

# Help Designate Greater Toledo a Compassionate Community



## Initiative of the MultiFaith Council of NW Ohio

The MultiFaith Council of NW Ohio has launched a campaign to formally designate Greater Toledo as a Compassionate City.

- Prepare a concrete plan to acknowledge, showcase, and celebrate the compassionate history/nature/elements of Greater Toledo and Northwest Ohio
- Plan [market/fund/design] a community-wide designation event, and
- [as part of the event] Identify concrete goals to apply compassion to community problems during at least a five-year period

### Partners

- Mayor Bell's Letter
- MultiFaith Council of NW Ohio
- Erase the Hate Toledo
- Toledo Area Ministries
- Bahá'ís of Sylvania OH
- First Church of Christ Scientist, Maumee
- First Unitarian Church
- Hindu Temple of Toledo
- Islamic Center of Greater Toledo

- Masjid Saad Foundation
- ProMedica
- The Toledo Clinic
- Trinity Episcopal Church
- United Muslim Association of Toledo [UMAT]
- Unity of Toledo
- Toledo City Council Resolution passed unanimously 9/17/2013

### Youth Partners

- United Muslim Association of Toledo Youth Council

### Individuals

Charles Kiskaddon  
 Jeanine Murphy Diller  
 Pat Newman  
 Sherre Smith

Abdel-Wahab Soliman  
 Woody & Judy Trautman  
 Tim Waldock



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## The Charter for Compassion

The Charter for Compassion was envisioned by Karen Armstrong, author of many interfaith books, in her 2008 TED acceptance speech. Her wish was that the faith leaders of the world would acknowledge their core common value of compassion in a simple document. The response was phenomenal. The resulting document was unveiled in November 2009. <http://charterforcompassion.org/site/> [Charter text is on Post Card, Appendix B.]

## Compassionate Cities – 10 Year Campaign

Seattle was the first Compassionate City, in honor of the Charter for Compassion. They celebrated the designation with a two-day, city-wide event and an ongoing campaign to encourage other compassionate cities. There are now **nineteen confirmed cities**: Appleton, Wisconsin USA; Basalt, Colorado USA; Cincinnati, Ohio USA; Danbury, Connecticut, USA; Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti; Gaziantep, Turkey; Groningen, Netherlands; Houston, Texas USA; Lake County, California USA; Lake Forest Park, WA USA; Leiden, Netherlands; London, Ontario Canada; Louisville, Kentucky USA; Millbrae, California USA; Nanaimo, Canada; Parksville, BC, Canada; Powell River, BC, Canada; Seattle, WA, USA; Winston-Salem, NC, USA

