

The Alliance

The Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony is dedicated to promoting unity, justice, equal opportunity, ethnic awareness, cross-cultural understanding, and appreciation for diversity.

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Diversity, Unity, and Justice Are at the Heart of ACEH
A 501c3 organization

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Ugandan Children's Group "Dance of Hope" Presents Community Concert March 21

Dance of Hope, a children's cultural music and dance group from Uganda, will present a community concert at Maple Avenue Ministries, 427 Maple Ave, Holland, on **Wednesday, March 21, at 4:30 pm**. ACEH is a partner for the event and will provide a soup, salad, and dessert supper. A free-will offering will be taken to help support the Ugandans.

Dance of Hope is the touring division of the M-LISADA (music, life skills, and destitution alleviation) organization, which uses music and the performing arts to attract children away from the streets of Uganda's capital, Kampala. Located in nearby Nsambya Parish, M-Lisada acts as a daytime refuge and home for destitute children from 7 to 17 years of age. It was started in 1996 by eight street children who dreamed of starting their own brass band. Since its inception M-Lisada has reclaimed over 400 children from the streets. Today M-Lisada supports 150 children.

Materials from Dance of Hope say the performances are designed to give the audience "a full understanding of the music of Africa and its role in creating awareness on many issues, including global poverty, peace, justice and human rights, girls' education, leadership, environmental protection, empowerment, and building self-esteem."

ACEH will not hold a separate general meeting in March. Please attend this special concert by Ugandan children.

Speak Up, Speak Out! On Inclusion, Latino Success

Have opinions about what makes for an inclusive city? Or about issues concerning Latinos and their path to success in the Holland/Zeeland area? Here are two ways to speak up and make your ideas known:



(1) Inclusive City Community Feedback: Residents of Holland are invited to give input and feedback on what an Inclusive city means to them. An Inclusive City Community Feedback session with members of the Human Relations Commission will be held **Saturday, March 17, at 1:00 pm** at Herrick District Library. Additional sessions will be planned for April and May. For the past few months, Holland's City Council and Human Relations Commission have been discussing what it means for Holland to be an "Inclusive City." Now they want to hear from you.

(2) Community Engagement Project - Latino Focus Groups: Latin Americans United for Progress (LAUP) has a grant from the Community Foundation of the Holland/Zeeland Area to engage local Latinos in

conversations that will "identify, prioritize, and create strategies that address obstacles to their efforts to achieve

success for themselves and their families." **The Community Engagement Project** will help identify where LAUP can maximize its efforts to help the Latino community. In small, confidential **Focus Groups**, Latinos can identify what success looks like for them in Holland/Zeeland, and what they believe are the barriers to success. Participants will receive a \$20 gift card.

Here are the dates, times, and locations:
Friday, March 9, from 3 pm to 4:30pm at Engedi Church, or 6 pm to 7:30 pm at Nuestra Casa; **Saturday, March 10**, from 1 pm to 2:30 pm, or from 3:30 pm to 5 pm, both at Midtown Center.



[Sign Up For Focus Group!](#)

[Si quiere ver esta información en Español, por favor visita este sitio.](#)

CITY OFFERS NEW ONLINE FORM TO FILE DISCRIMINATION COMPLAINTS

What can you do if you experience an act of discrimination, a hate crime, or a racial bias incident, or if you are a witness to one?

You can call the Holland Human Relations Department at (616) 355-1322 and make an appointment to discuss your concern or complaint in person or you can use a new online form. Here's the link:

<https://www.cityofholland.com/humanrelations/discrimination-complaint-0>

The City of Holland complies with **Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964:**

Title VI provides that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), or sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. Other related laws have broadened Title VI to include age, low income, and disability as protected classes.

Title VII prohibits workplace discrimination and harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, and sex.

ACEH Says "Thanks" to Contributors and Volunteers at Annual Heart 2 Heart Party

The community came together on February 17, 2018, for the ACEH Heart 2 Heart Celebration, our 17th annual winter party. Thank you to all who attended, brought delicious foods for the potluck, bid on a wide range of items, and enjoyed fun and fellowship with each other.

