Connecticut Council for Interreligious Understanding

December 1, 2021

Dear Friend:

Thank you for being a part of CCIU's unique, richly diverse interfaith community. What an inspiration to see people from such a wide variety of backgrounds working together to increase religious literacy and advance mutual respect and understanding.

Unfortunately, not everyone sees the world the way you do. Growing insularity, ignorance, and distrust of "the other" threaten the very fabric of our society. **The ability to rise above differences and make real connections is needed more than ever**.

So we're redoubling our efforts to facilitate those connections. **We recognize the gravity of this moment in history and embrace our role as an agent of peace and change**. Our commitment to creating a more collaborative, kind and inclusive world has never been stronger.

But we need your help.

CCIU's programming promotes education, interaction, and dialogue – building bridges at this critical time. Just this past year, CCIU brought transformative events and programs to almost 1,000 people – despite the ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic.

- We hosted online presentations, roundtable discussions and other opportunities to learn about the faiths of our neighbors and embrace religious pluralism.
- We worked with employee groups seeking to increase interreligious understanding in the workplace.
- We led a series of anti-racism workshops, exploring how our shared imperative to love our neighbors commands us to act against racial injustice.
- And we gave hundreds of people the opportunity to learn from individuals about the practices and beliefs of their respective religions, creating interpersonal connections that break down barriers and build community.

I hope that you will consider a generous contribution today so that CCIU can continue to bring these and other programs to even greater numbers of people throughout Connecticut.

There is a growing call for CCIU's programs. As in-person gatherings resume, libraries, faith-based groups, civic clubs and other organizations are looking to CCIU for educational programming that explores and celebrates differences.

In the face of an alarming rise in bigotry and intolerance, we must intensify our work to meet that demand. For that, we need you.

With your help, we will increase religious literacy among Connecticut residents, and perhaps more importantly, offer tools for much-needed dialogue and cooperation.

Thank you for your long-standing support of CCIU. We are so proud to have you as a member of our respectful, curious, and empathetic community.

Together, we can overcome ignorance and hate.

Sincerely,



Debra Pittorie Forand
Executive Director

P.S. Your support is urgently needed. Please use the envelope I've enclosed to send your gift today. Or to rush your gift to us, go to www.ccfiu.org and click on Donate Now. Thank you for your generosity!