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FORMER NCCJ RE-LAUNCHES AS  
"BRIDGES FOR A JUST COMMUNITY" FOR MORE  
IMPACT IN PROMOTING INCLUSION AND JUSTICE

*Local Chapter Co-Founds the National Federation for Just Communities*

CINCINNATI, OH – November 17, 2006 – To better serve its mission of promoting inclusion and justice, the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) of Greater Cincinnati announces the human relations organization has been renamed **BRIDGES for a Just Community** to be more commonly known as "BRIDGES". Forming the new BRIDGES organization will assure that more local fundraising can be devoted to its local human relations programs. The Cincinnati office of NCCJ has collaborated with a majority of other regional NCCJ offices around the nation to co-found the National Federation for Just Communities (NFJC), Inc. The new NFJC will emphasize sharing best practices among regional members and coordinating advocacy efforts for national impact on issues of diversity and inclusion.

"While we are proud of our distinguished 62-year history with the NCCJ, the time has come to embrace new relationships and structural change to maintain our high level of service to this community," said Robert "Chip" Harrod, executive director of **BRIDGES for a Just Community**. "We are grateful to our many local partners who are supporting this growth opportunity whole-heartedly," he added.

The new **BRIDGES for a Just Community** will be better able to expand its popular programs that address issues of diversity and social justice and will continue to work closely with the Freedom Center and other human relations organizations. Greater Cincinnati's annual unity walk is the largest in the U.S. Its Jewish-Muslim dialogues, public policy forums and police-community relations work will remain as key activities.

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The biennial *Greater Cincinnati Human Relations Indicator Report* is guiding the planning of social service agencies such as the United Way of Greater Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. The organization's youth leadership institutes, Healing Through History and workplace diversity training are other highly-regarded local programs that will continue.

"We saw this as a tremendous opportunity to re-launch our organization with a new name that preserves our legacy to justice and community while using bridges – building bridges – as an updated image for the work we do," said Dr. Mitchel D. Livingston, chairman of the board of **BRIDGES for a Just Community**. "The local office, staff and board of directors will remain intact – the organization's mission to promote inclusion and justice through a variety of programs and activities will continue uninterrupted, while our new national affiliation will provide greater local control over fundraising and programming," Livingston explained.

Employees at GE recently raised nearly \$130,000 for **BRIDGES** (formerly NCCJ of Greater Cincinnati) during this year's annual unity walk on October 14. "We are proud to make such a significant impact on the organization, helping it to become the regional leader in promoting diversity and justice in our community," said Jack Ryan, vice president, Human Resources at GE Aviation.

For more information about **BRIDGES for a Just Community**, please call the BRIDGES office at (513) 381-4660 or visit online at [www.bridgescincinnati.org](http://www.bridgescincinnati.org).

### *About BRIDGES for a Just Community, Inc.*

BRIDGES for a Just Community, formerly the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) of Greater Cincinnati, brings people together to achieve inclusion, equity and justice for all who live and work in the Greater Cincinnati community. BRIDGES has been our region's leading human relations organization since 1944 and recently co-founded the National Federation for Just Communities, a new national organization providing education and advocacy to more than 20 member organizations around the country.

For more information, call BRIDGES at 513-381-4660 or visit online at [www.bridgescincinnati.org](http://www.bridgescincinnati.org).

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