

Race Relay

[Box w/video clip]

- ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE RACIAL INCIDENTS THAT ARE OCCURRING MORE FREQUENTLY AROUND THE COUNTRY?
- DO YOU WISH YOU COULD ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF RACE IN A MEANINGFUL WAY?
- WOULD YOU LIKE TO DO SOMETHING – TAKE SOME ACTION -- BUT DON'T KNOW HOW?
- ARE YOU FEARFUL OF BEING INEFFECTIVE – OF HAVING A DISCUSSION THAT COULD ESCALATE INTO HURT FEELINGS, MISTRUST, OR DAMAGE ANOTHER?

OUR COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECT,

Race Relay,

ADDRESSES EACH OF THESE ISSUES

**Thank you so much for taking the time to read
about our Indiegogo fundraising project!**

We're excited to be raising funds for **Race Relay**, a *multi-media theatrical production that speaks to the issues of "race,"* to be performed this coming Spring, 2014 at **The Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum in Los Angeles**, in partnership with **Common Peace, Center for the Advancement of Nonviolence**, and as a closing event for the 2014 **Season for Nonviolence**.

Using actors presenting true life-story racial incidents, and video clips of current events, **Race Relay** is a theatrical presentation straight from the heart, that includes participation from a diverse ethnic audience and which offers the audience an opportunity to think about, share, discuss, and plan ways to effectively address racial issues.

RACE RELAY was piloted by Common Peace in 2010, and has been successfully produced on a small scale in two (2) different venues. In the Spring of 2014 we are mounting a full scale production in Los Angeles - presented three (3) times over one weekend as a closing event celebration for the 2014 **Season for Nonviolence**. **The purpose of our Indiegogo campaign is to raise sufficient funds to produce these three (3) productions and to have these productions springboard the Race Relay project out into other communities throughout the country.**

It is our intention that each **Race Relay** production be a spark that will ignite a series of community events. These events will allow community members to meet on an ongoing basis in order to participate in constructive dialogue and engage in the power and possibility of nonviolent communication about the everyday issues presented about race in their communities. Through the inspiration of many of our heroes and mentors of the civil rights movement and other successful peace and nonviolence movements around the world, we know that discussions with a clear intent - among committed and open hearted individuals - can *change* the way people address race and the associated issues that continually surface when only the symptoms, not the root causes, have been addressed. We know, in our heart of hearts, that ***Dr. King's Beloved Community*** is a viable alternative.

[Put a Picture Here]

RACE RELAY is a production designed for community participation, but it is **NOT** a town hall meeting.

RACE RELAY is:

- using the healing aspects of insightful story-sharing to address racial issues
- enlightening entertainment that doesn't point fingers, but uses honesty as well as humor
- ethnically diverse audience members, sharing in a non-threatening, safe environment
- engaging the audience to move the conversation around "race" *forward* – to meaningful, positive action
- stories and video clips constantly being updated to include contemporary references; a production continually evolving to reflect current race related issues in our society

[Put More Pictures Here]

RACE RELAY presents information that may be personally challenging, but is ultimately non-threatening in its approach. This production creates a space where audience participants can let down their guard and experience an honest sharing that moves the conversation about race forward, and in the process, *heals!*

Please be a part of our campaign. We need your help!

Our Initial Financial Goal:

- **\$34,000** will provide funding for all production costs associated with the three (3) performances of **Race Relay** at **The Mayme Clayton Library** in the Spring of 2014. These costs include: 10 actors, rehearsals and performances, a director, technical director, and creative consultants - - plus the needed video equipment, and administrative costs.

Our Request: Please contribute in whatever way you can to our financial goal. **AND** - please invite at least one friend, relative, or family member who you know has an interest in their community having healthy race relations and dialogue - to watch the **Race Relay** video and to contribute whatever amount they are able. **No amount is too small. All donations are**

gratefully appreciated and tax deductible! Common Peace is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit which began in 1998, and is based in Culver City, California. Our tax i.d. no. is 95-468-4608.

