



Community conversation

Dear Friends,

With your help, CRT continues to make a difference! While racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and anti-immigrant sentiments continue to roil the political landscape, we are helping to weave people together, neighborhood by neighborhood.

Children are not born hating others. Hatred and intolerance come from trauma, ignorance, social manipulation, and lack of exposure. When we have experienced violence and trauma, we often project our fears onto those who are different from us. When we are ignorant about how the experiences of others affect what they do, it is easy to assume they are deficient or ill-intentioned. We may be taught hatred or manipulated by those who stand to gain from division, and lack of experience with people in valued roles makes it possible for stereotypes and misinformation to persist. CRT works by helping people and communities to heal from traumatic experiences, making it possible to encounter others with an open mind. We provide information people need to think differently about others, organize communities to push back against purposeful manipulation, and create opportunities to engage in meaningful activities in partnership with people of a different race, ethnicity or religion.

One person and one village at a time, we are building a more tolerant and inclusive world. In Israel, the Young Women's Parliament has expanded to a dozen new villages, and is providing new opportunities for Jewish and Arab high school students to work side-by-side for social change. Here in Florida, CRT has partnered with the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and other local groups to create our newest project, Sarasota Strong. Since the launch just six months ago, Sarasota Strong has grown to over 300 active members in two Sarasota neighborhoods. Thank you for your support!

In peace,

Andrea Blanch, PhD, Director

Upcoming CRT Events

SARASOTA STRONG MONTHLY FORUMS

6-7:30 pm 4th Monday of every month

Sept 23 at UCC Church in Venice
Lana Vassilieva, *The Life of the Grieving Child*

Oct 28 at Community Bible Church in Newtown
Valerie Tharnis, *Faith Communities and Respite Care*

Nov 25 at UCC Church in Venice
Sidney Turner, *How to Respond when Trauma is Disclosed*



Community Bible Church forum

BROKEN PLACES DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

Oct 13 3-5 pm at Community Foundation of Sarasota
Illustrates how childhood adversity can alter life trajectories, and how people can thrive despite significant challenges. Facilitated discussion to follow.

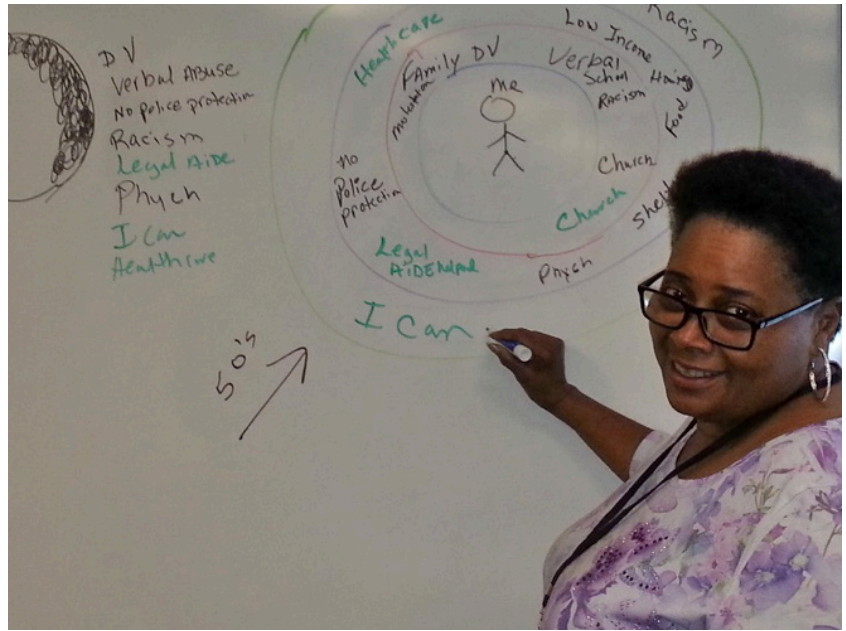
"The world breaks everyone, and afterward many are strong at the broken places."

Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*

Sarasota Strong: Healing Trauma, Building Resilience, Engaging Residents

Over the past year, CRT has launched a new effort to educate people about the impact of trauma, help them heal from their own traumatic experiences, and begin building stronger, healthier neighborhoods.

The project started with a workshop on “Letting Go of a Traumatic Past” for women at the Community Bible Church, led by Helen Neal-Ali. The women were so excited about the changes they saw in their lives they requested facilitator training and began spreading the message to others. Inspired by the women, the men asked for a workshop of their own. The first men’s class graduated this summer; they are now setting up a program to mentor young men in the church. In August, the women organized a community event, “Out with the Old,” which included a short play and testimony about trauma healing. A second church in the area, the World Hope Christian Center, is now involved.



Helen Neal-Ali leads discussion

Sarasota Strong’s vision is to create “a community that cares for itself.” The symbol is the banyan tree, which gains strength from aerial roots growing down into the ground, creating an interconnected “community” of trees that can spread as far as an acre. The banyan tree has deep roots, hosts many other species, and provides shade from the burning tropical sun.

People can get involved at monthly community forums, which feature local speakers talking about trauma and how we can address it. “Community ambassadors” are helping to take the message to others. Trauma healing workshops and facilitator training will soon be offered to the public, and a group is forming to support community-level activism. For more information, contact SarasotaStrong@gmail.com.

From Workshop Participants . . .

“I learned that we can stop the violence and trauma ourselves. It doesn’t have to be a generational curse.”

“First we have to forgive ourselves. You can’t heal and you can’t change your behavior if you always feel guilty and unworthy.”

