

LOWE'S
Home Improvement Warehouse

RECOGNIZES

Crossing 52

FOR

Human Relations

CROSSING 52 BUILDING BRIDGES

While President Clinton's race relations advisory board was finalizing its report, six members of Winston-Salem's Crossing 52 were writing a study guide for "An American Dilemma," a training program.

Funded by the Winston-Salem Foundation, the initiative takes its name from a 1944 book by Swedish psychologist Gunnar Myrdal. Commissioned by the Carnegie Corporation, the 45-chapter book examines race, racism and the plight of African Americans the same issues that Crossing 52 brings to the forefront. Twenty-four people are enrolled in the 10-week pilot training program. In the fall, Crossing 52 will offer a train-the-trainer program to reach more people.

Crossing 52 was founded in 1993 to bridge the racial gap across Highway 52. The initiative enables people of various races and ethnic backgrounds to identify causes of racism and to formulate action to attack the causes and alleviate the effects. To promote frank discussions across racial lines, the organization sponsors community forums and supper groups.

"The supper groups meet monthly and we get to know one another across the races and talk about the tough issues," says Co-president Ann Barefield.

Co-president Robert Long adds, "We are trying to do what



[President Clinton] was talking about - blacks and whites getting together to talk."

The organization's public forums allow community residents to share opinions on racial issues, from school redistricting to the Police Review Board.

Crossing 52 also works with other organizations in the community. For example, Crossing 52 works with Winston-Salem/Forsyth County schools to

sponsor a poster and essay contest on race relations.

Crossing 52 addresses educational equity through its Advisory Council for Quality Schools for All Children. This effort brings together representatives of Crossing 52, the school systems Equity Committee, the League of Women Voters, the NAACP, the South African Initiative, the Winston-Salem Urban League, Visions of Hope and Religious Leaders for

Reconciliation.

Barefield has seen ups and downs in local race relations.

"Some African-American families are better off now economically," she notes. "On the other hand, African American people feel that we [whites] don't take responsibility for our part in this dilemma."

Barefield concludes, "We have made progress. The problem is not how far we've come, but how far we still have to go."

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