

TANENBAUM

TANENBAUM CENTER FOR INTERRELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING • ISSUE 23 • SUMMER 2014

“Even though we are all different, we are all the same”

On a hot June day in Queens, children juggled white cardboard cutouts, building precarious geometric sculptures in teams of five.

In another room, a boy sat glumly on the sidelines, watching. But then music began playing and his fellow classmates coaxed him into their circle for a rambunctious game of hot potato.

These games were part of a *World Olympics* closing event, an exciting aspect of Tanenbaum’s curricula that helps educators teach children respect for diversity while promoting teamwork, literacy and good sportsmanship.

This past spring, Tanenbaum collaborated with the New York City-based Partnership for After School Education to implement Tanenbaum’s curriculum in three after-school programs: Queens Community House at P.S. 82, CAMBA at P.S. 269, and Good Shepherd Services at C.S. 300.

World Olympics celebrates diversity — so it is a perfect match for the borough of Queens, which is one of the most ethnically diverse urban areas in the world. Queens Community House, for example, serves many English language learners from Bangladesh, Mexico, Ecuador and Guatemala.

“Because we’re learning about other cultures,” said education specialist Anjelica Balam, “these students felt like they had something to contribute and that it’s okay to be different. They were reminded of their own cultures and gained a sense of belonging.”

During the spring semester, students researched different countries and participated in *World Olympics* activities, all of which promote open discussion about differences. Through engaging hands-on activities, they experienced world cultures through music, song, dance, games and crafts.

At the end of the semester, students displayed their work and shared new knowledge during the *World Olympics* opening ceremonies.

The students’ colorful displays showcased countries they had studied with items that included handmade construction paper passports, drawings and beaded bracelets inspired by cultural traditions.

Students gave presentations about what they learned to their parents and classmates. Some student-ambassadors



Top: Students enrolled in Good Shepherd Services at C.S. 300 share stories about their work. Bottom: Teams of students at the Queens Community House build geometric sculptures.

danced across stage. And others presented interesting facts about their chosen country.

After the opening ceremony, students competed in a variety of games that included relay races, chicken tosses and balloon popping — each designed to foster teamwork and camaraderie.

Then, to conclude the long afternoon of fun and learning, all participants took time to acknowledge each other for their hard work.

The program taught the kids that being different is normal. One student ambassador from Brooklyn’s CAMBA program made this point, when describing what she learned from studying Hong Kong:

“Even though we are all different, we are all the same.”

At Tanenbaum, we call this success.

World Olympics for All was funded by the Nissan Foundation and Pine Tree Foundation of New York.

TANENBAUM | Center for Interreligious Understanding promotes mutual respect with practical programs that bridge religious difference and combat prejudice in areas of armed conflict, schools, workplaces and health care settings. Please send all queries about this newsletter to bjohnson@tanenbaum.org.

How you help millions...



Dear Friends,

According to the U.S. Census, there are more than 780,000 health care companies and 17 million health care employees in the U.S.

That's a lot of people.

Now, think of the number of patients these 17 million men and women serve. The Physicians Foundation's most recent biennial survey, as one example, reports that physicians conduct over 1.2 billion patient visits every year. And that is just the doctors. That doesn't take into account the patient care provided by nurses, nurses-aides, therapists and others.

At Tanenbaum, we improve patient care by ensuring that health care providers know how to respond when religion becomes an issue in care. If we had our way, Tanenbaum-trained doctors would conduct *every one* of those 1.2 billion patient visits and other Tanenbaum-trained health care providers would conduct the countless other patient visits that occur each year with nurses, nurses-aides and therapists.

Last year alone, Tanenbaum trained 1,150 doctors, nurses and medical professionals. If you consider that the average physician treats between 11 and 20 patients each day, then the number of patients that Tanenbaum reached swells well into the millions! That's millions of people who received better care because *you* helped Tanenbaum achieve our mission.

But we aren't satisfied. There is still much more to do.

More than four-in-ten patients prefer that their doctors to ask about their religious beliefs. And yet, only 9% of doctors currently ask about or accommodate religious beliefs in health care – often because medical professionals are not trained on the important intersections between religiosity and health care.

To address this gap in medical education, Tanenbaum recently released a free downloadable diversity training program for medical students. Appropriately, it's called *Religious and Cultural Competence for Medical Students: Advancing Patient-Centered Care*.

This ground-breaking curriculum includes two self-contained 90-minute trainings:

- *Trigger Topics: Where Religion & Health Care Intersect* outlines 15 different areas in health care where religion emerges, illustrated by a range of case studies for discussion.
- *Spiritual Histories: Putting Religio-Cultural Competence into Practice* provides answers on how and when health care providers should ask patients about their religious beliefs and what they should do with the information.



***Spiritual Histories: Putting Religio-Cultural Competence into Practice* provides answers on how and when health care providers should ask patients about their religious beliefs and what should they do with the information.**

When a doctor learns at the beginning of his or her career that some patients make choices because of what they believe, the doctor is better equipped to give the best possible care. Doctors who haven't learned this important lesson do not understand the many ways people make choices. And that can affect the quality of the care they provide.

At Tanenbaum, we focus on getting to the root of the issue. With this curriculum — and our other trainings and resources — we're doing just that.

This is good news for everyone. Please spread the word. Tell *your* doctor.

Thank you for helping us and for making our work possible.