## Over 100 Candidates, including us!

1. Accra, Ghana
2. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
3. Ali Hasan Mangi Memorial Trust
4. Amsterdam, Netherlands
5. Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA
6. Appleton, Wisconsin USA
7. Arlington, Virginia USA
8. Arnhem, Netherlands
9. Atlanta, GA USA
10. Basalt, Colorado USA
11. Belfast, Northern Ireland
12. Boise, Idaho USA
13. Calicut, India
14. Canton, Michigan, USA
15. Cape Town, South Africa
16. Charleston, South Carolina, USA
17. Cincinnati, OH, USA
18. Dallas, TX USA
19. Danbury, CT, USA
20. Denver, Colorado, USA
21. Derry City, Ireland
22. Detroit, Michigan, USA
23. Djibouti, Republic of Djibouti
24. Dubai, United Arab Emirates
25. Fayetteville, Arkansas USA
26. Funchal, Portugal
27. Gaborone, Botswana
28. Garland, Texas, USA
29. Gaziantep, Turkey
30. Glasgow, Scotland
31. Glastonbury, UK
32. Gorinchem, Netherlands
33. Groningen, Netherlands
34. Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
35. Hemel Hempstead, UK
36. Hoogeveen, Netherlands
37. Houston, Texas, USA
38. Hull, United Kingdom
39. Huntington Beach, CA
40. Irvine, CA USA
41. Jakarta, Indonesia
42. Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA
43. Kampala, Uganda
44. La Crosse, Wisconsin, USA
45. Lagos, Nigeria
46. Laguna Beach, CA USA
47. Lake County, California USA
48. Lake Forest Park, WA USA
49. Leiden, Netherlands
50. Lelystad, Netherlands
51. Lochem, Netherlands
52. London, England, UK
53. London, Ontario Canada
54. Los Angeles, California, USA
55. Louisville, Kentucky USA
56. Millbrae, California USA
57. Milwaukee, WI, USA
58. Nairobi, Kenya
59. Nanaimo, Canada
60. Napa Valley, CA USA
61. Nashville, TN USA
62. New York, NY USA
63. North Bend, WA, USA
64. Nottingham, United Kingdom
65. Orange County, CA, USA
66. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
67. Parksville, BC, Canada
68. Peja, Kosovo
69. Perth, United Kingdom
70. Poorna Pune, India
71. Powell River, BC Canada
72. Providence, Rhode Island, USA
73. Redwood Shores, CA, USA
74. Richardson, TX USA
75. Rochester, Minnesota
76. São Leopoldo, Brazil
77. San Antonio, TX USA
78. San Diego, CA, USA
79. San Francisco, California, USA
80. San Louis Obispo, CA, USA
81. Santa Ana, CA, USA
82. Santa Cruz, CA, USA
83. Seattle, WA USA
84. Springfield, Illinois, USA
85. Springfield, Missouri, USA
86. St. Augustine, Florida USA
87. Sunnyvale, CA, USA
88. Surrey, BC, Canada
89. Telluride, Colorado, USA
- 90. Toledo, Ohio USA**
91. Toronto, Ontario, Canada
92. Tustin, CA, USA
93. Utrecht, Netherlands
94. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
95. Venloo, Netherlands
96. Villa Park, CA, USA
97. Vista, CA USA
98. Washington DC, USA
99. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
100. Winston-Salem, NC USA
101. Zagreb, Croatia

\*NOTE: These initiatives are part of the Canadians for Compassion effort.

\*NOTE: These initiatives are part of the [Canadians for Compassion](#) effort.

## What is a compassionate city?

A compassionate city recognizes compassion as an ethical imperative in its policy decisions. A compassionate city deepens the quality and the extent to which its citizens embrace compassion in caring for its own neighbors. [from Compassionate Seattle]

## Why a Compassionate City?

"Earning an international reputation as a city of compassion will help set Louisville apart, identifying our community as a place where people want to live, and companies want to locate and grow their business."

-Greg Fischer, Mayor of Louisville, the largest Compassionate City in America.

## How to Start a Campaign in Your City



The Campaign for Compassionate Cities is a largely self-defining process that has three simple steps:

1. Ask your Mayor to [affirm the Charter for Compassion](#) and proclaim your community a Compassionate City.
2. Meet with community members to define what it means to be a Compassionate City and how your city will work toward its vision.
3. Share news, events, ideas, and resources with other cities in the [Compassionate Cities](#) group on this network.

[See also Appendix E for more detailed plan suggestions.]

## Steps We Have Taken

- We were an initial Event partner for the Charter for Compassion. We held a screening of the Harvard Pluralism Project's documentary *Fremont, U.S.A.. A City's Encounter with Religious Diversity*, for a widely diverse group of area leaders, followed by group discussion. Discussion summaries were then placed on our website.
- We joined Compassionate Action Network: 10 Year Campaign for Compassionate Cities group.
- We created a website <http://compassionatetoledo.org/index.html> and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/CompassionateToledo> to publicize the initiative and gather support.
- We met with Mayor's representatives and received [Mayor Mike Bell's letter of endorsement](#). [Appendix A]
- We have gathered the support of fifteen partners, one youth partner and eight individuals. [See first page.]
- At our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual MultiFaith Banquet in 2011, we launched the campaign.
- At our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual MultiFaith Banquet in 2012, we inducted our first members to the Heroes of Compassion Gallery. At the MultiFaith Picnic May 2012, Representative Marcy Kaptur awarded Congressional Recognition certificates to the Heroes. <http://www.multifaithcouncil.org/pages/firstheroes.pdf> [Appendix D] [Video <http://youtu.be/Gx-ZF3vrF8w>]
- At our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet we inducted eight Heroes of Compassion and presented the work of a committee to show Evidence of Compassion. [Appendix D] [Video <http://youtu.be/Cm0eZoJeYKo>]
- Media coverage
  - Bridges with Doni Miller, 2011; interview with Bindu Mistry and Judy and Woody Trautman.
  - WSPD Community Corner 2012 interview with Samina Hasan, Ed Heilman, and Chuck Stocking [http://www.wspd.com/player/?station=WSPD-AM&program\\_name=podcast&program\\_id=communitycorner.xml&mid=21851778](http://www.wspd.com/player/?station=WSPD-AM&program_name=podcast&program_id=communitycorner.xml&mid=21851778)

