Not in Our City!

That was our rallying cry in response to the highly visible and hate-filled anti-Muslim ads that appeared in major cities across the country and came to Philadelphia this past spring on the side of SEPTA buses.

The Interfaith Center launched a public awareness campaign encouraging Philadelphians from all faith traditions and walks of life to Dare to Understand. It was gratifying that so many people, most of whom had no connection to our work, joined with us as a community to change the story and construct bridges of understanding.

Imagine...

- A coalition of over 30 civic and religious groups worked together to help Philadelphia rise to its best
- More than 4,300 people signed a petition standing in solidarity against the ads
- A full back page ad in Metro Philadelphia newspaper, created by photographer J.J. Tizou, displaying images of diverse Philadelphians under the banner “Replace Hate with Understanding,” reached over 300,000 readers!

This effort makes public the Center’s Dare to Understand tagline, as both a statement of purpose and a call to action, encapsulating so much of what makes our work unique. It conveys a sense of the courage required to participate and engage in interfaith work and to overcome the fear of the religious “other” felt by so many. It challenges us to be bold in learning about one another, to dare to listen sincerely to the crying needs of our time, and to work together to contribute to the well-being of our region. It is also an invitation for continued self-discovery within one’s own heritage and unique traditions and perspectives.

This slow, often messy, but also life-giving work would not be possible without people like you. We thank our many volunteers, partners, and leaders who invest time and resources in our bridge-building work.

Thank you for helping make our small corner of the earth the best it can be.

With gratitude,

Abby Stamelman Hocky
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Community Response Campaign

In the spring of 2015, in response to anti-Muslim ads that were posted on the sides of SEPTA buses, the Interfaith Center led a broad-based coalition of community leaders to spread a message of love and understanding in the face of hatred and divisiveness. An eight-month coordinated response arose in partnership with the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations, the Mayor’s Office of Faith-Based Initiatives, the Religious Leaders Council and SEPTA. The resulting Dare to Understand public awareness campaign reached more than half a million people in the Philadelphia region and beyond.

- **A digital billboard and two urban billboards** featuring our Dare to Understand photo ad, designed by artist JJ Tiziou, were featured throughout the months of April and May.

- Over 100 people and groups posted #DareToUnderstand messages on social media, a full back page ad in *Metro Philadelphia*, displaying Dare to Understand images under the banner "Replace Hate with Understanding," reached over 300,000 readers.

- **Dare to Understand bumper stickers and postcards** were distributed to thousands of individuals throughout the region.

- More than 200 people attended a rally at Love Park with Mayor Nutter announcing the Dare to Understand campaign.

- An online petition — a statement of solidarity endorsed by the Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia — was signed by more than 4,300 people from our region and beyond.

- **Over $109,000** from local foundations and individuals was raised to underwrite this campaign and continue the work into 2015-16.
Education Resources

To accompany the Dare to Understand campaign, the Interfaith Center created student activity guides for use by educators and other adults who work closely with young people. The “#DareToUnderstand” and “Taking a Stand” activities aim to help students dispel stereotypes, articulate their identities and ask questions that express curiosity in respectful ways. These resources are available on our website.

The Interfaith Center also wrote memos to local school, civic, and religious leaders in order to help them understand the context and implications of the anti-Muslim ads that ran in Philadelphia and provide them with resources addressing questions and concerns for individuals and families in their communities.

Dare to Understand Awards Benefit and Concert

Since 2012, the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia has held an annual Dare to Understand Awards Benefit and Concert. The Dare to Understand Award honors individuals of distinction in the field of interfaith work who, through their actions, reflect the Center’s commitment to diversity and challenging barriers to understanding. Two 2015 Awards were presented: First, SEPTA and their General Counsel, Geno Benedetti, were honored for their commitment to opposing AFDI’s anti-Muslim ad campaign in Philadelphia. Second, Helen Cunningham, President of the Samuel S. Fels Fund, was recognized for helping to provide seed funding to establish the Interfaith Center and for her key role in stimulating a funding collaborative to mount the community ad response. The night also included a special musical performance by the Philadelphia Boys Choir and Chorale.
Encountering Other Faiths

The Interfaith Center held four Encountering Other Faiths day-long dialogue facilitator training workshops, where participants were equipped and, with training, encouraged to put it to use in their own context. 45 individuals from a wide variety of local congregations, universities, government organizations, and corporations received training this year.

Co-facilitated by Sr. Maria Hornung and Rev. Nicole Diroff, Encountering Other Faiths is an interactive education and dialogue series designed to break down stereotypes and explore challenging interfaith issues.

