



STOP HATE.
TOGETHER.

For Immediate Release

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Embracing the Dream:

Lessons from the Not In Our Town Movement

New Short Film Collection Offers Innovative Way to Celebrate MLK Day

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On Jan. 17, 2011, Not In Our Town will honor Dr. Martin Luther King's legacy by doing what we do best: Sharing the real-life stories of people who are applying Dr. King's principles today. Though the political landscape has changed since the Civil Rights era, his dream that this country would fulfill its promise of equality has yet to become reality. But Dr. King's work showed this country that change is possible, and the communities in *Embracing the Dream: Lessons from the Not In Our Town Movement* are living proof that change is happening—town by town, school by school.

Not In Our Town has compiled four inspiring short films in this commemorative DVD. Included is a study guide that takes viewers through each of these films, encouraging discussion on these sometimes difficult and controversial topics. Schools, businesses and religious institutions in our vibrant Not In Our Town network have already adopted this short collection to pay tribute to Dr. King this holiday.

Not In Our Town invites individuals, organizations and schools to celebrate Dr. King's legacy with us by screening *Embracing the Dream* and crafting holiday activities around this collection. The DVD includes these four films:

- “Embracing Differences” (New York, 2010) - After seven high school students assaulted and killed Ecuadorean immigrant Marcelo Lucero in Patchogue, N.Y., local educators created a safe environment where students could express their feelings about the tragedy, and share their ideas about diversity, immigration, inclusion and respect (3:55).
- “After Cross Burning, a Town Marches Together” (California, 2004) - When an African-American resident of the small Northern California town of Anderson woke one winter morning to an 8-foot-tall burning cross on her lawn, neighbors quickly organized in support of her and her young family (5:33).
- “Lowell High School Students Dance Away Hate” (California, 2010) - When Fred Phelps' hate group pickets at Lowell High School in San Francisco, students rallied to show their love for their diverse, inclusive community (3:07).

- “Students Teach Students to Stand Up to Bullying” (Ohio, 2009) - At Shaw High School in East Cleveland, Ohio, high school students mentor younger students in how to be an upstander, not a bystander, when faced with bullying and intolerant acts (5:47).

Not In Our Town is offering this compilation with its insightful film study guide for just \$50. For more information or to purchase the DVD, visit <http://www.niot.org/niot-video/mlk>.

About Not In Our Town:

Not In Our Town is a national movement that encourages community response to hate crimes. The project combines PBS broadcast, grassroots events, educational outreach and online activities to help communities battling hate talk to—and learn from—each other. Since 1995, Not In Our Town has chronicled positive community organizing stories and provided practical tools to stimulate dialogue.

The History of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday:

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday. Though it was first observed in 1986, defenders of Dr. King’s dream began lobbying for the holiday just four days after the reverend’s assassination in 1968. In 1994, President Clinton signed the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday and Service Act that expanded the mission of the holiday to include not just commemoration but community service, interracial cooperation and anti-violence initiatives. In addition to the U.S., local groups in more than 100 nations observe MLK Day, according to The King Center.

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