[\$34,000 Budget breakdown to go here]

How this project evolved

Race Relay began with a group of friends and acquaintances talking in a living room in 2005. Co-collaborators **Denise Hamilton, Colleen Passard and Fred Sugerman** invited people of various ethnicities to come sit in a circle, and share a moment in their past when race made a difference. Over the course of several afternoons they heard similar stories from people of Latino, white, black, Asian, and mixed ethnic backgrounds. These stories were often sad, sometimes amusing or astonishing, and always insightful and compelling. Our intention in creating **Race Relay**, is to draw upon these stories to create a powerful and effective theatre piece - one that unites individual's hearts and minds, and uses the healing aspects of story sharing to inquire into and address racial issues.

From these stories, monologues are molded, and skits are crafted into a theatre presentation. In 2007 the early version of **RACE RELAY** was presented at the Tinkler Gallery in Hollywood, California, with five (5) actors and a percussionist. The audience was small but very enthusiastic. Their response: ***"Very exciting! Give us more, and build more opportunities within the presentation for us to share our stories as well."***

[PICTURES from rehearsals HERE]

Over the next few years a script emerged, incorporating video clips from broadcast news and TV events that surfaced and exposed the current problems of race in our society. The **Race Relay team** and **Common Peace** then teamed up with the **City of Los Angeles' Human Relations Commission**, and our next performance, done in conjunction with the Commission, was in collaboration with the West Athens community of Los Angeles, connecting us with their community leaders, and incorporating us into their ongoing community dialogue. Using 12 actors, this production incorporated video news clips, and quotes from social media. ***The result:*** an affirmation by audience participants that ***". . . this was truly a meaningful way to engage and discuss race relations."***

RACE RELAY presents information that may be personally challenging, but is ultimately non-threatening in its approach. This production creates a space where audience participants can let down their guard and experience an honest sharing that moves the conversation about race forward.

**Come be a Part of this Project -
Please contribute to our Mayme Clayton Library productions.**

While our immediate goal is to raise the initial amount of \$34,000 for the three (3) performances at The Mayme Clayton Library in Culver City in the Spring of 2014, we have a larger vision into which we would like to invite you, our friends and supporters, to participate. It is our intention that these first three (3) performances act as a springboard to launch **Race Relay** as a pilot

project that can be replicated in other communities throughout the United States. In regard to that larger vision, we welcome not only your donations to our immediate financial fundraising goal, but your ongoing financial and volunteer support toward our greater goal. We also gratefully accept your comments, recommendations, suggestions, and any networking sources that may assist us in both our immediate and long term goals.

- **Do you know a donor who is looking for just this type of project to which to donate before the end of 2013?**
- **Is there a potential donor to whom you would like us to pitch Race Relay?**
- **Do you know of grant funding sources that would assist us in moving forward?**

To that end, the following is a listing of our “Extended” and “Future” Fundraising Goals:

Extended goal:

\$65,000 will allow us to present **Race Relay** at an additional Los Angeles neighborhood venue with a more extensive run (**approx. _____ performances**) **Denise – I don’t know how to figure this # - do you?**

[Budget breakdown to go here for “extended” and “future” financial goals]

Future goal:

\$120,000 will allow us to develop the production further for use in other communities and cities.

* * * * *

PERKS

Below is a list of “Perks” which coincide with donation amounts from \$5 to \$300. Please read – and consider making a donation on a specific amount. **[Denise – I’m going to go look at some online campaigns and see how they did the Perks list – will complete tomorrow.]**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY OF ♥ HEART ♥!
FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ AND LISTEN TO THE DETAILS OF OUR
RACE RELAY PROJECT. THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO TO MOVE THE
WORLD IN THE DIRECTION OF PEACE! WE LOVE AND APPRECIATE YOU!**

**In Gratitude,
The Staff and Board of Common Peace,
Center for the Advancement of Nonviolence,
and the Co-Creators of Race Relay**