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Countdown on for 2016 SevenDays-Make a Ripple, Change the World

Song competition public voting starts March 30; speakers announced

(Overland Park, KS) – With all the hatred and violence in our world, our community couldn't be more ready for **SevenDays 2016 - April 12-18** - an effort to focus on kindness and interfaith understanding.

SevenDays-Make A Ripple, Change the World was created in the aftermath of the tragic events that took place April 13, 2014, outside of the Jewish Community Campus and Village Shalom in Overland Park, Kansas. Dr. William Corporon, his grandson Reat Underwood and Teresa LaManno lost their lives at the hands of a lifelong convicted Neo-Nazi shooter. The focus of **SevenDays** is strengthening a sense of community, building upon understanding our commonalities among religions, races and cultures in our metropolitan area.

SevenDays will include a series of community events scheduled **April 12-18, 2016**, that will continue the healing and focus on acts of kindness and interfaith dialogue.

Each day has a special theme - Love, Discover, Others, Connect, Go, You and Onward. Suggested kindness activities and educational events for the community and more information about the themes, activities, sponsored events and the Peace Walk can be found on www.givesevendays.org.

SONG COMPETITION VOTING

Public voting will begin on Wednesday, March 30 and continue through April 3, to choose the winning song compositions for this year's Faith Love & Song competition. Open to those ages 14-21, writers were asked to submit an original composition, including both music and lyrics, which inspires acceptance of others regardless of racial, religious or cultural differences.

Videos of the finalists' compositions can be viewed via the Give SevenDays YouTube channel (LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDLnRdjKRBA>). The top three winners – determined by the number of “likes” in YouTube voting - will be announced at the SevenDays Peace Walk Celebration on April 18, 2016. The top winner of the competition will receive the \$5,000 [RRACE Scholarship](#). Second place will receive a \$2,500 scholarship and a \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded for third place.

The Faith Love & Song competition is sponsored by two local foundations-Faith Always Wins and RRACE (Racial and Religious Acceptance and Cultural Equality), as well as Harvest Productions. The two foundations were established after the 2014.

WALK & REGISTRATION

Registration for this year's Peace Walk is under way and the public is encouraged to sign up by April 11. The walk will begin at 6:30 p.m. on the south side of the Jewish Community Campus at Paige Field, located on West 117th Street, in Overland Park and conclude at the Church of the Resurrection (COR), 13720 Roe, in Leawood. There will be pre-walk activities at the Campus site beginning around 4:30 p.m. put together by the SevenDays Youth Advisory Board. Former Kansas City Chiefs Quarterback Trent Green will emcee pre-walk activities. Various community charities will provide information on their efforts and KC Wolf will be on hand to energize the crowd.

Those who participate in the walk must park at COR where a non-denominational celebration of unity will take place following the walk. Transportation will be provided from COR to the Jewish Community Campus for the start of the walk. Buses taking participants to/from parking will be on a continuous loop from COR to the Campus and back to COR. Due to rush hour traffic, suggested arrival time at COR is 4-5:45 p.m.; the last bus will depart COR at 6 p.m. A new addition this year, food trucks will be at COR selling refreshments.

While most events are free of charge and open to the public, the Peace Walk will have a \$10 per person participation fee that includes receiving a SevenDays commemorative t-shirt if registered by April 3. The Reat Griffin Underwood Memorial Foundation and The LaManno-Hastings Family Foundation are equal beneficiaries of net proceeds and donations to continue this work. Donations are tax deductible.

SPEAKERS & EVENTS

A diverse cross-section of speakers plan to participate in SevenDays 2016 helping to spread the messages of kindness and interfaith understanding. SevenDays is working with several community organizations to put on these events including Cleveland University, the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council, the Blue Valley School District, Midwest Transplant

Network, Sunlight Day Spa, Rockhurst High School, St. Teresa's Academy, Church of the Resurrection, US Foods, Kansas City Branch of Dialogue Institute of the Southwest, Heritage United Methodist Church, Congregation Beth Torah and St. Luke's College of Health Sciences. Some of the programs, speakers and topics include:

(NOTE: Full details are available at www.givesevendays.org):

- **Tuesday, April 12:** "What is Interfaith?", Rabbi Alon Goshen-Gottstein, Former U.S. Ambassador Allan Katz; 7 p.m., Rockhurst High School
- **Wednesday, April 13:** "Keeping Our Loved Ones' Spirits Alive," Mary Lucas & Kolia Cooper; 7:30 a.m., Sunlight Day Spa
- **Thursday, April 14:** "Bringing Community Together—Overcoming Hate," Former North Carolina State Senator Malcolm Graham, brother of Charleston shooting victim, Cynthia Graham Hurd; 7 p.m., Church of the Resurrection
- **Friday, April 15:** Donate Life/Blood Drive at St. Luke's Hospital on the Plaza; and "Life-A Good Thing To Give," Mindy Corporon will speak at Shabbat Service; 6:30 p.m., Congregation Beth Torah
- **Saturday, April 16:** "Lunch & Punch" with T.A.K.E. Defense Foundation, 11:30 a.m., Lifetime Fitness (West 138th Street location); and Interfaith Youth Workshop and Dinner for students aged 14-20, 5:30 p.m., Cleveland University
- **Sunday, April 17:** "Survival, Perseverance & Optimism," Holocaust Survivor, Sonia Warshawski, and her daughter, Regina Kort; 2 p.m., Heritage United Methodist Church; and "Understanding Our Muslim Neighbors," panel, 7:30 p.m., Cleveland University

During the Peace Walk Celebration on Monday evening, April 18, there will be performances of the winning song compositions as well as a community choir. In addition, scholarships will be given to winners of the Act of Kindness competition.

Several businesses are supporting SevenDays efforts.

For more information about SevenDays, visit www.givesevendays.org

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