



Education and Housing Equity Project Records.

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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
-EHEP ACCOMPLISHMENTS-
September 5 – October 17, 1997

- Contracted for and supervised preparation of report synthesizing and summarizing Round I community circle conversations
- Arranged for focus group facilitator to hold focus meetings with community circle representatives
- Continued recruitment of potential partners for Round II conversations – EHEP data base has now surpassed 1,000
- Finalized selection of new board members; contacted new board members, held orientation meeting and/or individual meetings with new board members
- Arranged for student intern with the Higher Education for Consortium for Urban Affairs
- Prepared funding proposals to Headwaters Fund and First Universalist Foundation
- Obtained small grant award from Norwest Bank-Maple Grove
- Met with and provided “input” to the NAACP lawsuit mediation consulting team (CMI) and the “Minnesota Milestones” process coordinated by Minnesota Planning
- Represented EHEP at the annual conferences of the Minnesota League of Human Rights Commissions and the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless
- Delivered presentation (executive director and board member Marguerite Spencer) to the Minnesota Minority Education Partnership at its annual meeting
- Co-sponsored the Twin Cities “town meetings” as part of the National Summit on Race Relations and America’s Schools. Board member Josie Johnson was the presenter for the Minneapolis meeting. Community circle moderators facilitated the Minneapolis and St Paul meetings (apx. 40 participants).
- Prepared article, was interviewed, and arranged additional interviews with community circle partners for the feature article (on issues of race and class in the Twin Cities) of the next issue of the Wilder Foundation’s *Community Matters* (scheduled for publication in November)
- Invited as EHEP Director to participate in KTCA’s “Citizens Summit” on Community-Building in the Twin Cities, to be shown on Channel 2, December 3, 1997
- Invited as EHEP Director to participate in the “Metro Initiatives Forum” sponsored by the Citizens League and various national and local foundations (one of 12 metropolitan forums in the country)
- Formally supported MICAHA’s proposal to HUD for a Fair Housing Initiatives Grant. In the category of “education and outreach—reducing suburban tensions,” MICAHA was one of five organizations in the nation to receive funding (\$100,000). EHEP will be a collaborating partner in this project.
- Assisted in convening the metro Interfaith Action forums on jobs, housing, sprawl, race and poverty; these forums and discussion guide are modeled after EHEP’s community circle project and conversation guide. The forums were organized by Interfaith Action church leaders who had participated in Round I community circle discussions
- Assisted with MICAHA’s Annual Meeting small group discussion process, modeled after and inspired by EHEP’s circle discussion project
- Represented EHEP at forum on “community building” held by the Southwest Roundtable
- Met with Chair of the Metropolitan Council, Curt Johnson, to secure Metro Council participation and cooperation with our initiatives
- Completed board training at the University of St. Thomas (four board members and executive director participated) and began office computer training at the Science Museum of Minnesota
- Completed office move and expansion, and purchased new computer (EHEP remains co-housed with MICAHA but now has its own office, computer and phone line)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EHEP ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS Mid-October, 1997 through January, 1998

