



Public Allies SITE NAME
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PUBLIC ALLIES CINCINNATI IS LOCAL EXAMPLE OF NATIONAL SERVICE IPARTICIPATE CAMPAIGN

CINCINNATI, OH – October 20, 2009 -- From October 19-25, The Entertainment Industry Foundation's "iParticipate" campaign will launch with service as a theme during sixty prime time programs on the four major networks, many daytime, late night and cable programs, and dozens of public service announcements. One local group benefitting from this major spotlight on service is Public Allies Cincinnati, a program of BRIDGES for a Just Community.

In Cincinnati, Public Allies' participation in the "iParticipate" campaign will culminate on Make a Difference Day, Saturday, October 24, 2009, when the Allies will advocate for economic justice issues by placing "footprints" with salient facts related to economic disparities along the BRIDGES Walk for a Just Community route. Allies will also volunteer at the Kids' Zone in the Yeatman's Cove area, running activities and assembling school supply kits for children in need.

"Thanks to the increased funding through AmeriCorps, BRIDGES was able to hire 10 additional Public Allies this year, bringing the total to 40 Allies," said Robert C. "Chip" Harrod, president and CEO of BRIDGES for a Just Community. "Through the efforts and idealism of these young, civic-minded Allies working in our Greater Cincinnati community, we have witnessed first-hand the unquestioned value of their contributions to our local nonprofits and to the thousands of clients they serve," he added.

Founded in 1992, the Public Allies program was identified by both President George H.W. Bush and President Bill Clinton as a model for national service, and was one of the original pilots for AmeriCorps. Under President George W. Bush, Public Allies

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tripled in scale and was named as a model for faith-based and community initiatives. During the past year, Public Allies has received much attention because President Obama was a founding board member and First Lady Mrs. Obama was employed by Public Allies as executive director of the Chicago program from 1993-1996 and served on the board of directors from 1997-2001.

Public Allies has received such strong support from four administrations because of a powerful idea and program model – the program’s mission is to advance new leadership to strengthen communities, nonprofits and civic participation. The program recruits diverse young adults, ages 18-30, and places them in 10-month paid apprenticeships with local non-profit organizations.

Last year, Public Allies Cincinnati accepted one of every four applicants. More than 90% of organizations last year reported that Allies met or exceeded their service goals. The Allies additionally recruited 3,373 volunteers who provided an additional 3,922 hours of volunteer service to our communities by serving 11,239 people. Over 80% of our 2,800 graduates nationwide are continuing careers in nonprofit and public service.

In Cincinnati, Public Allies opened in May 1998 with a class of 24 Allies, while this year, there are 40 Allies in the program. Over the course of the last 10 years, the program has graduated 250 Public Allies. Some of this year’s partner organizations include the FreeStore FoodBank, Housing Opportunities Made Equal and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul to name a few. Examples of some Allies, alumni, and staff available for interviews are:

Un Jin Krantz, Public Allies Program Manager at BRIDGES, is also a Public Allies graduate. Following college graduation, Ms. Krantz began working in the private sector at a financial services firm, until she decided she wanted something completely different for her life. She became a Public Ally and has stayed in the non-profit field ever since.

Sarah Weiss, who joined the staff of the Center for Holocaust and Humanity Education through Public Allies, is now executive director of the organization.

Public Allies Cincinnati, locally a program of BRIDGES for a Just Community and nationally a part of AmeriCorps, is a leadership development organization created to prepare young leaders for careers in public life. For more information about the program or to make a donation, please call 513-381-4660 or visit online at www.bridgescincinnati.org.

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About BRIDGES for a Just Community

BRIDGES for a Just Community brings people together to achieve inclusion, equity and justice for all who live and work in the Greater Cincinnati community. As the region's leading human relations organization, BRIDGES' vision is to create a respectful, equitable and welcoming community for all citizens through education, advocacy and dialogue. Formerly the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) of Greater Cincinnati, BRIDGES for a Just Community has served the region since 1944. For more information, call BRIDGES at 513-381-4660 or visit online at www.bridgescincinnati.org.