

Diversity from page A1

Expenses could run between \$5,000-\$15,000. Maxfield said Friday that the school district and the two cities are expected to contribute a combined total of \$2,000-\$2,500.

He didn't think specific approval from the board or council would be necessary because of the small amount. The school district has some money in a district diversity budget, for example, he said.

Reaching deeper

Recruiting participants, facilitators and leaders is important, particularly since the MCMR has had trouble drawing people to some of its events.

Hundreds of people attended a candlelight vigil honoring Martin Luther King and the Rainbow Recognition awards ceremony.

Yet other programs which focused on diversity in the workplace and talking to parents about diversity weren't as widely attended and attracted predominantly school district employees or PTA representatives.

Maxfield earlier referred to low attendance at some events as "a wakeup call" for MCMR.

Now the MCMR Council plans to reach deeper in the Farmington-area.

"Other communities tend to envy us and the support we receive from our governments

and our leaders," said MCMR co-chair Jim Hall at a recent Farmington City Council meeting. "We're looking for ways to engage neighbor-to-neighbor."

The NCCJ will work on funding to do its work here as well.

NCCJ's role

Krichbaum said he was a United Methodist Church minister in several communities which at one time or another were integrated communities and then became re-segregated because people didn't feel they were getting enough out of the schools or other institutions to remain a part of the community.

"What's your cut on this?" Bohnsack asked Krichbaum. "Is it simply your work with us because that's part of your charter and you are funded already or do you get a piece of our action?"

Krichbaum said NCCJ "needs to get some funding from somewhere from somebody to do something. We are talking to several foundations and companies about doing this kind of work in general."

Corporate donations

"What's Compuware doing for the community as they're leaving?" Krichbaum asked Brock. Farmington Hills-based Compuware is moving to Detroit.

"Jack," Brock replied, adding Compuware made negative com-

ments about the city at a press conference.

Krichbaum said NCCJ has a good relationship with Compuware. "They would be really smart to do something for Farmington and Farmington Hills," Krichbaum said. He suggested NCCJ could talk to community relations people at Compuware.

Maxfield said a Compuware contribution could be sort of their way of apologizing for the negative comments.

While raising funds may prove a challenge, the benefits of improving and increasing MCMR's efforts are well documented. Graduating seniors in the Farmington School District have said in one-year out surveys that the diverse community they grew up in was a help to them in college years.

"We're proactive, not reactive as so many communities are," Bohnsack said. "It's hard to hate people you know."

NCCJ offers programs geared to help create peaceful communities

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The National Conference for Community and Justice defines itself as a non-profit human relations organization founded in 1927. It was originally known as The National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The NCCJ works with leaders and people from different backgrounds to create communities of justice where each person is treated with respect and understanding.

"Our work at NCCJ involves transforming communities through institution change by empowering leaders so that all people will have access to our nation's opportunities and be included in its promise," according to its literature.

For 60 years, the group has worked with local businesses,

schools, police departments, religious congregations, community agencies and government offices to help people learn how to live and work in a culturally diverse society, according to its mission statement. NCCJ programs include:

■ Different People/Common Ground, which incorporates a series of small group dialogues about the human relations barriers which sometimes confound best efforts to understand one another and live and work better together.

■ Interfaith Round Table — A "hallmark" program with roots in the metropolitan Detroit faith community. "Triang programs with Muslims, Christians and Jews provide an opportunity for scholars, clergy and lay leaders to gain a greater awareness of and respect for different religious traditions."

■ Safe Streets — coordinated by

NCCJ and The Youth Connection, The Detroit Safe Streets Network is a collaboration of public, private and non-profit organizations and people helping to build a safer environment for children.

■ LINC — leadership in the New Century is NCCJ's comprehensive series of youth activities. These programs help develop and expand young people's understanding of religious, racial, ethnic and cultural diversity and their ability to function effectively in a pluralistic society.

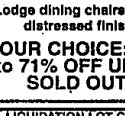
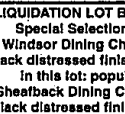
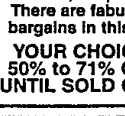
The NCCJ also addresses racial profiling which is described as "a hot issue that attracts intense interest." The NCCJ, NAACP and the ACLU work collaboratively to ensure support for community conferences which will train local law enforcement to reduce the profiling that allegedly occurs because of race, gender, religious affiliation and other cultural differences.

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