Trauma-Informed Community Organizing



Father Paul Abernathy, Sarasota team members Betsy Friedman, Michelle Stears, Helen Neal-Ali, Charlotte Johnson, Andy Blanch, Carrie Siedman, Dr. Matt Walsh from Duquesne

A team of six from Sarasota, including CRT director Andy Blanch, attended a Trauma-Informed Community Development Institute at Duquesne University in June. The Institute was led by Father Paul Abernathy, an Orthodox priest, Iraq war vet, and director of the Neighborhood Resilience Project in Pittsburgh. Participants learned skills for working in highly trauma-affected communities, one “micro-neighborhood” at a time. Topics included trauma-informed community organizing, conflict management, social network analysis, and lessons from the civil rights movement. Other communities sending teams were Cleveland, OH; Braddock and Titusville, PA; New Britain, CT; and the Wind River Reservation, WY.

Special thanks to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County for helping to cover expenses for the Sarasota team. Learn more about the foundation at www.cfsarasota.org.

Young Women's Parliament Expands

With a \$70,000 grant from the Hadassah Foundation, the Young Women's Parliament (YWP) project in Israel has expanded, adding additional Jewish and Arab sites, two new coordinators, and activities designed to engage the girls directly in social change.

YWP was created in 2010 through a partnership between CRT and Shin, an Israeli non-profit working for equal representation of women in politics and the public sphere. The project works with groups of adolescent girls in selected Jewish and Arab localities, facilitating intra- and inter-group dialogue, leadership development, and annual visits to the Knesset (the Israeli Parliament). The political experience has been particularly powerful for the girls; several groups have developed legislative proposals which were subsequently adopted by female Knesset members. YWP events have provided a space of solidarity and tolerance, and have taken place even under stressful security conditions.

Shin works for sustainability by forging working partnerships with municipal governments, as well as schools, youth departments, sport clubs, and women's councils under their jurisdictions. Local authorities are enlisted to provide space for meetings, equipment, help with transportation, and other support. The municipalities thus share in the success of the project, and several now build the program into city budgets.

In June, YWP hosted a seminar designed to expose participants to a variety of inspiring role models. The most popular speaker was an Arab woman soccer player from Jisser al Zarqa who plays on the Palestinian women's team and also starred in a documentary film about Jisser. Both Jewish and Arab girls were thrilled that the world of professional sports is opening up to them. Participants also watched a documentary about Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai.

This year for the first time, YWP has joined local sites with nearby "partner communities." There are five sets of partners, each pairing one or more Jewish community with one or more Arab sites. Most of the Arab sites are Muslim; one is Druze. Beginning this fall, girls in partner communities will begin working together to select, plan and implement a project to address an issue of local concern. They will meet with mayors and various department heads in their partner sites to coordinate their efforts with local priorities and to ensure ongoing support.



Palestinian soccer star Hamama Jurban and YWP participant

New CRT Team Member Annelise Adams

I am a Florida native, and a young creative professional entering my junior year at USF Sarasota/Bradenton, pursuing my B.A. in Professional and Technical Communication. I have over 12 years of visual merchandising experience, which also led to my path of creative directing, modeling, photography, writing and editing. I consider myself an all-around artist!

When I am not studying or working in a variety of fields, you can find me soaking up the sunshine, tending my garden, and playing with my new puppy Maximus. While my roots in Florida are strong, my travels have helped me expand my passion for content creation, as well as lit my activist flame. I've learned I have a voice that others are not so privileged to have and want to use that voice through CRT to raise awareness about social injustices across our nation, and world.

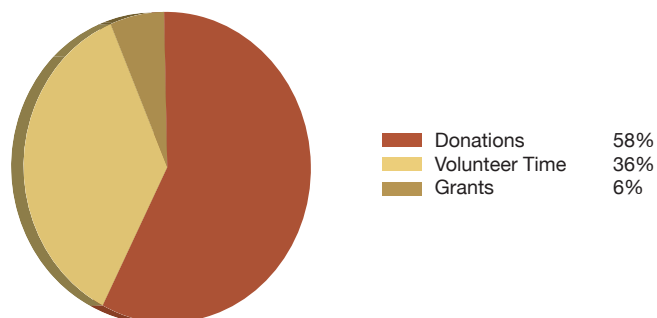


CRT Financial Report

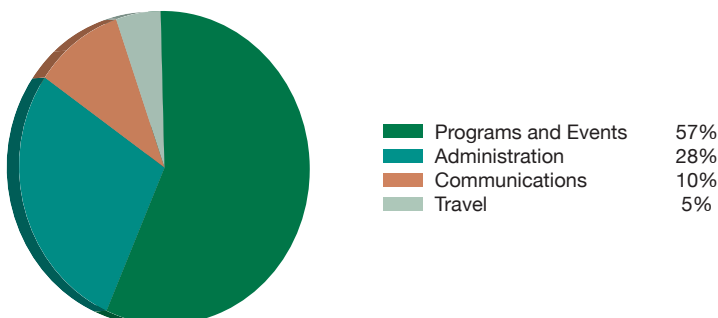
CRT activities are conducted almost exclusively by volunteers and are funded with a combination of donations and grants. Estimated value of volunteer time in 2018 was \$20,000. Contributions from donors

totalled \$31,872 and from grants \$3,000. Expenses included programs and events, administrative supports, communications and travel. Total CRT expenses in 2018 were \$31,800.

CRT Resources



CRT Expenses



Thanks to the following individuals who gave freely of their resources, time and creativity

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Barbara Briggs	Joel Koransky	David L. Shern
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Sally Edwards	Marion Larsen	Karen Turen
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