In friendship,

Joyce S. Dubensky, CEO

SHARED VISIONS: Compassion Our Religious Traditions Call on Us to Care for Those in Need

CHRISTIANITY

All of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. *1 Peter 3:8*

JUDAISM

Deeds of loving-kindness are greater than charity. *Sukkah, 49*

ISLAM

A man once asked the Prophet what was the best thing in Islam, and the latter replied, "It is to feed the hungry and to give the greeting of peace both to those one knows and to those one does not know." *Hadith of Bukhari*

BUDDHISM

Compassion is not at all weak. It is the strength that arises out of seeing the true nature of suffering in the world. Compassion allows us to bear witness to that suffering, whether it is in ourselves or others, without fear; it allows us to name injustice without hesitation, and to act strongly, with all the skill at our disposal. To develop this mind state of compassion... is to learn to live, as the Buddha put it, with sympathy for all living beings, without exception. *Tenzin Gyatso, The 14th Dalai Lama*

HINDUISM

Find and follow the good path and be ruled by compassion. For if the various ways are examined, compassion will prove the means to liberation. *Tirukkural 25: 241-242*

NATIVE AMERICAN

Work together for the benefit of all Mankind. Give assistance and kindness wherever needed. *Law of the Great Spirit*

SIKHISM

Compassion-mercy and religion are the support of the entire world. *Japji (Sahib)*



Les Crystal interviews Media Bridge-Builder honoree Charlie Rose

2014 TANENBAUM AWARDS GALA

At this year's annual awards gala, Tanenbaum presented Charlie Rose (pictured above with Les Crystal) with the Media Bridge-Builder Award and Sir David Walker with the Corporate Bridge-Builder Award.

The Media Bridge-Builder Award is presented to journalists and media personalities whose work focuses public attention on issues of human rights and intergroup relations. The Corporate Bridge-Builder Award is given to business leaders who use their positions of influence to promote human rights and build bridges among ethnic and/or religious communities.

Thanks to all of you who made this evening a success including Howard Milstein, dinner host and chairman, president & CEO, New York Private Bank & Trust; Dr. Georgette F. Bennett & Dr. Leonard S. Polonsky, C.B.E.; The Russell Berrie Foundation; Mark L. Wagar, president, Heritage Medical Systems; and Maz Zouhairi, president & CEO, LALIQUE North America.



Corporate Bridge-Builder honoree Sir David Walker

Moving Beyond Prejudice

TEACHING FOR JUSTICE

To stop bullying and teach kids how to get along, teachers need special training. And one excellent way to reach them is by hosting webinars and making them available around the world. Tanenbaum, with support from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and in partnership with Teaching Tolerance, is offering a free webinar series, *Religious Diversity in the Classroom*, which will reach thousands of educators across the globe. Check out our next webinar for educators, "Fostering a Culture of Respect," on August 20 and 21. Participants will learn:

- strategies for creating classrooms that practice respect and encourage learning;
- tips for responding to religious intolerance in the classroom; and
- approaches for supporting students' religious and non-religious identities.

CARING ACROSS DIFFERENCES

Tanenbaum is training health care providers across the entire field — from pediatricians to mental health social workers. In April, Tanenbaum trained New Jersey mental health professionals on the intersections of religion and mental health, giving these professionals new approaches for better patient care.

This past spring, with the support of the Edmond de Rothschild Foundations, Tanenbaum published the first-of-its-kind education and training materials for pediatric residents on the topic of religio-cultural competence. The curriculum, *Improving Patient Care through Religious and Cultural Competence: A Training Program for Residents*, is designed to be used by residency programs across the nation and can now be purchased and downloaded at Tanenbaum.org.

LEADING GLOBAL CORPORATIONS

Congratulations to Tanenbaum's newest Corporate Members: Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, Allstate, Aetna, Walmart, American Express and Accenture for leading their industries in proactively addressing the religious dimension of diversity at work.

BUILDING POSSIBILITIES INSIDE WAR

Peacemaker Hind Kabawat is embroiled in Syria's civil war, where she provides relief, seeks peace and trains Syrian peace activists. Earlier this year, Hind requested help from fellow *Peacemakers* Ivo Markovic of Bosnia and Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge from South Africa, both of whom have lived through war and now seek to build stable civil societies. Hind needed their help in a series of special training sessions on transitional justice that she held for 80 Syrians in Jordan, and Tanenbaum made it possible. Hind reports that they helped participants envision a time when the war will end and begin to plan how to get there.

2014 Class of Corporate Leaders for Inclusion

Taking the lead to stop religious discrimination

Tanenbaum proudly announces the launch of Corporate Leaders for Inclusion.

Leaders among their peers, these companies are at the cutting edge of making their workplaces more accommodating for employees of all — and no — religious beliefs.

We thank you for breaking new ground in workplace diversity and welcome you to our invitation-only circle of the best of the best in religious accommodation.

Bloomberg

citi

DTCC

EmblemHealth
WHAT CARE FEELS LIKE.

KORN FERRY

Walmart

Photo credits: Bob Johnson (Good Shepard Services, Charlie Rose), Nicole Margaretten (Queens Community House), Jack Miller (Sir David Walker)



Imagine...a more peaceful world that respects difference.
We are committed to making that vision a reality.

TANENBAUM
Center for Interreligious Understanding

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Visit our website, Tanenbaum.org,
to join our email list and receive
monthly news and event updates!



Combat Religious Prejudice

Help train new doctors so every patient gets the same quality care.



I am happy to support Tanenbaum. Enclosed is my check in the amount of:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$35 ☐ Other \$———

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To make a donation online, please visit: tanenbaum.org/donate.

Standing with Tanenbaum to combat religious prejudice.

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