- Article in the Toledo Blade by David Yonke about the Heroes of Compassion. <http://www.toledoblade.com/Religion/2012/03/10/Council-to-honor-18-for-compassionate-acts.html> and in his new Toledo FAVS about the 2013 banquet <http://toledofavs.com/faith/faith-based-organizations/multifaith-banquet-promotes-power-of-compassion>
- Articles by TK Barger <https://www.toledoblade.com/TK-Barger/2013/05/04/Multifaith-has-a-place-for-everyone.html>
- Jeffrey Zawodny created a beautiful logo for the campaign.
- We created a postcard and had 2500 printed for wide distribution. [Appendix B]
- We created a static cling and printed 500 to give to donors.
- We held the premier area screening of the documentary film Globalized Soul: Stories from the Tipping Point to a New World, with the filmmakers Cynthia Lukas and Kell Kearns.
- We have purchased copies of Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life* to encourage formation of book club discussions of the book. It has been used in a religious education class and in several book club groups. New book discussions will be starting soon. **The compassionate Action Network has published a summary, created by Judy Lee Trautman, of the book on their website as a tool provided by the MultiFaith Council of NW Ohio.** <http://compassionateaction.org/node/3985>

## Evidence of Compassion

A committee measured a representative 150 organizations [Academic, Arts, Civic / Social Welfare, Economic / Business, Environment, Food Security, Government / Justice, and Non-Government] on a matrix to demonstrate how compassionate our community is and establish a baseline for goal setting. The 'compassionate average was 29/30. The committee's work was introduced at the 2013 MultiFaith Banquet by Valerie Garforth <http://multifaithcouncil.org/pages/garforth13.pdf> [Appendix John Krochmalny then showed a video of the results, which may be seen at <http://youtu.be/onkzotvbNNG>

## Where Do We Go From Here?

- Develop a steering committee of **Compassion Ambassadors** – involve MFC Board, Advisory Committee and other interested leaders
  - Meet to organize the campaign – set realistic timeline
  - We need a broader base of partnerships/sponsors. Gather additional partnerships civic, non-profit, corporate, media, and government [include the City of Toledo and appropriate surrounding communities]. Partnership would include some sort of commitment – financial, personnel, or in-kind. Assign ambassadors to seek these partnerships.
- Create sound marketing and financial plans
- Design the Designation Event [multiple-components]
  - Seek appropriate venues, timeline and organization
  - Designation Proclamation Ceremony - Mayors and City Council affirm the Charter for Compassion and issue joint proclamation or proclamations
  - Showcase compassion in Greater Toledo [Heroes of Compassion, Media Stories about Compassion]
  - Community Service / Volunteer day[s]
  - Visioning / Goal Setting Meetings to strategize and draw up a five-year plan [or perhaps localized plans] to apply compassion to critical issues in our community
  - Social event[s] as part of the celebration [similar to MultiFaith Banquet]

**Appendix:**

**A. Mayor's Letter**

*City of Toledo*



*Michael P. Bell*  
Mayor

March 27, 2011

Mr. Chuck Stocking and MultiFaith Council of Northwest Ohio members,

I am writing this letter to show my support, and agreement that there is a genuine need for organizations that recognize the necessity of communities building bridges of understanding and trust between citizens. My office is convinced that familiarity alleviates fear, and the elimination of fear opens the door to true relationship.

The MultiFaith Council's vision and leadership in helping the City of Toledo to be recognized as a "Compassionate City", is another important step in the journey of relationship building that will promote peace, openness, and true brotherhood among the many faith based groups that are active in our city.