“Maria, the program facilitator, created a safe space for us to go deeper in our personal faith sharing… The result is that our group is experiencing more trust and a deeper understanding of one another’s beliefs and traditions.”
— ENCOUNTERING OTHER FAITHS FACILITATOR TRAINING PARTICIPANT, APRIL 2015

Art of Interfaith Understanding

First offered in December 2014, Art of Interfaith Understanding is a new Dare to Understand series dedicated to exploring the intersection of art and religion. Held at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, tours were designed and led by Rev. John Hougen of the Interfaith Center staff, a trained guide at the Art Museum. In its inaugural year, over 50 people attended one or more of the following tours: “Art from the World’s Religions,” “Prayerful Looking: Art and Spirituality,” “The Christmas Story in Art,” and “The Sacred in Secular Art.” Whether it was beautiful Arabic calligraphy or a depiction of the Black Madonna, participants were exposed to the striking beauty found where art and faith intersect.

“Our guide, John, took care to create a diverse tour including art from across the globe. His knowledge and insight into each piece of art was world class, and I also learned so much from the fantastic discussion that emerged from the group on our tour.”
— PARTICIPANT, ART OF INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING: THE SACRED IN SECULAR ART
Quest Book Group

Quest Book Group is an ongoing dialogue group that meets monthly at the Philadelphia Bahá’í Center. Comprised of Catholic, Jewish, Bahá’í, Protestant, and Agnostic members, this diverse group brought unique questions and perspectives to each and every discussion. Books from the past year included:

• An Altar in the World, Barbara Brown Taylor
• The Battle for God, Karen Armstrong
• Caleb’s Crossing, Geraldine Brooks
• The Chosen, Chaim Potok
• The Saint and the Sultan, Paul Moses
• The Veil and the Male Elite, Fatima Mernissi

Religious Diversity Trainings

Throughout the year the Interfaith Center offered a number of workshops and trainings to help equip individuals with the skills to navigate our religiously diverse society. Some of these offerings were part of our core program areas, while others were in response to community requests. In total, more than 230 individuals were reached by our training events which included a workshop for interfaith student leaders at local colleges, a training for a group of nearly 50 student teachers from the Philadelphia Public School District, religious diversity training with FEMA Region III for emergency managers, a confirmation class at Main Line Reform Temple, and a workshop for the staff of the New Sanctuary Movement. Beyond Accommodation: Religious Diversity in the Workplace, a special training workshop for Human Resource and Diversity professionals, was attended by over 40 people from a diversity of settings including corporations, social service and health care agencies.

“Religious Competency for Emergency Managers training has helped our staff to improve response, recovery and preparedness capabilities so that we are truly addressing the needs of the Whole Community, particularly those with specific faith-based needs during a disaster.”

—MARYANN TIERNEY, FEMA REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
The *Walking the Walk* Youth Initiative is a nationally-recognized program that provides teenagers with experiences, skills, and resources necessary to live in a diverse world, deepen their own identities, and break through walls that distance and divide them from people of other religious, cultural, and economic backgrounds. Celebrating its 10th year in 2015, the *Walking the Walk* initiative was comprised of three networks: Philadelphia, West Chester and Wissahickon, comprising 20 congregations and schools, 78 participants, and six Student Group Leaders from Muslim, Hindu, Jewish, Baptist, Episcopalian, Mennonite, Catholic, and Bahá’í faith backgrounds. Through its community service and community outreach components, over 1,500 Philadelphians were directly or indirectly impacted by the work and advocacy of the *Walking the Walk* initiative this year.

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### Teens should participate in the *Walking the Walk* program because it gives you an opportunity to come outside of your comfort zone and get to know yourself better while learning who you are.

— HUSNAA, WALKING THE WALK STUDENT GROUP LEADER

### This program has helped me to become a leader, come out of my shell, discuss sensitive topics with other students and allowed me to meet great friends. I learned to command a room and speak in front of my entire Catholic school of over 500 young women about my experience in the *Walking the Walk* program. I have gone so much deeper in understanding my own religion and the religions around me.