- Participated in Interfaith Action Dialogues culminating in Convocation on Martin Luther King Sunday for metro-wide action on issues of racial segregation, concentrations of poverty and urban sprawl. The community circles project contributed substantially to these dialogues.
- Organized the results and hosted a debriefing on the Minneapolis and St. Paul Schools "town meetings" sponsored in conjunction with the National Summit on Race and American Public Education held on the 30th anniversary of school desegregation in Little Rock, in September.
- Met with the director of the Metro Urban Studies Term program of the Higher Education Consortium for Urban Affairs to integrate education and housing segregation issues into their urban studies curriculum. A decision was made to use the EHEP conversation guide and the Institute on Race and Poverty report in the course syllabus for the remainder of the semester and in subsequent terms.
- Attended the University of Minnesota Center for School Change's conference on "Increasing Student Achievement - Approaches that Work," October 27-28, 1997. The Center for School Change will likely be a partner in the next round of community circle discussions.
- Completed an all-day training workshop on "Fundamentals of Project Management" sponsored by the Minneapolis Foundation and the University of St. Thomas, November 1, 1997.
- Convened the EHEP Board working group on revising the community circles 'conversation guide. The decision was made that we develop a completely new guide. Meetings have been held on November 12 and December 15, 1997, and January 22, 1998.
- EHEP executive officers and the director participated in the conference on "Closing the Income Gap: Sharing America's Prosperity," sponsored by the DFL Education Foundation. Dick and Barbara persuasively represented EHEP's perspective in the working session on schools and education.
- Participated in the Citizens League's "Conversations on Education" held in late November and early December. Sessions focused on the new laws and programs passed by the legislature this last spring:
 1. Targeting resources for needy students
 2. New education choices for families
 3. New charter school opportunities
- Presentation to the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability, November 20, 1997. Executive Director Russ Adams has invited us to consider becoming a member of the Alliance.
- Phone interview with reporter and editor of *U.S. News and World Report*. Article on the Presidents Commission on Race featured in the December , 1997 issue included brief coverage of our project in Minneapolis.
- Attended Science Museum of Minnesota Computer Education training classes, December 3 and 10, 1997 (Windows 95, Intro and Intermediate and Word 97, Parts 1-4).
- EHEP board members and staff participated in the Institute on Race and Poverty's Conference on spatial barriers to welfare reform, December 5 and 6, 1997. At the conference, we established a connection with the Black Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. and the St. Paul Ecumenical Action Council (Metro Stability Project) in St. Paul. Yvonne Scruggs, Executive Director of the Black Leadership Forum, talked about our project and concerns national radio the following Tuesday.
- Helped organize the Minneapolis Fair Housing Network. The first meeting was held on December 9, 1997.
- Convened EHEP board financial advisory group. Suggestions were made for improving EHEP financial reporting. Preliminary review and reactions to draft 1998 budget were also begun. Meetings were held December 12, 1997 and January 28, 1998.
- The winter edition of Wilder Foundation's *Community Matters* was issued in mid-December. The entire issue is devoted to "Race and Community." EHEP and its community circles project had a major role in inspiring and developing this publication.
- The Board concluded its review of the draft report on 1997 community circle conversations at a special meeting on December 15, 1997. Board comments and suggested changes have been relayed to contract writer, Joyce Levine.

- Provided copies of our discussion guide *Choices for Community: A Regional Conversation about the Challenges of Education, Housing and Segregation in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area* to the Urban Training Project for use (along with Myron Orfield's *Metropolitica*) in a course to be offered at all Twin Cities church seminaries. In addition, we have received a request from the Maplewood Human Rights Commission to use our study guide in carrying out their community education and outreach activities.
- Office furniture donations were made by the SuperValu Corporation (board member Keith Hardy) December 24, 1997. Silicon Graphics/ Cray Research (board member Thomas Stanley) will be making a financial donation for EHEP furnishings.
- Met with staff of St Paul Ecumenical Action Council (SPEAC) in late December and agreed to work together on the community circles project and follow-up actions in 1998 and 1999.
- Secured the assistance of the Study Circle Resource Center in reviewing the draft report on 1997 community circles conversations. We have also secured their commitment to assist us in developing the revised discussion guide for community circle discussions in 1998.
- Following our submission of the 1997 grant report to the Otto Bremer Foundation, they approved the 1998 grant award of \$25,000. EHEP met and exceeded Bremer Foundation's matching fund requirements for 1997 and 1998. Also, the Minneapolis and St. Paul Foundations approved our request to extend the grants for the Citizens Summit to the end of 1998.
- Attended Bremer Foundation's seminar on financial planning and management for non-profits, January 8, 1998.
- Assisted in securing hosts, moderators and dialogue groups for Twin Cities participation in the National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations during the week leading up to Martin Luther King Day. Eight dialogues were organized and four groups completed their discussions. Through this initiative, we secured commitments from the local chapters of the National Association of Community Mediators (NAFCM) and the National Institute of Dispute Resolution Professionals to partner with us in facilitating the next round of community circle discussions.
- Participated as a guest on community radio station KFBI's morning program *Health Notes*, hosted by Kinshasha Kambui, to discuss the National Days of Dialogue on Race Relations and the community circle dialogues on housing segregation and educational equity – the work of the Education and Housing Equity Project.
- Participated in the Richfield Community Dialogue on Race, held at the Richfield City Council Chambers, January 15, 1998. This event was co-sponsored by the School District (Superintendent), the City (City Manager), the Community Council, the Human Rights Commission, the Housing Authority, the Chamber of Commerce and the Richfield Diversity Connection Committee (many of the same people who participated in last year's community circle study group, but many new faces as well).
- Invited by the Minnesota Fair Housing Center to help plan, organize and co-sponsor a policy and technical assistance conference on fair housing for suburban planning officials in Hennepin County. The county has contracted with the Fair Housing Center for this service, which may include a subcontract with us. EHEP hosted the first planning meeting for the conference on January 16, 1998. The conference/workshop will likely be held in May, at about the same time as the premier performance of the MICAH/Illusion Theatre production on fair housing.
- EHEP has been approached by the St. Paul Foundation about including our project in a catalogue they are developing to highlight "promising practices" for addressing issues of race. This initiative parallels the effort by the Presidents Commission on Race to recognize "promising practices" for improving race relations.
- Presented the work of EHEP and the community circles project to the Joint Powers Board of the West Metro Education Program (a consortium of 9 school districts serving Minneapolis and suburban greater Minneapolis) at its quarterly meeting, January 28, 1998. Following the presentation, the superintendents and school board presidents communicated their interest in hosting community circles in each of their districts during the next round of discussions.
- The executive officers and director participated in a public meeting and small group discussions supporting the NAACP lawsuit to improve education in the Minneapolis Public Schools, January 29, 1998.
- During January, EHEP has received a number of requests for information about our project for inclusion in national studies, reports and catalogues (e.g., from the National Conference for Community and Justice—formerly the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Center for Living Democracy, the National Civic League, etc.). In addition, we have received a request from NBC News in Washington, D.C. to report on our project during the next round of community circle discussions.
- During January and February, EHEP and community circle publications are on display at the Minneapolis Public Library (downtown) as part of an exhibit on the Minneapolis Foundation's "Ten Ways You and Your Family Can Learn More about Other Cultures." Our project is shown as part of Way #10 – "Get involved."

