

Senator Robert Kennedy

ChildWatch
 mairian wright edelman



shared the terrible news with the waiting crowd of mostly Black people, urging them not to hate and reminding them that a White man had killed his brother too, and spoke even in that terrible heartbreaking moment about his vision for what America could be:

"[Y]ou can be filled with bitterness, with hatred, and a desire for revenge. We can move in that direction as a country, in great polarization - Black people amongst Black, White people amongst White, filled with hatred toward one another. Or we can make an effort, as Martin Luther King did, to understand and to comprehend, and to replace that violence, that stain of bloodshed that has spread across our land, with an effort to understand with

compassion and love...What we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness; but love and wisdom, and compassion toward one another, and a feeling of justice toward those who still suffer within our country, whether they be White or they be Black.... We can do well in this country. We will have difficult times; we've had difficult times in the past; we will have difficult times in the future...But the vast majority of White people and the vast majority of Black people in this country want to live together, want to improve the quality of our life, and want justice for all human beings who abide in our land."



Senator Robert Kennedy

It was a spontaneous message of compassion and hope and non-violence that epitomized Senator Kennedy as the human being he was and leader he had become after his brother's tragic assassination. Our dark, deep despair at Dr. King's death was lessened only by the fact that we still had Robert Kennedy who if elected president might not only end the war in Vietnam but finish waging the needed war against poverty that should have no room in

rich America. But two months and two days later, Robert Kennedy died from an assassin's bullet on my birthday, June 6, 1968. I never wore the beautiful bracelet my finance Peter Edelman, Senator Kennedy's legislative assistant, had bought at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles as a birthday present.

As I walked into St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City where Robert Kennedy's body lay in state, a weeping Charles Evers, slain civil rights leader Medgar Evers' brother, clung to me asking over and over, "What are we going to do now?" Riding the train from New York City to Washington, D.C. bearing Robert Kennedy's body, I was deeply moved by the stricken faces of young and old, Black and White who lined the train route and mirrored my stricken heart. The single most poignant moment for me was when the hearse carrying Robert Kennedy's body to rest near his brother John Kennedy at Arlington National Cemetery crossed Memorial Bridge and paused for a brief time at the Lincoln Memorial allowing the poor people still in Resurrection City from the Poor People's Campaign to bid farewell while singing the Battle Hymn of the Republic. It was Robert Kennedy's last campaign.

The day after Dr. King was murdered Robert Kennedy gave us another message that fifty years later is as true and urgent as ever. He spoke about the "mindless menace of violence in America which again stains our land and every one of our lives." "It is not the concern of any one race. The victims of the violence are Black and White, rich and poor, young and old, famous and unknown. They are, most important of all, human beings whom other human beings loved and needed. No one - no matter where he lives or what he does - can be certain who will suffer from some senseless act of bloodshed. And yet it goes on and on."

He continued, "We glorify killing on movie and television screens and call it entertainment. We make it easy for men of all shades of sanity to acquire weapons and ammunition they desire....This much is clear; violence

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Youngblood seeks applicants for college scholarship for young women

State Rep. Rosita C. Youngblood, D-Phila., is seeking constituents interested in a \$3,000 college scholarship for young women.

- High school junior (class of 2019) or senior (class of 2018) and
- Planning to attend a college or university in the United States.

As a member of the National Foundation for Women Legislators, Youngblood can nominate one or more young women to participate in NFWL's Annual Constitution Essay Scholarship Contest. The prize is a \$3,000 college scholarship; an all-expense-paid trip to NFWL's annual conference in Washington, D.C.; and an award that is presented at the event.

Those interested should send an email to Youngblood's office by July 6 explaining why they should be nominated. Email can be sent to the office through the form at www.pahouse.com/youngblood/contact/

To qualify, an applicant must be a:

Youngblood represents the 198th Legislative District in northwest Philadelphia. Constituents with questions about the program or any state-related issue can call her office at (215) 951-3394.

