College will dine and dialogue together about race. The dining event is hosted by UNT Dallas Law College located downtown

May 8. Pastor Richie Butler will host the evening which includes Honorary Co-Chair Dr. Brian Williams as guest speaker. Relationship experts and NY Times best-selling authors Helen LaKelly Hunt, Ph.D., and Harville Hendrix, Ph.D. will facilitate the dining discussion.

Upcoming Events

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Every Friday

Together We Pray
9 a.m.

Dial In – (641) 715-3580
Code – 295-041-092#

Wednesday, April 26

Together We Dine
UNT Law College
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
SMU, Paul Quinn College,
UNT Dallas Law College

Saturday, April 29

Together We Learn
@ St. Paul UMC
11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 8

Together We Dine
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Honorary Co-Chairs &
Ambassadors

Tuesday, June 20

Together We Dine
6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Community dining event

Saturday, July 15

Together We Heal
American Airlines Center
12 p.m.

Together We Learn

DISD Schools Plan to Participate

On Saturday, April 29, six DISD schools will participate in the **Together We Learn** program. The event will take place at St. Paul UMC from 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Senator Royce West will meet and greet students and talk about the new Texas law, **Senate Bill 30**, which requires education for high school students regarding police interaction. This Bill requires conduct training for students, drivers-in-training and interaction with police during civilian/law enforcement scenarios. Project Unity has been working with the Black Police Association (BPA) on a curriculum based program created by the BPA. Senate Bill 30 emphasizes the importance of the **Together We Learn** program. We need your help communicating this program to other schools and organizations.

Saturday's participating High Schools include Carter, Roosevelt, South Oak Cliff, Kimball, Lincoln and Wilmer-Hutchins.

Law enforcement officers will dialogue with teens in a

positive forum and provide practical instruction on how to act and react during traffic and pedestrian stops. Students will participate in static traffic stop scenarios and have lunch with officers to discuss their current thoughts and perceptions.

Together We Learn is open to high school students across Dallas and other organizations. Our September 23 program will be conducted for the DFW Jack and Jill Chapters.

A big thank you to our sponsors and supporters: Sewell Lexus Dallas, United Way Dallas, Black Police Association, St. Paul UMC and the Black Police Association.

Together We Learn will benefit all teens. Please contact us to sign up your school or organization for a special program date this fall. There is still time to register a teen for Saturday's event at https://togetherwelearn_042917.eventbrite.com

Volunteers are needed! Please contact us and learn how to get involved today – charlene@projectunity.net

United Way Event

Heath Festival

Project Unity will participate as a vendor at United Way's The Live! In the Park 5K Run/Walk and Fitness Festival. The event takes place on Saturday, April 29, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Lake Cliff Park in Oak Cliff, 300 E Colorado Blvd, Dallas, TX 75203.

The Project Unity team will host a booth at this community event. We will promote the Year of Unity programs and events, register attendees for the June Together We Dine event and register people to volunteer for events. We will also invite attendees to take part in the YOU Challenge.

Everyone is invited to tie up your tennis shoes for the 5K, and then stick around to enjoy a family-friendly free health festival complete with face painting, crafts, giveaways, music, and fitness activities. And don't forget to stop by the Project Unity booth!

For more information, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/TX/Dallas/UnitedWayLiveinthePark5KHealthFestival>

Together We Worship Summary

March was busy with worship activity

On Sunday, March 26, churches around the metroplex participated in the Together We Worship pulpit swap. The pulpit swap has successfully aligned 24 churches from across the area to partner and “swap” pastors beginning March 12 through September 2017. Additional churches will be added through the fall. Church locations stretched from southern Dallas, downtown Dallas, Richardson and to Forney. Church denominations included Non-Denominational, Baptist, Presbyterian, Christian and Methodist. To date, twelve churches have conducted their pulpit swaps with the remaining scheduled to occur over the summer and into the fall.

As a result, thousands of parishioners have had the opportunity to participate in a diverse worship experience other than their typical service led by a pastor from a different ethnic/racial identity.

