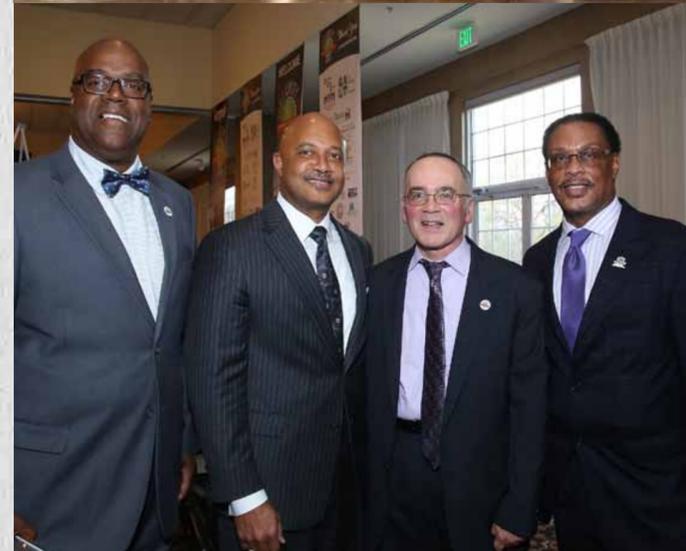




COMMUNITY CIVILITY COUNTS WILL HOLD ITS THIRD ANNUAL WORLD CIVILITY DAY EVENTS ON THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018.



A full-day of civility-themed activities and an awards dinner in the evening again will be held at the Indiana Welcome Center in Hammond and Avalon Manor in Merrillville.

Community Civility Counts started as an initiative of the Gary Chamber of Commerce Public Policy Committee and it has expanded to include many partners both locally and nationally. It was launched in 2015 at a press conference held in the Gary room in City Hall.

"As the executive director of the Gary Chamber of Commerce and speaking on behalf of our board of directors, I am elated over the scope and success of the Community Civility Counts initiative," said Chuck Hughes. "We could not have envisioned early on that CCC would now be recognized in several areas of the world."

Its first World Civility Day event, April 14, 2016, was sold out with 300 people from Indiana and nine other states and three countries. UN Ambassador Dr. Clyde Rivers gave the keynote address at the packed Majestic Star Casino ballroom in Gary.

Dr. Rivers returned for the second World Civility Day and gave out civility awards at an event that again attracted people from many states and several countries. He is expected to return next year.

World Civility Day on April 12, 2018, will include a kickoff lunch and workshops at the Indiana Welcome Center.

The dinner, held at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, will include entertainment, featured

speakers, and awards presented by Community Civility Counts.

Sponsorships and tickets are available through the Gary Chamber of Commerce at (219) 885-7407. Tickets -- \$90 VIP for all World Civility Day events, \$30 for the afternoon lunch and workshops (\$15 for students), \$70 for the dinner (\$650 for a table of 10) -- can be obtained by calling the chamber.

Groups and businesses are welcome to join this initiative and be added to our growing list. Just contact the Gary Chamber.

To follow the activities of Community Civility Counts, visit and like the Civility Counts page on Facebook.

Civility! Civility! Civility!

We are embarking upon our third annual World Civility Day. Many thanks to all of our sponsors, partners and supporters who helped make the first two World Civility Days sold out events.

Every day and in every walk of life there remains the need for us to exhibit more civility in our attitudes, actions and demeanor. It is important in our daily interactions with each other and critical to the social and emotional development of our youth.

As we continue to attract civility groups and civil-minded individuals from around the world to Northwest Indiana, we need you. Simply go to the Civility Counts Facebook page, call the Gary Chamber of Commerce or invite us to your organization to get you on board.

Let's continue to show the world that we are the voice for civil behavior. Northwest Indiana will continue to lead the way. Region Strong!

Chuck Hughes
Executive Director
Gary Chamber of Commerce



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IT ALL STARTED WITH AN IDEA

Well before barrage of sound bites in the presidential campaign, Community Civility Counts was unveiled in March 2015 at a news conference in the Gary room at City Hall.

The Gary Chamber of Commerce had developed a civility initiative through its public policy committee and unveiled a logo. The Times of Northwest Indiana got on board, and they joined forces to announce a local campaign including using the hashtag #CivilityCounts.

The time was right. The initial news release/announcement noted: "As we witness incidents of disrespect, discourtesy, intolerance, bullying and violence in all of our communities, we see the need to raise the conscious level of everyone and those from every walk of life."

"Whether in politics, business, education or our personal lives, we can be better. We must be better in order to live in a civil manner and in a civilized society."

Community Civility Counts gained momentum in various ways, and for its first anniversary it announced World Civility Day and planned an event in Merrillville. Attendees came from 10 states and three nations, and Dr. Clyde Rivers offered the keynote address.

Dr. Rivers, founder and president of iChange Nations and ambassador at large for the Republic of Burundi, connected with the Gary Chamber at the beginning and has been taking Community Civility Counts around the world.

As the next World Civility Day is being planned for April 12, it's a good time to look at the accomplishments of Community Civility Counts, started in Gary. They are:

- Civility resolutions have been approved by local governments including Gary, Hammond, Valparaiso, LaPorte councils and Lake County Council.
- Civility resolutions have been approved by the state House and Senate, making Indiana the first state to approve such a resolution.
- Community Civility Counts partnered with the Pierogi Fest to bring #CivilityCounts welcome greeting to the Region's largest festival. It organized a volunteer army to do so for three years.
- Community Civility Counts partners Chuck Hughes and Dr. Gordon Bradshaw of the Gary Chamber of Commerce and Bob Heisse of The Times were inducted into the North-

west Indiana Society of Innovators as a team.

- A civility in the classroom curriculum was introduced in Lighthouse College Preparatory Academy in Gary and it has expanded to other schools.
- An anti-bullying logo and initiative was introduced by Community Civility Counts, first reaching out to schools to share the best anti-bullying programs and last year naming the top effort for a World Civility Day award.
- Community Civility Counts gave out its first of awards at World Civility Day in 2017. The awards will be annual.
- The Times won several journalism awards for its involvement in Community Civility Counts, including the Associated Press Media Editors Innovator of the Year in 2016 and the Indiana APME public service award.

Chuck Hughes and Bob Heisse were finalists for the first-ever local Civvy Awards, presented in Washington.