— MARY GRACE, WALKING THE WALK STUDENT GROUP LEADER

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### Walking the Walk Networks and Partners 2014 – 2015

#### **PHILADELPHIA NETWORK**
(year-long program)
- **Group Leader:** Marilyn Berberich
- **Student Group Leaders:** Hannah Deutsch, Maddie Garber, Husnaa Hashim, Anna Luce, Mary Grace Murray
- **Service Learning Partner:** Inglis House
- **Partner Congregations & Schools:**
  - Academy of Notre Dame de Namur
  - Baha’i Community of Philadelphia
  - Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Mosque & Fellowship
  - Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church (host)
  - Congregation Beth Am Israel
  - Main Line Reform Temple
  - Masjidullah
  - Mastery Charter School - Shoemaker Campus
  - New Horizons Islamic School
  - White Rock Baptist Church

#### **WEST CHESTER NETWORK**
(year-long program)
- **Group Leader:** Max Dugan
- **Student Group Leader:** Jaron Teegen-Case
- **Service Learning Partner:** Chester County Food Bank & Coatesville Urban Garden
- **Partner Congregations & Schools:**
  - Baha’i Community of West Chester (host)
  - Church of the Loving Shepherd (host)
  - Islamic Society of Chester County
  - Kesher Israel Synagogue
  - Unionville Presbyterian Church (host)
  - Westtown School

#### **WISSAHICKON NETWORK:**
“A Day of Walking the Walk”
- **Group Leader:** Marjorie Scharf
- **Service Learning Partner:** Mennonite Central Committee
- **Partner Congregations & Schools:**
  - Bethlehem Baptist Church
  - Blooming Glen Mennonite Church
  - Congregation Beth Or
  - Christopher Dock High School
  - North Penn Mosque
  - Or Hadash
  - Plymouth Bal Vihar
  - Trinity Episcopal Church of Ambler
Walking the Walk Alumni Network

The Walking the Walk alumni network encourages graduates of the program to stay connected to the Interfaith Center and to build upon their experiences continuing the work. There are more than 500 alumni of the Walking the Walk Youth Initiative, many of whom have taken on leadership roles with the Interfaith Center and/or their high schools, colleges, congregations, and professional communities.

In March, a number of Walking the Walk alumni, some of whom are now parents, made a presentation at White Rock Baptist Church to share how their experience with the initiative has helped them to be successful in a religiously diverse world. In the winter, over 50 alumni and current students went to the Franklin Institute to view the IMAX movie “Jerusalem.” A discussion ensued over dinner at the home of one of our Student Group Leaders. In June, we held our first intergenerational, interfaith retreat for female Walking the Walk alumna. Over 30 students were joined by their mothers, grandmothers, and, in some cases, both!

The Walking the Walk Distinguished Alumni Award recognized two alumnae, Suzanne Bernstein and Leena Mazid, both of whom have done a superb job of carrying the spirit of the Walking the Walk youth initiative and taking action to advance interfaith cooperation in their high school and college settings.

Alternative Break Program
Offered throughout the year, our Alternative Break program is a unique immersion experience, offering students an opportunity to learn about and engage with diverse faith communities, attend worship gatherings, meet the leaders and constituents of grassroots community organizations, engage in meaningful service work, participate in structured skill building workshops and reflection, and develop skills to help them thrive and lead in this diverse world. In 2014-15, students from Alvernia University and Blair Academy visited Philadelphia and were able to explore nearly a dozen faith communities: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Won Buddhist, Jewish, Sikh, Baha’i, and Muslim. They served more than 2,000 Philadelphians through their community service with seven local non-profit organizations and schools: Inglis House, HMS School for Children with Cerebral Palsy, SHARE Food Program, MANNA, Grace Cafe, Urban Tree Connection, and Philabundance.

I enjoyed all the direct service opportunities, but my favorite was at MANNA, where we packaged more than 1,000 hot meals to be delivered to city residents battling life-threatening illnesses. The interfaith encounters were always very informative and enlightening, and I encourage anyone who has ever thought about going on this trip to do so!

— SALLY – BLAIR ACADEMY ALTERNATIVE BREAK PARTICIPANT
Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia

Co-convened by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, Rabbi David Straus, Imam Anwar Muhaimin, and Bishop Claire Schenot Burkat, the Council is the first of its kind in the city, with 32 member communities, representing more than two million people of diverse faith traditions from across the greater Philadelphia region.

Highlights of the Council’s work this year include a fall retreat focused on the state of our schools, featuring former Pennsylvania State Budget Director and Philadelphia School District CFO, Michael Masch. In February the Council welcomed Deputy Mayor Everett Gillison for a candid discussion on race and police-community relations. In June, Archbishop Chaput invited the Council to learn about September’s World Meeting of Families and visit of Pope Francis. In conjunction with the Interfaith Center’s Dare to Understand campaign in Philadelphia, the Council issued a statement which was the basis for a public petition campaign.

Co-Conveners:
Archbishop Charles J. Chaput - Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Bishop Claire Schenot Burkat - Southeastern PA Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
Imam Anwar Muhaimin - Quba Masjid
Rabbi David Straus - Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Phila.