I have great dreams for what Toledo can become, and accomplishing those dreams will require us to set aside our differences, and strive to become one people, Toledoans, living and working together for the greater good. Thank you for all you do!

Warm Regards,

Michael P. Bell  
Mayor of Toledo

## B. Post Card



**Help Designate Greater Toledo as a Compassionate Community!**



creating a  
**compassionate**  
COMMUNITY



Toledo & Northwest Ohio



<http://compassionatetoledo.org/index.html>  
<https://www.facebook.com/CompassionateToledo>  
<http://twitter.com/CompToledo>

### Charter for Compassion

The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves.

Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others ~ even our enemies ~ is a denial of our common humanity.

We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

We therefore call upon all men and women - to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion - to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate - to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures - to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity - to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings ~ even those regarded as enemies

We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries.

Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

Confirm now at <http://charterforcompassion.org/site/>

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## C. Static Cling



## D. Heroes of Compassion Gallery



Video <http://youtu.be/Gx-ZF3vrF8w>

**Sr. Mary Angelita Abair** has done decades of work in central Toledo with the poor, marginalized, imprisoned, and disabled.

**Cherry Street Mission [Dan Rogers representing]** provides emergency shelter, food and other assistance to the homeless.

**Dr. Lawrence V. Conway, Medical Mission Hall of Fame** honors those individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to advancing the medical well-being of persons throughout the world.

**Judge Charles J. Doneghy** has been an inner city youth mentor and support for prostate cancer awareness.

**Fr. Martin Donnelly** is a founding chair of Erase the Hate Toledo and Central City Ministries and many other organizations.

**Hannah's Socks [Vic & Hannah Turner representing]**, founded by a four year old girl, supplied 200,000+ pairs socks to the homeless last year.

**Jewish Family Service Food Bank [Nancy Newbury representing]** provides food, supplies and moral support to the needy in the general community

**Ken Leslie & Pat Lewandowski, 1Matters - Tent City** works to change the perception of the "homeless" to reflect reality.

**Lifeline Toledo [Steve North representing]** provides support for inner city homeless, including mobile medical support.

**The Ronald McDonald House Charities [not present]** provides a free home away from home for families accessing specialized medical care for their children.

**Martha Pituch, RN, Cherry St. Mission Clinic** founded and developed a nursing clinic to provide primary health care for homeless persons.

**Devorah (Friedrich) Shulamit, Interfaith Blood Drive**, founded the first interfaith blood drive in the nation, now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year.

**Sr. Grace Ellen & Sr. Jeremias, Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania Gardens** developed a nationally recognized four-season polyhouse to provide food for the needy year round.

**Mike Szuberla, ToledoGROWS [John Page & Charlie Johnston representing]** provides support for 150 community gardens and re-entry and proactive programs for at-risk youth.

**St Paul's Community Center [not present]** provides daily hot meals, emergency shelter, and other services for the homeless.

**St. Vincent de Paul Conference [not present]** provides tangible, confidential, no-questions-asked assistance to those in need.

**Toledo Area Ministries, Feed Your Neighbor Ministry [Donnajean Stockmaster representing]** provides 12 food pantries and serves over 80,000 clients per year.

**Toledo Mountain Mentors [Steve Toth & Patti Travis representing]** provides one-on-one mentoring and outdoor experiences for at-risk teens.

## 2013



Video <http://youtu.be/Cm0eZoJeYKo>

**Joe Balderas Sofia Quintero Art & Cultural Center** mentors youth in art and gardening skills and fosters interest in Hispanic Culture.

**Wanda Butts** founded **The Josh Project** in memory of John-Joshua Butts to provide affordable swimming lessons and water safety training to children and their families.

**Liz Facey** teaches in the Project 100 intervention program at Central Catholic High School, providing support to students who are academically at risk of failing the normal curriculum, and volunteers in the Child Life Center at Toledo Children's Hospital.

**Charlie Johnson** founded the **CITE Program (Community Integration & Training for Employment)** to provide job readiness training, paid work experience and community service activities to youth on probation with Lucas County Juvenile Court.

