

October 2, 2016

Compassionate Indy Annual Report

Compassionate Indy formed in the Fall of 2015, and held the first meeting of the steering committee in November 2015. The committee is diverse in faith practices, ages, gender, and race. During the next few meetings we established our vision and mission statements:

Our Vision

Greater Indianapolis is a compassionate community in which all people, corporate entities and community institutions treat all beings and the environment with respect and concern.

Our Mission

To inspire and empower all people to practice kindness while actively seeking to alleviate suffering

We also created and defined a list of values that will guide our work. These can be found at the end of the report.

We conducted a survey of 800 people whose names were gathered at The 2015 Festival of Faiths. The survey sought to identify the top three issues faced by the community. Out of several suggested, the top three were violence, poverty, and education.

In addition to the email list, we created a Facebook page and a Twitter account for communication.

In the Spring, we applied to the Charter for Compassion and were approved as a global city of Compassion. The next step is to ask Indianapolis City County Council to declare us a City of Compassion which elevates us to a partner with the Charter for Compassion. One meeting has been held with representatives from the Mayor's Office and we continue to pursue this goal.

In January, 2016, we were asked by the Indiana Buddhist Center to partner with them and The Center for Interfaith Cooperation to bring His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Indianapolis to give a public talk. We met weekly to ensure a successful visit; our main role during the talk was with volunteers, VIPs, and sign language interpreters. Over 6000 people attended the talk held at the Pepsi Coliseum on June 25, 2016.

Following the public talk we met with the Tibetan/Emory University partnership started by His Holiness. At His request they are developing a compassion based curriculum training program for teachers to learn how to promote compassion in the classroom. We are continuing to research this idea as a response to our education and violence issues. Most recently we connected with The Peace Learning Center and are developing a potential partnership to further the compassion in the classroom response.

Our legacy to His Holiness visit is the 100,000 Acts of Kindness Campaign, #IndyAOK. The Indianapolis Library did a month long display of this Campaign.

Compassionate Indy was gifted the website used to promote His Holiness talk with the address www.compassionateindy.org. We also had a logo design creation donated to us:



Our proposal to the Cohen Peace Conference was accepted, and in April Compassionate Indy and Compassionate Louisville presented to attendees at this national conference held at Ball State University. We also spoke to The Garden congregation, a masters level SPEA class, and have been asked to speak to the Broad Ripple Sertoma group.

We participated in The Compassion Games by promoting and volunteering at Mid North Food Pantry, giving 750 bottles of bubbles and free hugs for the asking, at this year's Festival of Faith. We are also helping the local Turkish community with their two projects to feed those in need.

Looking forward, we are discussing building an app that would be used to promote opportunities for compassionate volunteering and sharing acts of compassion. This would be a tool to expand the work of Compassionate Indy.

As we continue to hear from people wanting more involvement, we want to establish a structure that will create growth and build compassionate and sustainable responses to the community needs.

It is with gratitude to the wonderful compassionate Indy steering committee members and to the Spiritual Life Center for their support that I submit this annual report.

Connie Dillman, Chairman
Compassionate Indy
www.compassionateindy.org
www.charterforcompassion.org
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Values of Compassionate Indy

COMPASSION

We will strive to treat others as we wish to be treated, to alleviate the suffering of all creatures, and to treat everyone with justice, equity and respect. This is the shared and unifying energy that nurtures the healing of our polarized community. It begins with the practice of mindfulness in each individual and flows outward to everyone and everything.

ECO CONSCIENCE

As our community learns to embody compassion towards others, the recognition of our interdependence requires us to also honor all creatures and our natural resources, to refuse to do violence against nature, and to thereby bring unity and harmony to our planet.

ABUNDANCE

As we extend compassion to each other and to the earth, there is undeniable plenty for all.

COOPERATION

We will remove ourselves from the center of our world, transcending selfishness in order to enable better collaboration with others, build bridges between people and nations, and facilitate healing of differences.

INTENTION

This value commits us to the continuous practice of compassion, keeping it in the forefront of our awareness as the primary goal for healing ourselves and our world.

TRANSPARENCY

Compassion is neither political nor secret, but rather by its nature, open and vulnerable. It is not afraid to share loving kindness.

HOPE

When we support, respect, and honor each other and the environment, positive anticipation and enthusiasm for the future spring forth naturally.

PEACE

When we practice unconditional respect and empathy for the equality of every living thing, and an intention for the well-being of all, we are engendering peace in the world.

SPIRITUAL AWARENESS

As each individual cultivates compassion within himself/herself, it initiates enlightenment, uniting the spiritual with the physical, mental and emotional, enriching life and giving it meaning.

SOCIAL INNOVATION

Every individual, organization, and community is encouraged to embrace compassion as a catalyst for progress and transformation.

PURSUIT OF TRUTH

The dedication of our community to compassion in all its forms is considered the highest pursuit of truth.

SUSTAINABILITY

A foundation built of compassion and compassionate action, so practiced and developed, is stable, strong, resilient, and long-lasting.

JUST

We commit to treat all humanity with equity.

INCLUSION

In recognition of our oneness, our intention is to honor, respect and relieve the suffering of all... No exceptions.

HOSPITALITY

All visitors, local, national and international, are welcomed in the name of compassion and encouraged to share their practices and ideas.

EMPOWERMENT

Compassion nurtures and inspires people to grow and make a difference in their own life, as well as in the lives of others. It lifts them to participate in global change and promote healing from polarization. Fostering compassion in education augments this empowerment.

AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

Those who give have no expectation of indebtedness from those who may be receiving the compassion of this movement, but "paying it forward" is sometimes contagious.

UNIVERSAL POSITIVITY

Our community's commitment to compassion makes us a part of the Global Compassion Movement created by Karen Armstrong, along with other internationally recognized theologians, philosophers, educators, religious and spiritual leaders, as well as government leaders. The Global Compassion Movement has been recognized as being the MOST SIGNIFICANT movement of the 21st century.