NCCJ, MCMR team up for community diversity project

The Farmington/Farmingto Hills Multicultural/Multiracion Council in partnership v Detroit-based National with the Justice will embark on a joint project Oct. 25-26 to deeper community dialogue on diversi-

That will involve a large That will involve a large group of community volunteers, who will commit to a year-long project. The agenda won't be up to NCCI, said representative Dan Kirchbaum. "Our council is looking for the community to tell us," said the Bingham Farms resident, who joined NCCI in 1996.

"When you talk about the ideals of our country, basically, it has to do with a variety of groups learning how to work

it has to do with a variety of groups learning how to work together. I think of Farmington as an All-American city because it has so many different groups. We haven't had many All-American cities where people have gotten along really well. Ille an opportunity work with a community like that.

Before coming to NCCJ, Kriebbaum, a minister, was the executive vice president for Channel 56 public television station.

He believes his present work at NCCJ is a better fit because it deals with hate issues and focuses on people getting along

Krichbaum grew up in a small Ohio town and graduated with a bachelor arts degree in

sociology from Wooster College, 25 miles south of Cleveland. His Master of Divinity degree is from Columbia University, New York

City.
He came to Detroit in 1967 and worked at several churches and as a campus minister at Oakland University. He worked as director of parks and recre-ation in Detroit for 16 years. Then he went to Channel 56 for

Then he went to Channel 56 for three years.

The larmed an awful lot Tve learned an awful lot Tve learned an awful lot from all those jobs, "Krichbaum said 'in public television I learned a lot about communi-cations. I learned a lot about fundraising."

The Michigan NCCI chapter has 10 full-time people and five part-time people. Because the non-profit offers diversity and conflict resolution training, NCCI decided to charge a fee for contract service. About two-thirds of the dollars come from a nanual dimer and founda-tions around the metropolitan area.

Expenses
To keep expenses down,
NCCJ hires trainers and consultants. "They might be a
school guidance counselor, psychologist or they may be a professor at one of the universities
around here," he said.
NCCJ does all of Comerica's
diversity work in Michigan. The
group has also dome work for
the Detroit Medical Center.
Karen Bolsen, an MCMR cochair with Jim Hall, will spend
a year helping the community

come up with a plan.
"It would help the project if the group had some resources," Krichbaum sald.
Bolsen was chosen to be the point person for the project. MCMR is soliciting financial resources to do mailers and

resources to do mailers and develop materials. The cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills and the Farmington Publis School District contributed \$2,500 to get the project started. The first corporate donation, \$2,500, came from Compuware. The group is waiting on a request of \$510,000 from the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan. The cost of Farmington's two-year project will be about \$50,000, Bolsen said.

About \$20-40,000 would be required for a part-time project administrator. Another \$5-10,000 is estimated for consulting fees or programming costs for the facilitation process.

Bolsen signed on to work on the planning portion. She acknowledged that she likely will be the part-time administrator.

"We haven't signed a contract for that though," she said. "We are still developing the funding." About \$20-40,000 would be

ing."
The contract would be between the two cities, the school district and Bolsen. "I've been doing this as a volunteer for seven years," Bolsen said.
"I'll still be doing lots of volun-teer work along with this proj-

cet."

One project possibility is creating dialogue groups among congregations. "Part of our role is to train facilitators in these is to train lacinators in these congregations so they could do that year after year," Krichbaum said. "We're not going to wait on the money from NCCJ's regist of view."

on the money from NCCJ's point of view."
He believes enough staff resources and resources from fundraising exist to proceed with the project to make the Farmington area a model for diversity in the metro-Detroit area.

e benchmarks to measure uccess, Krichbaum said

success, Kriehbaum said.
Asking good questions to find
out what people are thinking is
key, he added.
To volunteer for the committee
Oct. 25-26 retreat at the
Farmington Training Center,
call the MCMR line at
(248)436-4455 or Farmington
Public Schools office (248)4893339.

shuck@ne.homecomm.net (1248) 417-5450



Karen Bolsen and Dan Krichbaum

NCCJ sees unique opportunity

Because the Farmington Hills Multiculus mil/Abultinecial Council is already in place, the National Conference for Community and Justice can proceed more quickly in developing a model for diversity than in other cities. "We want to be careful about not doing to on much and therefore not doing it were well," said Dan Krichhaum, executive director of NCCI.

well, said Dan Krichbaum, executive director of NCCJ.

We have a unique community and I think that part of the reasons NCCJ wants to work with us, added MCMR co-chair Karen Bolsen.

NCCJ hopes to work with the community of Eastpointe and has done some work in Ann Arbor and in Warren.

"We just met with Mayor Brenda Lawrence about doing some work in Southfield," Krichbaum said.

'We have a unique community ... NCCJ wants to work with us."

He planned to meet with Nimrod Rosenthal, community relations director, about setting up a program to get residential people committed to staying in Southfield and getting to know each other as neighbors.

The national NCCJ group formed in 1927.

They were very concerned about prejudice regarding Jews, Catholics and, from the very beginning, African Americans,* Krichbaum said

The organization was origi-ally called the National onference of Christians and

Jews.
The Michigan chapter,
formed in 1941, called itself
the Interfaith Roundtable of
the National Conference of the Internatin Roundanie of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. It was formed by Henry Hitt Crane a prominent minister at Central Methodist Church at Woodward and Grand Circus Park in Detroit and Rabbi Leo Franklin of Temple Beth El at 14 Mile and Telegraph.

The idea came when the two were reling a train together, Krichbaum said. Their congregations weren't that far apart because Temple Beth El was on Woodward at the time.

The name change occurred in the 1390s, to represent a more inclusive philosophy, 150c49cebonecomment [1649] 477-450

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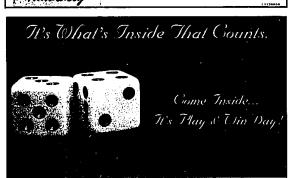
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