



Walking the Walk

Summer 2008 Update

2007-2008 Walkers:

Northwest:

Bahaudin Abdullah
Eric Anderson*
Julia Boyer
Kendall Chaney
Jordan Cooper
Ben Eisenstat
Kashif Hakim Dais*
Devon Minor
Caroline Pedrazza
Aliyah Ramirez
Kyra Sutton*
Quinn Donover

Philadelphia:

Esa Abdullah
Hasinah Abdur Rahman
Fatimah Abdus Shakur
Pully Derry
Monique Hill
Shante Fitzhugh
Ja'Milla Fitzhugh
Chelsea Goodwin
Michael Kligerman
Leah Kramer
Mamadi Kromah
Youssef Kromah
Khalif Leach
Mikey Pasek*
Hope Platt
Ibrahim Muhaimin*
Qamar Muhaimin
Nada Muhammad
Mikeera Smith
Nicolas Quintero
Hannah Weilbacher

Suburban West:

Halima Bakillah
Gabrielle Bressi
Brian Brodsky*
Halima Freudberg*
Katie Horn
Zia Islam
Dahlia Kenawy
Jayne Levenberg
Ananas Mustafa*
Isam Osman
Marwa Osman
Hannah Prelas
Kamil Saeid
Dan Siegelman
Katie Steck
Layla Tavangar
Gazelle Zerafati
*Student Group Leader



What's New

- ❖ **Spread the Word:** The 2008-2009 *Walking the Walk* year will begin on October 19th. Tell a friend to join!
- ❖ **New Leadership Roles for Alumni:** In response to the interest of graduates of *Walking the Walk* to 'continue the walk' and to build upon their experiences with multi-faith education and service learning, the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia is piloting the **Interfaith Youth Advocates Program**. Alumni can select among new leadership opportunities:
 - **Green Team** – These two students will head the planning and leadership team as they learn about the environment, do community service projects together, and plan this year's Day of Service.
 - **Event Planning Crew** – Plan ways for alumni to get together by planning a community service session, a fundraiser, and one social gathering.
 - **Grow the Movement** – Interfaith Center staff will listen to the dreams and aspirations of alumni and guide them as they "continue the walk." These alumni will partake in media and public speaking engagements, help recruit new youth, and represent the youth in the community.
 - **Student Group Leader** – Apply to become a *Walking the Walk* or Green Team Youth Leader
- ❖ **Check out the Website:** Head to interfaithcenterpa.org for photos, videos, and reflections from the year.
- ❖ **Save the Date:** Sunday, April 26th, 2009 - National Day of Interfaith Youth Service
Contact Margie Scharf at mns@interfaithcenterpa.org or 215-222-1012 for registration and application details.

Interested in sponsoring a walker? Contribute to a scholarship fund!

Donate now at www.interfaithcenterpa.org or mail a contribution to 3723 Chestnut Street – Philadelphia, PA 19014



Walking the Walk Highlights: 2007-2008

Over 60 youth from three networks participated in Walking the Walk

NORTHWEST (in collaboration with Neighborhood Interfaith Movement – NIM)

Volunteering at Kaysim-Court – The group spent time with disabled residents of Kaysim-Court. They sang karaoke, played cards, did oral histories, and snacked.

Collage with Arts & Spirituality Center Artist – Youth let their artistic juices flow, creating tiles with Kaysim-Court Friends, depicting the shared value of “love your neighbor” (pictured right).

Creating an Interfaith School – Tasked with the challenge of building an interfaith school, the youth explored the complexities involved when considering the customs of multiple faiths. They had to take into account foods, facilities, school calendar, dress code, daily prayer, and gender specific classrooms.



PHILADELPHIA

Criminal Justice – In conjunction with packaging requested books for prisoners at Books through Bars, the youth learned another side of criminal justice from a 59 year old man who spent 24 years behind bars, obtained a GED in prison, and is now pursuing his college degree.

MLK Service Day – The youth spent the day at Al Aqsa Islamic Society where they made blankets for babies of homeless moms, explored hot topics such as abortion and gun control, toured the mosque, and enjoyed a traditional Middle Eastern feast!

Sharing Ritual Objects – Each youth shared an important symbol or object from his/her tradition. Afterwards, they made “still lifes” with their objects.



SUBURBAN WEST

“Speed faithing” – The youth conversed with clergy; small groups of students rotated around to talk to each religious leader, to become acquainted and to ask questions.

Group Retreat on MLK Day – In addition to engaging in community service and interfaith activities, the youth-planned retreat included lunch time, nap time, and recess, where everyone showed off their “Guitar Hero” skills.

Volunteering at LM Conservancy – The youth worked to rid streams of pollution, resulting in mounds of trash bags filled to the brim. They also learned about the environment and related their discussions to how water is used and its meaning in various religious traditions.



Walking the Walk at a Glance

Promoting interfaith understanding; preparing tomorrow's leaders





By the Numbers...

32 Average number of Walking the Walk hours completed by each student

18 Number of congregations represented in Walking the Walk:

2090 Total number of hours spent in the program by all participants

35 Number of bags of trash removed from Cobbs Creek on the National Interfaith Day of Service by our Green Faith Heroes

- Al Aqsa Islamic Society
- Archbishop John Carroll High School
- Bawa Muhaiyaddeen Fellowship
- Beth Am Israel
- Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
- First United Methodist Church of Germantown
- Foundation for Islamic Education
- Germantown Jewish Centre
- Main Line Reform Temple
- Masjid Muhammad
- Masjidullah
- Mishkan Shalom
- Mount Airy Church of God in Christ
- Mount Zion Baptist Church of Germantown
- Philadelphia Baha'i Center
- Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill
- Quba Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies
- White Rock Baptist Church