**Sara Mattson Read for Literacy/Creating Young Readers** which links adults who have a passion for reading with preschoolers ages 3-5. This program develops a love of books, reading and learning for children with deficiencies in being kindergarten ready.

**Rev Melissa Micham Glenwood Lutheran Church Giving Store** which is filled with donated, gently used clothing and household items and other services free of charge and with no requirements, just a simple registration for a family.

**John Shouser** has built better community relations between all Americans, Arabs, Christians and Jews at City, State and National level. He tirelessly builds racial and religious harmony and has been in on all peace initiatives at all levels.

**Lisa Strawbridge UU Kids Care Club and Good Night Bags** for the creation and delivery of Good Night Bags, emergency overnight bags, to the American Red Cross and YWCA for children in the Toledo area. Each custom printed bag contains a blanket, stuffed animal, socks, underwear, 2 books, a toothbrush, and tooth paste.

## E. Multi Faith Council of NW Ohio – Compassion Toledo Survey April 2013

*Presented by Valerie Garforth:*

It is my honor to introduce the work of our committee and recognize our committee members: John Krochmalny, Sherre Smith, Valerie Garforth, David Longacre, Joe Zielinski

The Charter for Compassion is the inspiration of Karen Armstrong, who challenges us to look beyond the doctrines and beliefs of individual religions and instead to focus on the "Centrality of Compassion", which is found in all religions, and asking us to put Compassion into action. Karen Armstrong came to the realization that, as she says: "All the traditions tell us, one way or another, that we have to leave behind our inbuilt selfishness, with its greedy fears and cravings. We are, the great spiritual writers insist, most fully ourselves when we give ourselves away, and it is egotism that holds us back from that transcendent experience that has



been called God, Nirvana, Brahman, or the Tao". Karen Armstrong challenges us to reinstate the "Golden Rule": Jesus said "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you", but more difficult than that is the challenge of Rabbi Hillel, a contemporary of Jesus, who said: "That which is hateful to you do not do to your neighbor". This concept was taught by Confucius even earlier in 500 B.C.E. Is Toledo a City of Compassion – are we instating the "Golden Rule"? In response to this challenge, last year, the Multi Faith Council of North West Ohio officially authorized our committee to demonstrate that Toledo is a City of Compassion and in September 2012 we began meeting monthly round my dining room table to work out just how we could do this, by surveying organizations demonstrating compassion in the Toledo area.

We began by exploring the meaning of compassion in greater depth. To help us we created a list of adjectives which described what we considered to be COMPASSIONATE VIRTUES: adjectives such as appreciative, benevolent, bountiful, caring, considerate, courteous, empathetic, fair, friendly, forbearing, forgiving, generous, gentle, good, gracious, helpful, inspired, just, kind, loyal, magnanimous, merciful, moral, patient, peaceful, prayerful, purposeful, reverent, respectful, reliable, responsive, self-sacrificing, saintly, selfless, sincere, sympathetic, tolerant, tenderhearted, thoughtful, trustworthy, truthful, warm. For me the phrase "active caring" best describes compassion, or putting the Golden Rule into practice.

We knew that it would be a monumental task to survey all the organizations and work going on in Toledo in order to assess compassion and wanted to make it manageable. We wanted to work out a process by which we could create a document to present at the banquet tonight, showing how we assessed organizations and compassionate activity in the City of Toledo and how we placed a value on what we discovered.

We established a list of areas that we would survey, realizing that our scope would have to be limited because our resources were limited. The ten areas we settled on were:

Civic Life, Faith Organizations, Government/Justice, NGO, Economic/Business, Social Welfare, The Arts, Food Security, Academics and the Environment. We divided these areas between us according to our personal interest and expertise and set about researching around ten local organizations each within these areas. We surveyed a total of 150 Toledo area organizations. According to research we gathered there may be upward of 500 organizations and businesses active in the Toledo area so this survey represents around 30%.

