



# CONNECTING COMMUNITIES TRUSTBUILDING PROGRAM

## Hope in the Cities

*Forming Leaders to Bridge the Divides of Race, Class and Culture*

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We've all seen valuable community projects derailed by mistrust, competing interests and personal conflicts. Our greatest need is to create a community of change makers in all sectors who strive to:

- Live in a way that creates trust and encourages creative risk taking
- Offer courageous, accountable leadership that fosters collaboration and engages all parties in problem solving
- Build communities of hope and opportunity for everyone

The Connecting Communities Trustbuilding Program (CCTP) introduces **key community trustbuilding skills** developed by Initiatives of Change and its Hope in the Cities program. This intensive course brings together up to 25 participants from grassroots, non-profit, government and business organizations to learn how to overcome the historical wounds, fears and misconceptions that undermine bold and creative initiatives in our communities. Through a combination of teaching, dialogue and experiential learning participants learn to:

- Connect theory with practice, and “inner change” with change in society
- Participate in “honest conversation” and examine how acknowledgement and healing of painful history can be tools for reconciliation and building new partnerships
- Engage “hard to reach” sectors in the process of community change through the building of diverse teams and networks

**Dates:** Friday, February 27 – Sunday, March 1, 2009 (starting 9:00 am Friday, ending 4 pm Sunday)  
Friday, March 6 – Sunday, March 8, 2009 (starting 9 am Friday, ending 4 pm Sunday)  
Friday, March 27 – Sunday, March 29, 2009 (starting 6:00 pm Friday, ending 4 pm Sunday)

The program involves three residential weekends. The final weekend is a time of reflection, assimilation of concepts, assessment of tools, and building action plans. Selected national and international participants may join a 4-day train the trainer course and consultation, March 2 – March 5 in place of the third weekend.

**Location:** Richmond Hill, 2209 East Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23223

**Overview:** An experienced faculty of facilitators, practitioners and teachers leads the program. CCTP enables participants to become effective trustbuilders by examining four critical areas:

- I. **What qualities are needed for individuals to become effective catalysts of change?** How can we demonstrate in our own lives and relationships the trustbuilding qualities that are needed in the wider community? What are the values and personal disciplines that can sustain us and enable us to draw out the best in others? *Participants will explore core values, the power of storytelling and the practice of quiet time, to create a personal tool box.*



2. **Why does history matter?** What is the continuing impact of unhealed wounds from the past on our personal and corporate lives today? What are the steps to understanding and healing these wounds? *Walking together through history, participants learn how to honor the 'Sacred Stories' of others and to build new shared narratives.*
3. **What are the keys to open inclusive dialogue?** How can polarized groups learn to listen to each other and move beyond blame to shared responsibility? *Participants will learn how to create a safe space and to facilitate honest conversations that move from an exchange of information to transformation.*
4. **How can we build the fabric of the community?** Why is teambuilding critical in achieving community change? How can we create networks of support across traditional boundaries? *Participants will develop new skills in forming collaborations and maintaining diverse teams and networks.*

**2009 focus: Education – building healthy integrated public schools**