



THE RIGHTS STUFF

OCT 2005

**BONNER COUNTY
HUMAN
TASK
FORCE
RIGHTS**

THE RIGHTS STUFF is published—occasionally—by the BONNER COUNTY HUMAN RIGHTS TASK FORCE. Helping with this issue were: Brenda Hammond, Gretchen Hellar, Michael Welp, Lynn Benson, Christine Holbert

GROWING PAINS: OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES OF GROWTH

a message from BCHRTF President, Brenda Hammond

The BCHRTF is hosting another Saturday forum in conjunction with the SEED (Seeking Equitable Economic Development) group. The purpose of the meeting will be to gather together citizens and community leaders to discuss the growth taking place in our community. How can we utilize community strengths and resources to be sure that growth is good for everyone?

“Growth” and the hot real estate market are good—if you want to sell your home. But, what if you want to live in it, and leave it to your children? In our changing economic climate, can you afford to do that?

It is good to see decrepit and unsanitary mobile homes replaced by bright new housing units—but where are the people who lived in those mobile homes? Can they still afford to live in Sandpoint? Did you know that over a third of Bonner County residents have no health care insurance—and as a result, in some cases, no health care?

The BCHRTF has found our community to be one where the principles of fairness, equality, and respect for individuals are important. We have stood together and rallied around those issues many times in the past. Can we take a stand again to help ensure that our community is an inclusive one, and that our economic growth improves the quality of life for all or our citizens?

We want to consider the questions: Is there enough for everyone? And, how much is “enough.” The answer to those questions is not purely economic. Human connections, support and resources are part of the answer. For example, the cost of child care definitely influences how much many families have left in their budget for food. Is it possible,

as a community, to create some child care alternatives, after-school programs or connecting children and retired citizens who might welcome some youthful energy in their lives? Could we help families learn how to prepare quick, nutritional meals to take the place of processed, and “fast” food options that cost more money? Or, perhaps, we could provide support to those who offer community meals. Can we help our neighbors access the cultural events that help make Sandpoint unique, help provide transportation for our older citizens who don’t like to go out alone, or who can’t see to drive at night?

These are just ideas – but ideas are what we want! Please come and join us on Saturday, November 5, at the City Forum, and let’s work together to shape the future of Bonner County! We’ll begin at 10 am, provide lunch at noon, and continue until 3. This can be a landmark event—let’s seize the opportunity to bring about positive change—because change is going to happen!

GROWING PAINS: OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES OF GROWTH

Please join the Bonner County Human Rights Task Force and SEED (Seeking Equitable Economic Development) for a Community Dialogue!

GROWING PAINS: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF GROWTH

**Saturday, 5 November, 2005
10 am to 3pm at the City Forum
Lunch will be provided!**

Can we seize the opportunities presented by growth to improve the quality of life for everyone—and to prevent widening the economic gap? Is the “Aspenization” of Sandpoint inevitable?

How can we utilize community resources and strengths to be sure that growth is good for everyone?

Keynote Speaker, James Nelson, University of Idaho
A holistic approach to community and economic development requires a citizen involved strategic plan . . .

Property Taxes: A Discussion featuring Tom Suttmeier

Housing: What is “Affordable?”

LUNCH

Enough for Everyone? How Much is Enough?

Discussion Groups on
*Property taxes • Housing • Health Care • Employment
Education • Accessibility*

Set date to reconvene to talk about NEXT STEPS!

HUMAN RIGHTS VIDEO COLLECTION

Last fall, the East Bonner County Library District received a grant to purchase some important videos covering a wide range of human rights issues. The subjects ranged from the impact of globalization on the quality of life for Jamaican textile workers, a project involved with disarming U.S. cluster bomb remnants still being found today in Southeast Asia, and a comparison of the costs of a quality education versus the cost of incarceration of troubled youth. The Human Rights Task Force was a participant in this project and would like to commend the library—and especially Gloria Ray—for taking the lead in this important effort to augment the human rights collection at the library.

As you probably know, the Task Force established the Bob Ward Human Rights Collection with donations from individual Task Force members several years ago; donations are still being accepted. You may still donate to this project by contributing to the Task Force and designating that it should go to this ongoing project. Well over 50 books and videos are now in the collection. This collection covers a wide range of issues demonstrating that human rights are about an individuals right to enjoy a

meaningful quality of life in all areas. Check out this collection the next time that you visit the library. The books and videos are educational, eye opening, thought provoking, and extremely professional. Thanks again, Gloria, for a job well done!

CONFLICT RESOLUTION TRAINING

The Student Leadership Team at Lake Pend Oreille High School will be undergoing a series of “train the trainers” sessions this year. Included in their training sessions will be conflict resolution skills, sponsored by the BCHRTF. Once the training is completed, the Leadership Team will teach other students at LPOHS to use these skills. This training is a practical way to support the mission statement of LPOHS which states, “We are committed to providing a safe, supportive environment where all are encouraged to discover strengths, value learning, and model the best of our global community.”

INTRODUCING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

MICHAEL WELP is a founding principal of a consulting group known as “White Men as Full Diversity Partners”. Recognizing that long term cultural and organizational change requires the efforts of every individual, this program works to develop leadership skills that ensures that organizations will reach their full potential. He is the co-author of two books on diversity and another on leadership. Michael has facilitated interracial teambuilding throughout the U.S. and in South Africa. He is also the founder of “EqualVoice” a consulting firm specializing in building collaborative work cultures and dealing with workplace conflict. We welcome Michael to the board and know that his skills will be a valuable asset to the Task Force.

