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### The Interfaith Challenge

The searing controversy over the proposed Islamic Center near Ground Zero in New York has exposed deep divisions and unhealed wounds in our country.

Whether the debate stems from bigotry toward Muslims, or insensitivity to the tragedy of 9/11 depends on your perspective-- but emotions are flared and battle lines are being drawn.

How can we turn this crisis into an opportunity to find a new way to talk to each other about the issues that are emerging? [Read more and share your ideas.](#)

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Your donation helps continue the work of Not In Our Town.

### What's the best new tagline for Not In Our Town?

[Read our Facebook fans' ideas](#), and share your own!

### Group Profile: Kootenai County, Idaho Keeps the Heat on Hate

From public TV shows to massive rallies against hate; from pushing forward hate crime legislation to sponsoring scholarships; the [Kootenai County Task Force on Human Relations](#) has become Idaho's leading voice against prejudice, racism and hate-based violence.

Find out how they've done it -- and the lessons they've learned along the way -- in this month's [Group Profile](#).



*KCTFHR volunteers at the Coeur d' Alene, Idaho July 4 parade, holding posters honoring civil rights leaders from throughout history. Photo courtesy Tony Stewart.*



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### We Are Staten Island: Community Eyes Opened to Anti-Immigrant Violence

After nearly a dozen attacks on immigrants, people in Staten Island, NY are working to organize a response.

Two ministers are collaborating to begin dialogue in a tense atmosphere, a mile long march was held to support a gay Hispanic couple that was attacked, and local civic leaders have launched a unity campaign called "[I Am Staten Island.](#)" [Read the full story.](#)

## First Annual West Coast Disability Pride Parade

To honor the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Americans with Disabilities Act](#), a large coalition of communities gathered in San Jose, California for the First Annual West Coast Disability Pride Parade and Festival.

As The Working Group filmed the one-mile parade route, hundreds of people united and chanted "Say it loud, we're disabled and we're proud."



Photo credit: Suzanne C. Levine, copyright 2010. Property of SVILC.



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[Silicon Valley Independent Living Center](#) (SVILC) Executive Director and parade organizer, Sarah Triano said, "We're here to celebrate the ADA but also to send a loud message to our community and to everybody else out there that disability is a natural and beautiful part of human diversity in which people living with disabilities can take pride."

Congratulations to the SVILC on a wonderful day, and on the recent passage of Assembly Bill ACR 162 establishing the second week of October as Disability History Week in California.

The Working Group

PO Box 70232 | Oakland, CA 94612-0232 | Ph: 510.268.9675 Fax: 510.268.3606 [www.theworkinggroup.org](http://www.theworkinggroup.org) | [info@theworkinggroup.org](mailto:info@theworkinggroup.org)

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