Participant churches included: Woodcreek Church, North

Dallas Community Bible Fellowship, Greater Bethlehem Baptist Church, Mustang Creek Assembly of God Church, St. Paul UMC, Arapaho UMC, Park Cities Baptist Church, Concord Church, First Christian Methodist Evangelistic Church, Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Cornerstone Baptist Church, and Valley Ranch Baptist Church.

In addition to the pulpit swap, on March 29, nine multi-faith/multi-racial groups and community organizations came together to discuss their faith, goals, missions, and how they can create a civil society for North Texas. The common thread for all the organizations is racial reconciliation and having a voice. This lunch meeting was hosted by Faith Forward Dallas at Thanks-Giving Square and Project Unity – Year of Unity.

Participating organizations included: Faith Forward Dallas at Thanks-Giving Square, Project Unity, Faith in Texas, Dallas Clergy Mobilization, Concord Church, Pastors for Texas Children, South Dallas Clergy Group, Threaded, Friends for Good, and Collin County Group.

The coming together of these organizations will help impact thousands of people across the Metro-area who are guided, affiliated and influenced by these organizational leaders. Participants were charged to go back to their base organizations to leverage ideas. Plans for future meetings are underway and will include additional organizations.

Partner Events

Spread the Word...

Monday, May 1

The **Dallas Mayor’s Star Council (MSC)** is currently recruiting members for the 2017-2018 class. Applications are due May 1. The Mayor’s Star Council is made up of a group of diverse leaders from the ages of 25-40 that come from eight different areas of cultural and professional influence. Our mission is to empower leaders to impact our city through our purpose to Learn, Connect and Serve.

For more information about MSC and how to apply, visit their website at www.mayorstarcouncil.org/apply. Contact **Diana Einstein**, YOU Ambassador at diana@mayorstarcouncil.org

Partner Events

Spread the Word (cont.)

CitySquare - Purpose Built Communities Meeting

On Friday, April 28, CitySquare will host a meeting to bring the Purpose Built Communities model to Dallas. YOU Ambassador and CEO of City-Square, **Larry James** will host special guests, community leaders and the Atlanta Purpose Built Communities team as they participate in a workshop session from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. During this meeting, they will provide updates, make critical decisions, and

plan next steps. If you are interested in attending, please contact Elizabeth Wattley at ewattley@citysquarehousing.org.

YOU Needs You!

Volunteer Opportunities

Wondering how you can get involved or get your organization involved in the Year of Unity programs and events? Just let us know!

We currently need volunteers to assist with all of our programs and events. Some needs are small in number, but others will require larger

groups of volunteers.

Contact us today if you can assist with any of the following upcoming events:

- April 26 – Together We Dine (5 volunteers)
- April 29 – Together We Learn (10 volunteers)
- May 8 – Together We Dine (5 volunteers)
- June 20 – Together We Dine (10 volunteers)
- July 15 – Together We Heal (50+ volunteers)
- August 27 – Together We Ball (20 + volunteers)

YOU CHALLENGE

Take The Year of Unity Challenge!

Throughout the year, we simply challenge you to:

1. Listen to someone else's story
2. Learn about someone else's situation – walk in their shoes
3. Engage in constructive dialogue and activities to improve race relations

Post a photo or log your experience at [#DFWYearOfUnity](https://twitter.com/DFWYearOfUnity) or [@DFWYearOfUnity](https://www.instagram.com/DFWYearOfUnity)

Stay Connected!

Project Unity Doesn't Work Without U!

Follow us, Tweet us, Like our Instagram posts, connect on FaceBook, watch us on YouTube

[#DFWYearOfUnity](https://twitter.com/DFWYearOfUnity) ~ [@DFWYearOfUnity](https://www.instagram.com/DFWYearOfUnity)

YOU Website

Visit www.yearofunity.com

Full Calendar of Programs & Events • Refer a Volunteer • Make a Donation



YEAR OF UNITY

Contact Us!

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