LYNN BENSON has lived in north Idaho for thirty years. She has two grown sons, a dog and a cat. She enjoys outdoor activities, friends, gardening and home. Lynn has been in education for about fifteen years, first as a math/computer teacher and then as a counselor. She is currently a counselor at Lake Pend Oreille High. Her passion is working for human rights for all people and she feels very strongly that the world can be changed by one person and that the challenge for all of us is to be the change we want to see.

HOLIDAY TEA TIME

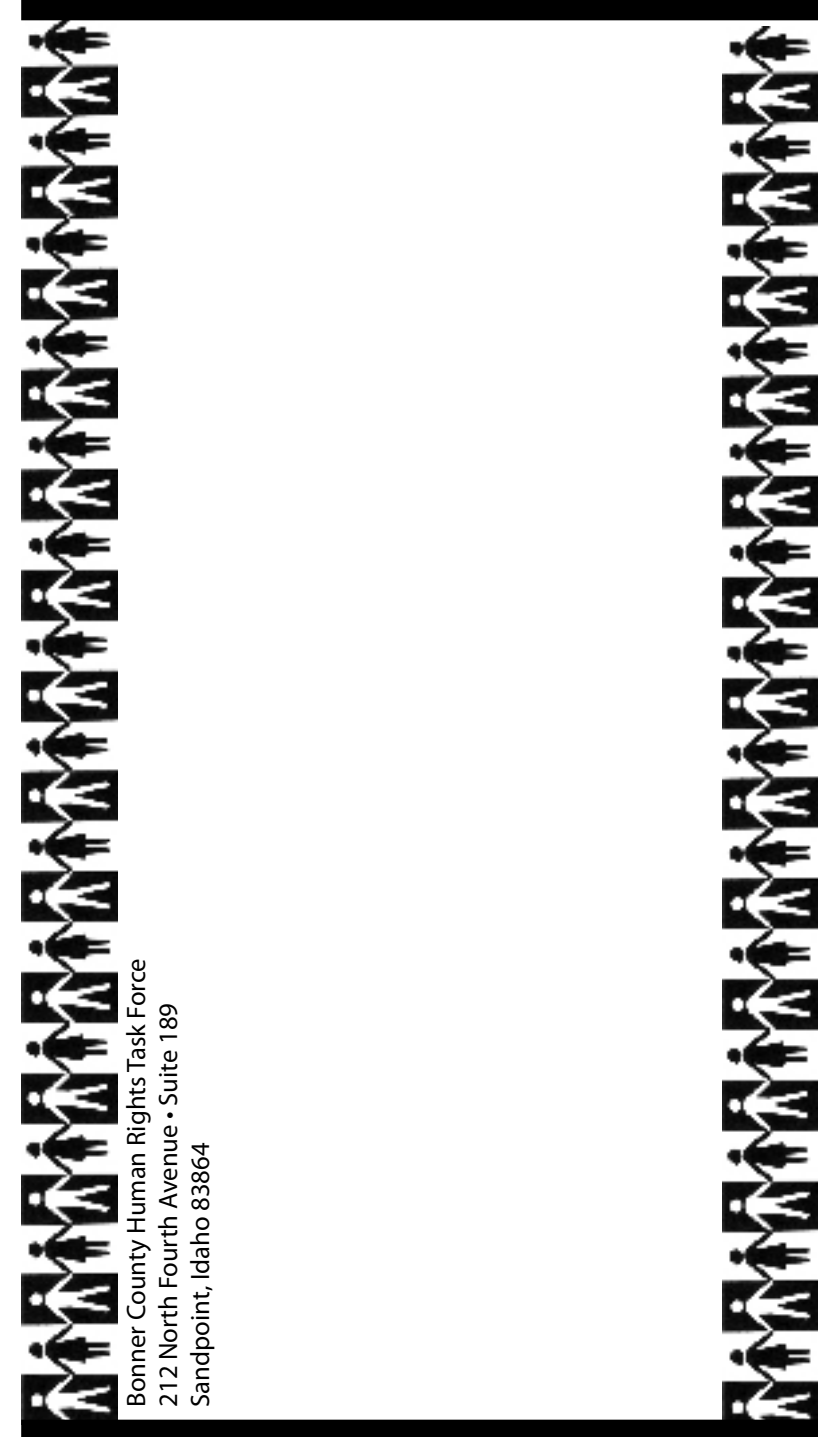
The holiday season is so busy for so many of us: Parties, entertaining, getting together with friends and family, and quiet moments reflecting on the individual meaning of the season sometimes make the holidays hectic and exhausting.

Rather than organize another party to attend or another benefit function to support, the Human Rights Task Force will for the fourth year in a row send you a tea bag and encourage you to brew a cup at home. The Task Force will not ask you to shovel your driveway, put gas in the car, and head out for yet another one of the many worthwhile fundraisers that are organized this time of the year. Instead, we ask you to relax, think about the importance of human rights and dignity in our community, and drop a donation to the Task Force in the mail. These funds are used to support our hot line, our community forums, our human rights projects, and our neighbor support program. We hope you think we have used your donations responsibly in the past and you will support similar programs in the future. Enjoy your cup of tea and remember human rights.

THANK YOU, FHRAA

The Foundation for Human Rights Action and Advocacy (FHRAA) really lived up to their name. They organized and carried out a very successful fundraiser this summer that was held at the Inn at Sandcreek. Over \$4000 was raised to support human rights education programs in our community, in particular the conflict resolution program currently underway at Sandpoint High School and the LPOSD. These programs are designed to help students effectively handle and resolve conflicts in a non-confrontational manner. (We all could use a bit of education in that area) Focusing specifically on peer mediation and leadership development these programs should have an impact on our community well beyond the schools.

The food was great, the company stimulating, the auction items awesome, the music wonderful, and the weather unsurpassed. All of the Task Force board members cannot thank the FHRAA enough for all their hard work and dedication to human rights education.



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