We developed a template, or "rubric" which we all used to assess the various organizations. Possible scores range was 0 (presently does not have any program that demonstrates compassion), 10 (presently does not have any program that demonstrates compassion but is actively promoting compassionate attitudes), 20 (presently has between 1 and 3 active programs that demonstrate organizational compassion) to 30 (presently has more than 1 active program that demonstrates organizational compassion as well as possesses/promotes an organizational culture of compassion). The results are shown in the document we are presenting tonight. Most of the organizations we surveyed received the maximum score of 30 with an average of 29. As one of our committee members says: "I am amazed and proud of such displays of compassion by area citizens - we are truly blessed to live in such a dynamic, caring and progressive community."

Although our survey did not include every organization and business active in the Toledo area, it is clear that the sense of compassion is alive in Toledo. I have to say that this process has been a personal journey for me, as I have read works by Karen Armstrong and listened to her speak. Karen Armstrong's journey resonated particularly with me – she is English and speaks about places that I know. If you have not read it, I highly recommend her autobiography "The Spiral Staircase" which describes how she herself came to understand the importance of compassion – it is an exciting story! A major revelation on her journey was that in most religious traditions, faith is not about belief but about practice. As she says: "Religion is not about accepting twenty impossible propositions before breakfast, but about doing things that change you. It is a moral aesthetic, an ethical alchemy". Karen Armstrong is a seeker after truth, enlightenment and an "intense existence, shot through with transcendent meaning" as she herself says. This led her to enter the convent at a young age but there she did not find what she was seeking. After various false starts she began a literary/intellectual career writing about St. Paul and early Christianity but soon realized that she needed to learn about Judaism and found it to be a religion of charity and loving kindness. The angry controversy around Salman Rushdie in the 1990s inspired her to write a life of the Prophet to which Western people could relate. Mohammed lived in a dark and violent time and he emerges as a very human character, who wanted Muslims to cultivate a caring, generous spirit and to give graciously to all by concrete acts of compassion.

Karen Armstrong's epiphany is to realize that true religious experience comes, as she says: "when we edit out "ego" when we leave behind our inbuilt selfishness, greedy fears and cravings. We are most fully ourselves when we give ourselves away." (As an aside: one of the saddest things I heard was a woman saying she was tired of paying taxes so children living in poverty could have school breakfast!) Or, as Karen says elsewhere: "the religious quest is not about discovering "the truth" or the "meaning of life" but about living as intensely as possible here and now". The Charter for Compassion is the direct result of this epiphany and Karen Armstrong's challenge and legacy to the world. Tonight we are honoring a number of people in the Toledo area who personify by their work a sense of compassion. I would like to add to that list an organization which seeks, as Karen Armstrong challenges us, to point to and emphasize the similarities and the "Centrality of Compassion" among the great religions. This is the Multi-Faith Council of Northwest Ohio and I thank them for their work in bringing us together tonight and over the years.

## F. City Council Resolution

RES. 430-13

### Designate Greater Toledo a Compassionate Community.

WHEREAS, by becoming part of a compassionate city, region, or nation, citizens become empowered to develop a sense of cooperation and reinvigorated hope; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Seattle community hosted a weeklong event titled "The Seeds of Compassion" which included gatherings, discussions, and workshops, which subsequently inspired networks and organizations around the world to take similar actions, whereby the formation of the Compassionate Action Network International drew on the success of this event; the result of which was the creation of the "Campaign for Compassionate Cities"; and

WHEREAS, today, over 80 cities from Gaziantep, Turkey to Louisville, KY are participating in the Campaign for Compassionate Cities; and

WHEREAS, one billion of the world's seven billion people do not subscribe to a religious faith, secular leadership is needed to disseminate information related to the science of compassion and the positive impact it has on respect, dignity and service to our fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, each city is unique in the way it takes on compassion in civil thought and planning, such as Louisville, where recently thousands of citizens performed 107,000 acts of compassion in a week long Give-A-Day project, and in Toledo hundreds of volunteers recently participated in a 3 day long Days of Caring project; and

WHEREAS, scientific research is revealing that the early intervention with compassionate policies with at-risk youth shows great promise for positive change, whereby compassion programs could ultimately save cities money they would otherwise use for dealing with the costs associated with crime; NOW, THEREFORE,

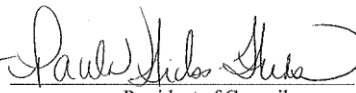
Be it resolved by the Council of the City of Toledo:

SECTION 1. That Toledo City Council applauds the cities who have adopted "compassion" as a key policy for their communities, and recommends the use of compassion as a key component to develop policies, procedures, tactics, and practical guidance on the integration of compassion in programs to address the holistic wellness and achieve core objectives in our community, especially as it relates to those most at risk.

