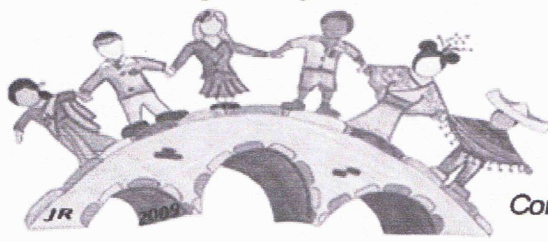


Building Bridges Coalition of Staten Island



November 23, 2009

Building Bridges Coalition of Staten Island (BBCSI) Announces the 2010 Unity Project

In mid-January 2010 you will be receiving the packet for the BBCSI 2010 Unity Project. The 2010 Unity Project will invite all Staten Island school children to submit a project (essay, poem, poster, or video) that expresses the themes contained in the project packets. School children will be judged in grade groupings (6-8, 9-10, and 11-12). All children submitting a project will receive certificates acknowledging their participation, and special awards will be given to honorable mention, first prize, and grand prize winners. Three grand prize winning projects (one for each grade grouping) will be awarded cash prizes of \$100.00.

The mission statement of BBCSI is; ***“Individuals who witness a growing need to build bridges of understanding and respect within a diverse community organized the Staten Island Building Bridges Coalition.- Building Bridges Coalition of Staten Island Corp is not a religious organization and does not conduct religious events. The membership draws from various ethnic and religious communities from within Staten Island. Representatives from religious institutions and ethnic organizations meet to share common concerns and develop community programs. The events are the result of a co-operative effort to achieve the goal of teaching mutual respect.”*** The Unity Project is our effort to get children actively involved in this process, and to get them thinking about ways to reach out to other Staten Island children of other faiths, races, and who live outside their neighborhoods.

The 2009 BBCSI Unity Project overwhelmingly exceeded our expectations with over 225 projects being submitted by 315 children, from 10 Staten Island Intermediate and High Schools. In 2010 we hope to get even more projects submitted, from more children, and expand the number of schools represented.

In 2010, the contest period will begin February 1st and end March 31st. Drop-off for projects will be in the first week of April, and judging (by panels of judges from both clergy and lay communities) will be completed by May 1st. Winners will be notified during the first week of May and an awards ceremony will be held in mid-May.

Please look for the BBCSI 2010 Unity Project packets that you will receive in mid-January 2010.

Sincerely,

Bob Myerson, BBCSI 2010 Unity Project Chairperson