- Female U.S. citizen

Cover story Sacred places, civic spaces

At the helm of historic struggles, particularly the fight for civil and human rights, is our Faith and support from our religious congregations. One can say that the strength of the community lies in its Faith and the congregation's ability to provide understanding, encouragement and support through stewardship and initiating the ideals of working together. With that said, I was blessed with an opportunity to attend a "Reveal" last Tuesday that showcased the beginning stages of a project to Reinvest in our Sacred Spaces. The objective of the program is to Re-Invest in Sacred Spaces, which will Redesign, Rebuild and ultimately Revive these Sacred Spaces. While I know reinvesting the congregations will have a direct impact on the community, my hope is that the impact is on a grand scale to the extent that, "That this Re-investment will Reinvigorate, Regroup and Reconvalesce these congregations and the Communities that they support. We need to come together!"

Infill Philadelphia: Sacred Places/Civic Spaces

The Community Design Collaborative, in partnership with Partners for Sacred Places, kicked off Infill Philadelphia: Sacred Places/Civic Spaces with the announcement of three religious sites across Philadelphia that were chosen to serve as models for incorporating civic spaces into active sacred places. Along with the announcement of the sites, three design teams were chosen and paired with each to re-envision the purpose-built religious properties as community hubs.

Infill Philadelphia's new installment is designed to foster a growing conversation about the intersection of historic sacred places and communities. "We have chosen sacred places as our focus because we feel that the loss of any of these historic properties presents a real threat to our city's value and neighborhood vitality," said Beth Miller, Executive Director of the Community Design Collaborative. "Although many people are under the assumption that religious institutions serve only their own congregations, it's a fact that almost 90% of the people benefitting from programs hosted by sacred places are not members. They are clearly civic assets."

"Across Philadelphia and the nation, we recognize that many congregations are in transition and these historic buildings cannot be used and supported by the congregation alone. The decline of many congregations has led to half-empty buildings and, all too often, demolition," said Bob Jaeger, President of Partners for Sacred Places. With initiatives like Sacred Places/Civic Spaces, we honor the work that urban congregations are already doing to serve, stabilize and revitalize the communities that surround them--and we encourage them to work collaboratively with their neighbors to bring spaces alive and add to the civic plaza."

The following three sites were chosen from fifteen original applicants, each of whom chose a community non-profit as a project partner.

Project Title: Building Blocks
Congregation: The Philadelphia Masjid
Community Partner: People's Emergency Center
 The Philadelphia Masjid serves a congregation of 500, while also acting as a central hub for many others in the Muslim community. The 1.5 acre former Diocesan school complex has been underutilized since the closing of Sister Clara Muhammad School over 10 years ago. The site offers the potential for both renovation and new construction, and the congregation hopes to use its excess space to meet the needs of the neighborhood and lay the foundation for a broad community development initiative. People's Emergency Center recognizes this site as a key opportunity within the Promise Zone and as a significant gateway to the neighborhood.

Project Title: Community Cornerstone
Congregation: Wharton-Wesley United Methodist Church
Community Partner: ACHIEVEability
 Wharton Wesley United Methodist Church, embedded in the surrounding residential fabric, once had a congregation of 700. Today, most of its 150 members travel from outside the neighborhood to attend services. High utility costs and aging infrastructure make the church and Sunday school building costly and challenging to maintain. The congregation is attuned to the challenges faced by the surrounding community and is eager to put "less into capital, more into ministry." ACHIEVEability is eager to increase the impact of its work to improve the lives of the residents in the Haddington/Cobbs Creek neighborhood through a partnership with Wharton-Wesley.

Project Title: Corridor Connections
Congregation: Zion Baptist Church
Community Partner: Called to Serve, CDC
 Zion Baptist Church has a rich history that includes the legacy of Reverend Leon Sullivan, a national and international leader in the civil and human rights movements who served as pastor for 37 years. The congregation has strong ties to the community and its two buildings--the 1970s contemporary building where it worships and the 1920s "annex" which housed the church's outreach programs until recently. Zion hopes to reactivate the vacant annex as a part of the commercial corridor's revitalization, an effort led by Zion Baptist's community partner, Called to Serve Community Development Corporation.

Three design teams were also chosen and matched up with the final sites and will now embark on a six-month design challenge. The multidisciplinary design teams will create innovative design and development concepts and collaborate with congregations and surrounding communities. The public reveal of their work will take place on December 4.

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