Members:
Rabbi David Ackerman - Rabbinical Assembly, Philadelphia Region
Lt. Colonels Janet & Stephen Banfield - Salvation Army of Eastern Pennsylvania & Delaware
Rev. Luis A. Cortés, Jr. - Hispanic Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity
Bishop Clifton Daniel - Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania
Christie Duncan-Tessmer - Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell - Delaware Valley Association of Reform Rabbis
Dr. Gity Etemad - Philadelphia Baha’i Community
Rabbi Albert E. Gabbai - Congregation Mikveh Israel
Rev. Dr. W. Wilson Goode, Sr. - Philadelphia Leadership Foundation
Rev. Terrence D. Griffith - Black Clergy of Philadelphia & Vicinity
Fr. Steve Hutnick - Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA
Bishop Peter Hwang - Council of Korean Churches of Greater Philadelphia
Bishop Gregory G.M. Ingram - African Methodist Episcopal Church
Bishop Peggy Johnson - Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, The United Methodist Church
President Bokin Kim - Won Institute of Graduate Studies
Elder Milan Kunz - The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints
Rev. Steven B. Lawrence - Metropolitan Christian Council of Philadelphia
Rabbi Jill Maderer - Board of Rabbis of Greater Philadelphia
Imam Muhammad Abdur-Razzaq Miller - Mosque of Shaikh M.R. Bawa Muhaiyaddeen
Father Mina Mina - St Mary's Coptic Orthodox Church
Father Emmanuel Pratsinakis - Greek Orthodox Metropolis of New Jersey
Rev. David Pyle - Joseph Priestley District, Unitarian Universalist Association
Imam Asim Abdur-Rashid - Majlis Ash-Shura of Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley
Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace - Presbytery of Philadelphia, Presbyterian Church USA
Imam Mohamed Shehata - Al-Aqsa Islamic Society
Archbishop Stefan Soroka – Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
Rabbi Elyse Wechterman - Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Rev. William Paul Worley - PA Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ
Zones of Peace

The Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia has dedicated its resources and energy to imagining our region as a zone of peace, free of fear, filled with respect, and marked by deeds of kindness. This led to the creation of its first grassroots initiative, Zones of Peace.

Zones of Peace is a region-wide movement of churches, synagogues, mosques, other houses of worship, schools, and community-based organizations working to address the root causes of violence in order make us safer in the communities where we live, work, and play.

The Zones of Peace initiative recognizes organizations in our region that are pioneering creative responses to violence, and elevates their leadership. This year we conducted ten interviews with nominees, recognized eight groups as Zones of Peace by public banner presentations, sponsored two public conversations on Bullying, and continued to support and engage nearly 50 recognized Zones of Peace communities. The peace-building work of Zones of Peace touched over 1,500 people this year in the greater Philadelphia region!

““This is the new reality: non-profits, schools, churches and governmental agencies are working together and learning from one another — all for the sake of the safety of our children. Zones of Peace encourages this kind of collaboration.”
— SR. GLORIA COLEMAN, MEMBER OF THE ZONES OF PEACE STEERING COMMITTEE

““The 47 congregations and organizations recognized by Zones of Peace give me hope for our city and region. Together, they involve thousands of people working to reduce violence and build better communities. Our work is not done. There are many more exemplary congregations and organizations that deserve our recognition and encouragement.”
— REV. JOHN HOUGEN, ZONES OF PEACE COORDINATOR

Recognized Zones of Peace Communities
Other Events and Initiatives

Strategic Conversations
While AFDI’s anti-Muslim ads were running on SEPTA buses, the Interfaith Center gathered religious leaders from the Walking the Walk initiative to join in a roundtable conversation about how they were using this as a preaching and teaching moment in their congregations. We also gathered business leaders in senior management positions for a gathering of thought leaders regarding religious diversity in the workplace. The Director of Princeton University’s Faith & Work Initiative, Dr. David Miller, presented on an emerging framework for corporations to evaluate how faith-friendly they are.

Events to Support the Interfaith Center
The Philadelphia Cathedral hosted the Interfaith Center’s Bridges Not Barriers breakfast in October. Attendees heard a compelling story from Walking the Walk alumna about building bridges on her college campus and from one of our Muslim mentors in the Walking the Walk program about its impact on her own daughter. The event also featured a breathtaking performance from Interfaith Center friend and world-renowned cellist, Udi Bar-David.

