

## RICJ Friends Update

### Project RESPECT 2005

Project RESPECT 2005 (formerly ANYTOWN) was a tremendous success this year. Students of widely diverse ethnic, racial, and economic backgrounds came together on June 25th at Camp Aldersgate in North Scituate, Rhode Island to discuss issues such as racism, homophobia, ethnic diversity, and our human commonalities.

From 7:45am morning sings to discussion groups and interactive exercises, to



Above: The Project RESPECT 2005 delegates and staff

10pm closing circles, delegates shared their lives with each other, learned essential elements for social change, and strengthened their already growing leadership skills.

As one delegate exclaimed, "Thank you for the most awesome experience of my life. I will never forget the times we have shared!"

Visit [www.ricj.org](http://www.ricj.org) for more pictures from Project RESPECT 2005. Thanks to sponsors New England Gas, Narragansett Electric & individual donors!



Above: Project RESPECT delegates and staff at morning circle



Above: Yazmin, Julie, Noa



Above: Mask Making Class presentation at Culture Night

### Leadership for a Future 2006 - Organizing for Affordable Housing

Do you know (or are you) a leader from a grassroots community group, labor, or religious community? Or just someone seeking to better Rhode Island? RICJ and the Institute for Labor Studies & Research partner every year to conduct **Leadership for A Future**. LFAF brings together 25-35 emerging and established leaders from Jan-May 2006, to build practical skills in grassroots organizing, collaboration, strategic action planning, board participation, lobbying & advocacy, public speaking, proposal writing, and much more.

*This year's curriculum theme is the critically important issue of **affordable housing**.*

For more information, please contact Sarath Suong at 401-467-1717 ext. 103 or [khmerpelon@yahoo.com](mailto:khmerpelon@yahoo.com).

Visit [www.ricj.org](http://www.ricj.org) for photos of the LFAF Class of 2005 and their graduation!

Thanks to sponsors of the 2005 class, Sovereign Bank and Beacon Mutual!

### National Neighborhood Day - Wall of Hope Clean-Up



Photo: Ellen Bak, Brown Daily Herald

For RI National Neighborhood Day, RICJ's **Youth Action Council** will host a clean-up of the Wall of Hope, with a Poetry Reading in memory of 9/11 and a BBQ picnic. This event is being held Saturday, Sept. 10, so the Wall will be clean for that night's WaterFire event.

The Wall of Hope was created at Waterplace Park and the Journal building in 2002 in remembrance of victims of September 11, 2001, by

over 11,000 Rhode Islanders who painted tiles & supported the project. This cleaning will not only help to beautify the area, but also reminds us of how a sense of community can bring us hope for a better world.

*RICJ friends are invited to participate!*

If you are interested in attending or helping out, please contact Toby Ayers or Dhvani Shah at 401-467-1717 or [ricj@cox.net](mailto:ricj@cox.net).

Please remember to remember RICJ.

**# 6268 on your United Way Pledge Sheet**

Help us continue RICJ's good work in building understanding for the future.

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**WE'VE MOVED!**



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*Special thanks to URI & Citizen's  
Bank for making our transition*

*Find us on the Web*  
[www.ricj.org](http://www.ricj.org)

*"We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers  
connect us with our fellow men; and along those fibers, as  
sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes,  
and come back to us as effects."  
Herman Melville*

# COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE AWARD

NOVEMBER 1, 2005

WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR A SAVE-THE-DATE CARD

*The RICJ Community and Justice Award recognizes leaders in Rhode  
Island and Southeastern New England whose commitment to equity  
and social justice is demonstrated in their life, work and philanthropy.*

**In 2005, RICJ is pleased to honor  
David Duffy for his long-term leadership  
at state and national levels in fighting  
prejudice and promoting diversity.**

**For more information, please contact Toby Ayers at  
401-467-1717, ex. 102 or ricj@cox.net.**

## MEET THE NEW YOUTH PROGRAM STAFF

**Please help us welcome two new staff members to the RICJ family!**

Dhvani Shah and Sarath Suong joined us this summer to help with the organization's goals of building a new generation of diverse leaders, and a healthy and safe Rhode Island community.



Hello! My name is Sarath Suong and I came on board as the Program Coordinator early this summer. My main responsibilities are planning and coordinating our educational programs on diversity and social justice. These programs include Project RESPECT, Leadership In a New Century (LINC), the College Student Leadership Course, Leadership for a Future, and the Youth Action Council. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 401-467-1717 ex. 103 or khmerpelon@yahoo.com.

Hi, my name is Dhvani Shah, and I am the summer student intern for RICJ! I am a junior at Brown University majoring in Human Biology as it relates to Health & Disease. I came on board in June and helped staff RICJ's annual camp 'Project RESPECT'. Currently, I am working on jumpstarting a project on the issue of Health Disparities in the greater Providence area and planning a neighborhood service day and 9-11 remembrance at the Wall of Hope. You can reach me at Dhvani\_Shah@brown.edu.



## Our Mission

RICJ is a social justice agency with a dual mission. We fight bias, prejudice, and racism while promoting understanding and mutual respect among all races, religions, and cultures. Our methods are advocacy, conflict resolution and education.

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## RICJ Staff

Toby Ayers, PhD, Executive Director  
Sarath Suong, Program Coordinator  
Eva Lorenc, Office Manager  
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