A big pat on the back to **super volunteers** Kathy Beal, Eugene Biegelman, Deanna Blue, John & Mary Buttrey, Charelle Cleveland, Viola Jackson-Cleveland & Jerry Cleveland, Julia Colingsworth, Jan Fike, Andree Keneau, Ruby Kickert, Bin Lim, Eleanor & Luis Lopez, Kim & Mark Ludwig, Nelda McCrocklin, Al & Peg Minert, Karen Prins, Erica Quiñones, Jim & Abby Searls, Lori & Carlton Shaw, Lee & Dianna Strebel, Mike & Judy Visscher, George & Alice Ward, Herb & Ann Weller, Marilyn Wickens, Bob & Joan Williams. The event would not have been possible without you.

Making the **evening program** fun for all ages were ACEH President C. J. Kingdom-Grier (emceeding, music, auctioneering, and auction donor); soloist Abria Franklin and accompanist Gezelle Grier; Selfie Booth manager Viola Jackson; and children's activity leaders Deanna Blue and Charelle Cleveland.

Thank-you to the **businesses that contributed food items**: Jus' Ribs N More, Thai Avenue, Hungry for Christ, Request Foods, and Spartan Nash.

Generous Donors to the Silent Auction

We are especially grateful to each and every one of the following **local companies, organizations, and individuals that donated gift cards, products, specialty items, event tickets, and services to the silent auction**. Their generosity—and the winning bidders--helped ACEH raise \$2,000 for its programs, publications, advocacy, partnerships, a scholarship, and two annual community social events.



Anna's House, Appledorn, Baja Café & Grill, Beauford Johnson rum cakes, Biggby Coffee, Brann's, Cranes in the City, Crazy Horse Steakhouse & Saloon, Crust 54 Pizza, Culver's, Curragh Restaurant, DeBoer's Bakery and Restaurant, Don Miguel's, Fenn Valley Winery, Joe 2 Go, Johnny Carino's Italian Restaurant, Holland Peanut Store, Hamilton Food Center, Margarita's, McDonalds, Michigan Pantry, Mr. Yoo, Nature's Market, New Holland Brewery, On the Border, Peppino's Pizza, Pereddies, Petrino's, Pizza Hut, QDOBA, Salt of the Earth, Simpatico Coffee, Spice Dazzle (Eleanor Lopez), The Biscuit, The Good Earth, Village Inn Pizza, Wild Chef.

Art & Angels, Avon/Linda Knight, Black American Starter Collection, Black Tulips, Decadent Dogs, DeVries Photography, Evergreen Commons, Fris' Downtown, Grand Rapids Downtown Market, Grier World Communications Ancestry Research, City of Holland-Holland Aquatic Center, Holland Area Arts Council, Holland Museum, Home & Company, Hope College-(Great Performance Series, Knickerbocker Theatre, Hope football), Hope Summer Repertory Theatre, Jewelry and Scarves, Rev. Dr. Denise Kingdom-Grier, Las Vegas Condo stay (Belinda Coronado), Nurture Therapeutic Massage and Yoga, Readers World, Saugatuck Antique Pavilion, The Bridge, Western Seminary.

Specialty get-togethers: C. J. (Chris) Kingdom Grier & Rev. Dr. Denise Kingdom Grier (Black History; crockpot) Kay Hubbard (Vietnamese), Naomi & Oscar Mares Sr. (Mexican), Al & Peg Minert (ice cream social), Robert Phillips (African), Herb & Ann Weller (brunch on the porch).

Gratitude to **First United Methodist Church of Holland** for the use of its facilities, music director David Newton, and custodian Daniel Nellist and to people from Community Kitchen who assisted with room set-up.

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Together from Worlds Apart*

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REGISTRATION OPENS FOR 2018 SUMMIT

The Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance (LEDA) announces that registration is open for the 2018 Summit on Race and Inclusion, Tuesday, May 15, from 8:15 am to 3:30 pm at Hope College.

The theme, "Advancing Equity," will be the focus of breakout sessions on health, business, community, government/policy, faith, and education; each attendee will be able to take part in two sessions.

Keynote speaker Dr. Joy DeGruy, an expert on the residual legacy of trauma and stress, will address "residual and multigenerational impacts of systemic oppression and institutionalized racism." With 20 years' experience as a professional in social work, she gives "practical insight into various cultural and ethnic groups and the importance of incorporating culturally responsive intervention approaches."

Cost of the Summit is \$75. Register at www.ethnicdiversity.org