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EHEP ACTIVITIES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

February through June, 1998

- Participated in a public conversation with Michael Pyatok about integrated, mixed use, mixed tenure, mixed income housing, sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Design Center for the American Urban Landscape (February 6).
- Conducted an EHEP Board discussion of the NAACP v. State of Minnesota educational adequacy lawsuit and the proposed mediation and report by CMI (February 13).
- Presented a report to CURA on their grant in 1997 allowing use of a Humphrey Institute graduate student to help conduct background research and prepare the first community circles discussion guide for EHEP.
- Prepared and submitted EHEP's position statement and comments to the State Board of Education on the proposed State Graduation Standards Profile of Learning.
- Testified before the Minneapolis School Board in support of mediation of the NAACP v. State of Minnesota educational Adequacy lawsuit (February 24).
- Convened EHEP's budget and finance committee and EHEP's working group on the proposed new discussion guide. Products included an organizational budget and a draft outline for the discussion guide.
- Secured EHEP intern, Kesha Tanabe, from the University of St. Thomas with the assistance of board member Cris Toffolo.
- Assisted and participated in the Minneapolis League of Women Voters and Minneapolis Public Schools Middle School Achievement Project. Shadowed a Latina student at Emerson Spanish Immersion Learning Center (March 10).
- Agreed with the Minnesota Fair Housing Center to co-sponsor a conference for suburban housing officials, planning commissioners and human rights commissioners on "Building Inclusive Communities" scheduled for fall of 1998. Helped to secure presenters on case studies and successful practices elsewhere in the country.
- Prepared an organizational budget for EHEP, adopted by the board; also prepared a board member job description to complement the executive director job description.
- Submitted and secured board approval of the revised report on the 1997 community circle conversations, subject to appropriate "finishing" revisions by the executive director.
- Secured board agreement on the "preferred version" of EHEP's corporate logo.
- Participated in focus groups to help plan the proposed MICAH/Illusion Theatre fair housing play; secured selected board member participation in the focus groups.
- Attended a 3-day Dismantling Racism Workshop delivered by the staff of Crossroads and the Minnesota Churches Anti-Racism Initiative (March 20-22).
- Secured agreement with the Minnesota Churches Anti-Racism Initiative (MCARI) to provide an training workshop on institutional racism for community circle sponsors and facilitators in the fall of 1998. Funding will be pursued for this training.
- Began meeting and recruiting new Community Circle project partners; held meetings with Pacer Center, Minneapolis Community Education, Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program, the Humphrey Institute Center for School Change and Twin Cities Charter School Initiative, Minneapolis Urban League, Society for Professionals in Dispute Resolution (SPIDR), the Family Housing Fund, Minnesota Minority Education Partnership, the HHH Center for Democracy and Citizenship, the Minneapolis Initiative Against Racism, and others.
- Participated in Minneapolis Public School's Conference on Successes in Educating African American Children at Augsburg College (April 17-18); developed contacts with numerous education-oriented organizations interested in working with us on our project.
- Developed with board assistance a brochure promoting the 1998 Community Circles.
- Visited the Study Circles Resource Center (SCRC) in Pomfret, CT; secured SCRC as a national partner in our project. SCRC has helped EHEP by reviewing and editing the report on the 1997 community circles and the brochure on the 1998 community circles, writing letters of support for EHEP grant proposals, and assisting EHEP staff to prepare the discussion guide for the 1998 conversations. SCRC also agreed to co-sponsor a workshop on study circles in the Twin Cities.
- Convened a meeting of the EHEP Board with the Program Director of the Study Circles Resource Center (April 24).

