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NCCJ harnesses student energy in “Hate hate?” campaign **Dozens of youth to plan action projects for their schools, starting Sept. 11**

Note to editors: Reporters, photographers and cameras are welcome at the following events:
-Tuesday, September 11, 1:30-2:30 p.m. - ANYDAY with Northeast High School, 713 N. Greene St., Greensboro
-Wednesday, October 3, 5:30-8 p.m.- ANYTOWN ambassador training, 713 N. Greene St., Greensboro
-“Hate hate?” action projects throughout Guilford County in September and October – times and dates TBA

Dozens of student leaders from throughout Guilford County will spearhead action projects to educate thousands of their peers about the dangers of bias, bigotry and racism over the next two months.

In response to the violent extremism that has recently dominated the news, these young change agents, all graduates of NCCJ of the Piedmont Triad’s ANYTOWN youth leadership institute, will ask their fellow students, “Hate hate? What will you do?” and engage them in activities to show their support for diversity and inclusion.

“I often hear that young people are apathetic. This is not my experience,” said NCCJ Executive Director Susan Feit. “We are so proud of these young change agents who have chosen to stand up for social justice, and we’re excited to see the impact they will make in their schools and on their community.”

NCCJ launched the “Hate hate?” campaign in August following the murder of six Sikhs in Wisconsin. Other faith-motivated attacks on Jews, Muslims and Christians in the United States and abroad have occurred in the past few months alone. In collaboration with other interfaith organizations, NCCJ penned an opinion piece urging solidarity in response to the murder of six Sikhs in Wisconsin and was part of a coalition supporting the Sikh community at a candlelight vigil on August 14 and again at a prayer vigil on August 16.

On September 11, NCCJ staff will lead a special ANYDAY with Northeast Guilford High School that will encourage students to remember the lives lost while looking forward to a future in which we don't allow our differences to divide us. The program will conclude at 1:30 p.m. with students signing paper doves with wishes for peace and posting them on a banner to take back to their school. [Cameras and reporters are welcome to attend.]

In September and October, NCCJ also will encourage youth participants in other ANYDAY one-day human relations workshops to continue the “Hate hate?” campaign in their schools. Nearly 300 ANYDAY participants from nine middle and high schools will be encouraged to plan their own “Hate hate?” projects to share what they have learned about diversity and inclusion with their peers.

NCCJ has a long history of promoting religious inclusion; it was founded by community leaders of different faiths in response to anti-Catholic sentiment when the first Catholic candidate ran for President, and it has been creating a community free of bias, bigotry and racism in the Piedmont Triad for 75 years.

The campaign will culminate with the 46th annual Citation Award Dinner on **November 8** honoring Zaki Uddin Khalifa and Dr. Harold L. Martin Sr., two community leaders who have shown through personal example and their lives’ work that all people deserve equal opportunities. They have focused on expanding horizons for their brothers and sisters throughout our community, no matter what their religion, race or ethnicity. Learn more and buy tickets online at nccjtriad.org/dinner.

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