On June 7th, 22 people, including Board and staff members, participated in the 2015 Ride for Understanding to raise funds and awareness for the Interfaith Center's vision, as well as to build relationships and create communities of hope and reconciliation by cycling 30 miles along the Schuylkill River Trail.
Financials

Organizational Growth Revenue

Revenue

Income

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Expense

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2014-2015 Funder and Donor Report

CHANGE MAKER ($25,000 AND ABOVE)
Marybeth and John Gallagher
The Philadelphia Foundation
William Penn Foundation

CHAMPION ($10,000-$24,999)
Anonymous
Margaret Barry and Jeffrey Abrams
Rabbi Carol and Jon Harris-Shapiro
Gie and Lisa Liem
The Pew Charitable Trusts
The Very Rev. Judith Sullivan

PARTNER ($5,000-$9,999)
Anonymous
Rev. Richard Fernandez and Eloise Chevrier
Abby Stamelman Hocky and Eric Hocky
Ibrahim Foundation
MorganStanley
Samuel S. Fels Fund
Stevens & Lee
Cynthia Stewart
Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP

COMMUNITY BUILDER ($2,500-$4,999)
Anonymous
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
The Alfred & Mary Douty Foundation
Christine V. Kanter
O'Hagan, LLC
Philadelphia Bar Association
Emily Riley
SEPTA
Lawrence M. and Sally Silverman
Rabbi David Straus and Lynne Breslau
Weber Gallagher
Julie Dill Williams

COLLABORATOR ($1,000-$2,499)
Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
Al Aqsa Islamic Society School
The Alfred & Mary Douty Foundation
Christine V. Kanter
O'Hagan, LLC
Philadelphia Bar Association
Emily Riley
SEPTA
Lawrence M. and Sally Silverman
Rabbi David Straus and Lynne Breslau
Weber Gallagher
Julie Dill Williams

SUPPORTER (up to $499)
Bilquis Abbasi
Faia Abedin
Rabbi David Ackerman
Audrey Adelson
Mildred Adelson
Atiya Aftab
Shakil Ahmed
Deb Ahrens
Concha Alborg
Lina Alhalayghah
De De Anderson
Emily Anderson
Joseiah and Carlyn Armstrong
Mark Aronchick
Nancy E. Ash
Johanna Austen
Haajar Aziz
Mohammad and Rafia Aziz
Penny Bach
Judith Bernstein Baker
Dr. Maggie Baker
Udi Bar-David
Irl S. Barg and Janet C. Walkow
Elliott and Shelly Barnathan
Joel Beaver
Karen Eelson Belding
Theresa and Gino Benedetti
Margaret Bennett
Marilyn and Rebecca Berenich
Debra Beresin
NancyLee Bergey
Sandra Berkowitz and Jeffrey Shender
Barbra Berley-Mellits and Bart Mellits
Alan Blisky
Abby Bloom
Craig and Michelle Boddorff
Lev Boonin and Joy Edelman Boonin
Drick Boyd
Bob Brand and Liz Werthan
Joe and Caren Brennan
Andrea Broado
Anthony and Deette Brown
Jackie Buhn
Rev. Geneva M. Butz
Rev. Bonnie Camarda
Reba Carmel
Monsignor Michael J. Carroll
Kyle Cassidy
Frank Cervone
Ann Chahboudour
Pallabi Chakravorty
Gary and Laya Charleslin
Sandra Choukroun
Zachary Christman
Jeanne Couban
Joseph and Leslie Cohen
Victor Compber
Janet and Richard Conn
Rabbi Neil Cooper
Constance Cotton
Gayle Courtenay
Patricia Coyne
Carol Fern Culhane
Helen Cunningham and Ted Newbold
John D’Amico and Keith Rand
Roxanne Dalton
Stephan and Rochelle Davidoff
Caitlin Davis
Katie and Jim Day
Jeanne and Michael DiMonte
Robert Dockhorn
Eileen Doyle
Barbara Drebing and Josh Kaufman
Stephen Dunning, Ph.D. and Roxy Dunning
John and Beth Dugan
Elaine and Lee Dushoff
Bonnie Ehri
Jill Einbender and Sophie Sepel
Rev. Tim and Amy Emmett-Rardin
Episcopal Diocese of PA
Rabbi Nancy Epstein
Sondra and Martin J. Epstein
Bill Ewing
Rachel Falkove
Azzah Fatima
Susan Federico
Harin Feibish
Matthew Feldman
John and Vance Fernandez
Arlene Fickler
Elizabeth Rappaport Fife and Daniel Fife
Donaldine Finegold
Alynn Finegold and Howard Perlmuter
Audrey Fingerhood
Ricki and Steven Fisher
Martha Freeman
Richard Freeman
Paula Freilich
Dale and Debra Friedan
Ed and Margaret Geiger
Carol Gieseke
Sonia L. Gilbert
Vivian Ginsburg-Miller
Carrie Gish and Marc Rockford
2014-2015 Funder and Donor Report

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