- Held a reception with past and prospective project partners of the Community Circles Project at the Minnesota Church Center to meet visiting representatives of the Study Circles Resource Center and to announce plans for the 1998 circles project (April 24).
- Co-sponsored with the SCRC an all-day Training Workshop on Study Circles for Twin Cities area and neighboring area organizations. Over 100 people representing different groups participated. Training tracks focused on organizing study circle programs and facilitating study circles. Many of the attending organizations expressed interest and/or commitment to participating in the Fall 1998 Community Circles project (April 25).
- Secured commitment by the Minneapolis Public Schools to hold community circles at five different sites in the City corresponding to the five different sub-areas within the school district. The District is collaborating with other organizations in the city to convene these circles.
- Attended and helped convene meetings with various housing advocacy organizations to introduce the Community Circle project to housing advocates; examples include the Fair Housing Network, the Right to Housing Campaign, the Interfaith Action Housing Roundtables, the CURA Housing Forums and the Inclusionary Zoning Coalition.
- Participated in the MMEP Forum on Strategies to Increase Achievement of Students of Color, the Urban League's Meeting on Parent Involvement in the School Reform Process, and the Center for School Change meeting on new charter school opportunities for the Twin Cities; at each meeting we explored opportunities for collaboration using the Community Circles project (May 6).
- Attended the Premier Performance of the MICAH/Illusion Theatre fair housing play "Like Waters Rolling Down," at Adath Jeshurun Congregation, Minnetonka (May 19). EHEP sent invitations to all community circle partners, participants and prospects on our data base in the West Metro area; EHEP also had an information table at the event. Staff and several board members attended the event and at least one board member participated in a follow-up action meeting.
- EHEP staff and board officers have begun meeting with other stakeholders supporting mediation of the NAACP lawsuit, in sessions convened by SPEAC and Interfaith Action.
- Secured "pro bono" services from consultant (Nikki Carlson, President of Eidyia) to develop a communications plan for EHEP. A draft communications plan has been prepared for board and staff use.
- Developed and submitted a grant proposal to the Saint Paul Companies; also worked with board member Keith Hardy on a model grant proposal to submit to other funding sources.
- Met with the Council of Metropolitan Area Leagues of Women Voters at its annual meeting in Stillwater to encourage League of Women Voter support and involvement in the Fall 1998 Community Circles (May 21).
- Arranged to continue Kesha's internship with EHEP over the summer months to prepare the community circles discussion guide and to help prepare for the fall Community Circles. Kesha will continue to work with EHEP to the end of 1998 through an internship with the HECUA Metro Urban Studies Program. A draft of the discussion guide has now been submitted to the Board for review and comment.
- Secured the volunteer services of Jessica Larson, University of St. Thomas student, to organize EHEP's library and develop an annotated bibliography of publications and articles on education contained in the EHEP library. A similar initiative is needed for EHEP's publications on housing.
- Completed a staff development training workshop on "Grant Proposal Planning and Writing" offered by Marquette University (June 15).
- Secured from Myron Orfield's office maps and data on metro area and central city education disparities and housing segregation for use in the fall community circle discussions.
- The EHEP director has met with the MICAH director on several occasions to discuss joint collaboration on the community circles and the fair housing plays. MICAH will include a half-page article about the community circles in their next newsletter. They are also developing a "faith perspective" compendium to the discussion/study guide that EHEP is preparing, and will encourage MICAH member congregations to participate in the fall Community Circles project. All community circle participants will be invited to the MICAH fair housing plays.
- The draft discussion/study guide continues to be further developed and refined with board review and comment and reviews by community circle partners.
- Meetings have been arranged with Barbara Blackstone of SPDR to conduct focus groups with 1997 community circles participants and to make plans for facilitator recruitment and training for the 1998 circles.
- Invited Julian Bond, Chair of the national NAACP, to be the speaker for the Citizens Summit and Minnesota Meeting Luncheon to be held at the conclusion of the 1998 community circles and broadcast live by Minnesota Public Radio.