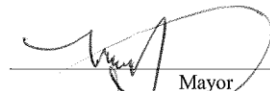
SECTION 2. That this resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the earliest date allowed by law.

Adopted: SEP 17 2013; yeas 12, nays 0.

Attest:   
Clerk of Council

  
President of Council

Approved: SEP 19 2013

  
Mayor

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by Council \_\_\_\_\_.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

## G. Developing a Compassionate City Campaign

*Based on material provided by Howard Mason<sup>1</sup> New Possibilities Associates • Louisville, Kentucky USA With additional information provided by the staff of the International Institute for Compassionate Cities<sup>2</sup>*

### PLAN STEPS

1. Assemble sponsor coalition — the groups and individuals who are seen as fair, neutral, and credible to be bringing this Campaign to the city and asking for widespread participation. This group could also serve as governance if that were to become necessary. Have each participant affirm the Charter for Compassion.<sup>3</sup>
2. Build a coalition of community groups — Build a coalition representing a broad range of community groups. These groups will join with the sponsor coalition to present the rationale and draft proclamation to the mayor and city council.
3. Open website and/or start a My Compassionate Action Network group where people join the local Campaign — Provide information on the Charter, the Compassionate Action Network<sup>4</sup> and the International Campaign for Compassionate Cities; local conversations on living compassionately; guide on how to host a conversation; and a facility for people to record progress on the compassion work they are doing. Also establish Facebook page and Twitter accounts.
4. Recruit sector champions — These are people who evangelize for the Charter and the Campaign among their peers: business (sectors might be banking, finance, healthcare, manufacturing, logistics, etc.) government (local, state) faith communities, non-profits, civic groups, neighborhood associations, schools and educational institutions, and criminal-justice agencies.
5. Host several open, community-wide conversations — These conversations model and set the tone for the whole host of conversations that the Campaign would want to stimulate in families, workplaces, faith communities, schools, neighborhood gatherings, coffee shops, civic organization meetings, etc. These conversations would also be training for sector champions. Conversation questions:
  - What does living into the Charter for Compassion look like in our organization, neighborhood or city?
  - What do we already have to support that picture of compassion?
  - What do we need to do or commit to doing to making our organization, neighborhood, or city compassionate?
6. Encourage many of these conversations in ordinary settings — Sponsors and sector champions promote and support conversations throughout community in in families, workplaces, faith communities, schools, neighborhood gatherings, coffee shops, civic organization meetings, etc.

Materials to host conversation would be available for download from the local website or group, and/or the International Institute for Compassionate Cities (“Institute”) website.<sup>5</sup> Conversation organizers would record participation, findings, insights, and plans on the website. Progress would be recorded as it occurs.

7. Make a presentation to the mayor and city council — Present a summary of the community support and the rationale behind the request for the mayor and city council to affirm the Charter for Compassion and proclaim support of a Compassionate Cities campaign. Submit a listing of endorsements, signatures gathered in support, and other compelling information if available.
8. Announce Compassionate City Initiative — Once the Charter is affirmed and the mayor and city council have approved the proclamation for a Compassionate City campaign, a public and publicized announcement (with the mayor presenting the proclamation) can be made emphasizing the Charter and the Campaign to seek endorsement of the Charter and participation in living into the Charter in our individual, family, work, faith, neighborhood and community lives.
9. Identify project candidates — Hold action-oriented conversation where participants are invited to bring their project, ideas, questions or whatever they feel called by and need help to launch or advance in the community. The conversation questions:
  - What project or idea has the power to transform the community and inspire you?
  - What is the purpose of the project or idea?
  - What is missing? What is needed to make the project of idea more complete or possible?
  - What have we learned and what next steps are we ready to take?
10. Nurture a select group of compassion projects — Develop a process to screen and adopt a small number of projects for nurturing including mentors, opening doors, introductions, learning opportunities, etc.
11. Develop a plan — Create a plan for demonstration projects (that can be implemented later on a larger scale), identify outcomes, establish metrics, and tangible, measurable results to be reported back to everyone who participates in the Charter and the Campaign.
12. Innovate, expand, learn and share — These steps, with others, might be sufficient to get things rolling. But the Campaign must view itself as continuously innovating, taking advantage of unanticipated opportunities, inviting new people and ideas, capturing and sharing learning. Issue regular reports to the community.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The characteristics of successful community initiatives: <sup>6</sup>

1. Are based on clarity of shared purpose and principles.
2. Are self-organizing and self-governing in whole and in part.
3. Exist primarily to enable their constituent parts.
4. Are powered from the periphery, unified from the core.
5. Are durable in purpose and principle, malleable in form and function.
6. Equitably distribute power, rights, responsibility and rewards.
7. Harmoniously combine cooperation and competition.
8. Learn, adapt and innovate in ever expanding cycles.
9. Are compatible with the human spirit and the biosphere.
10. Liberate and amplify ingenuity, initiative and judgment.
11. Are compatible with and foster diversity, complexity and change.
12. Constructively utilize and harmonize ambiguity, conflict and paradox.
13. Restrain and appropriately embed command and control methods.

## DISCIPLINES OF THOSE LEADING COMPASSION BUILDING

The goal of building compassion and transcending overt and covert violence is advanced by the capacity to generate, mobilize, and build four capacities in people. <sup>7</sup>

1. The centrality of relationships — Relationships form the context in which compassion happens and also generate the energy that enables people to transcend violence. As people acknowledge their relational interdependency and recognize themselves as part of the pattern, they may be able to envision a wider set of relationships and take personal responsibility for their own choices and behavior. In short, compassion requires that people be able to envision their interconnectedness and mutuality.
2. The practice of paradoxical curiosity — Cycles of violence are often driven by polarities. Choices about to respond to conflict are forced into either-or categories: you are either with us or against us. Compassion involves the capacity to rise above these divisions and reach beyond accepted meanings. Paradoxical curiosity is a matter of respecting complexity, seeking something beyond what is visible, and discovering what it is that holds apparently opposed social energies together. It involves accepting people at Developing a Compassionate Cities Campaign face value, and yet looking beyond appearances and suspending judgment in order to discover untold new angles, opportunities, and unexpected potentialities.
3. Provide space for the creative act — Compassion arises through creative human action that happens out of the everyday and yet moves beyond what exists to something new and unexpected. Because new ways of thinking may pose a threat to the status quo, it is important to provide space for the creative act to emerge. This requires a commitment to creativity and a belief that it is possible to move beyond the limits of what is commonly accepted. This quality of providing for and expecting the unexpected is well-known in the world of artists and needs to be cultivated in the work of compassion building. Creativity opens us to avenues of inquiry and provides us with new ways to think about social change.
4. The willingness to risk — To take a risk is to step into the unknown without any guarantee of success or safety. For many people caught in conflict, violence is known, and compassion is a mystery. Because compassion building typically requires people to move toward a new, mysterious, and unexpected future, it may be a difficult journey.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The International Institute for Compassion Cities provides a growing body of information and resources that can support local Compassionate City campaigns. These include information sheets, PowerPoint presentations, videos, and research information. Some materials can be customized to fit the local Campaign requirements, including contact information for the local Campaign. Please contact the Institute for more information.

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<sup>2</sup> This document is derived from material provided by Howard Mason. It has been modified by the International Institute for Compassionate Cities. The International Institute for Compassionate Cities is solely responsible for any errors or omissions in this document.

<sup>3</sup> Participants can confirm online at: <http://Charterforcompassion.org/site/>

<sup>4</sup> My Compassionate Action Network (<http://my.compassionateactionnetwork.com/>) participation is free. Members can establish groups (Compassionate Seattle, Maribor — Compassionate City, etc.) quickly and easily on the My CAN website. From there, they can communicate with their members, post news items, photos, audio recordings, and videos as well as conduct conversations.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.compassionatecities.org>

<sup>6</sup> Source: Chaordic Alliance

<sup>7</sup> Adapted from J. P. Lederach: The Moral Imagination.