

**NOT
IN OUR
TOWN**

Working Together for Safe, Inclusive Communities.

This month we bring you the incredible stories of two towns that are standing up to bullies.

The newspaper in Marshalltown, IA--aware of the tragic consequences of bullying--is taking the lead in preventing tragedy before it strikes. Marshalltown's Not In Our Town initiative brings together education, business, and civic leaders for an exciting and proactive campaign that will span several months.

As one town works on prevention, another responds. Hate struck again in Olympia. We've captured the Washington capital's history of standing up to neo-Nazis, and last week, the hate group known as the Westboro Baptist Church picketed both the capitol and high school. The community and school response is nothing short of inspiring.

This is how we create change: One town at a time. Thank you for helping us stop hate, together.

-The Not In Our Town team

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Newspaper Launches Anti-Bullying Initiative



Latino festival fun for all ethnicities



PHOTO BY DAVID ALLENBERGER
Members of the Des Moines dance troupe Los Ninos Tejeyce perform a traditional Latin courtship dance at Saturday's Latine Festival at the Marshall County Courthouse. In Latin culture, a woman wears her hair on her right side to signify she is unmarried.

Marshalltown launches anti-bullying effort

'Not In Our Town' initiative taking shape

By ANDREW POTTER
TIMES-REPUBLICAN

A youth survey conducted last year showed that 41 percent of Marshalltown students surveyed had been bullied in the last 30 days. Eleven percent of those students said they didn't go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to and from school.

Marshalltown community leaders say they're taking a stand against bullying — before tragedy strikes.

"We want to send a message



men."
Tallis said the group will not only focus on bullying among students, but also cyber-bullying and workplace bullying.

"It will be far-reaching," he said.

The "Not In Our Town" effort will make its debut this week in two places — the Times-Republican and The Orpheum Theater Center.

Marshalltown, Iowa's newspaper, the *Times-Republican*, launched their town's Not In Our Town initiative on June 3, bringing together more than 25 community leaders. The initiative features national speakers, film screenings and local events.

Thanks to all who helped us reach our Facebook goal of reaching 10,000 followers!

"We want to see if we can be ahead of the curve as a community in preventing bullying," *Times-Republican* publisher Mike Schlesinger said. "We want to look at ways to prevent school bullying, but also workplace bullying, domestic violence and other types of bullying among adults."

[Read more in the *Times-Republican*](#), which is running a series of Not In Our Town ads and hosting an anti-bullying pledge. Stay tuned for more coverage of Marshalltown's efforts.

Olympia Residents and Students Stand Strong as Hate Group Pickets



Olympia High School Unity Rally

"Despite downpour, more than 1,000 students, alumni and community members turned out for a student-lead demonstration at Olympia High School this morning. They were counter protesting a cadre from the Westboro hate group from Kansas that showed up to picket Oly." - Charlie Kirry, Olympia resident

The Westboro Baptist Church, a Topeka, KS-based hate group known for their anti-gay ideologies, began their protests at the Washington state capital on June 6, meeting a peaceful counter-response from Olympia Unity in the Community. The next day, the hate group visited Olympia High School. What began as a counter-protest turned into vibrant student-organized Unity Rally with multiple activities. [Read more about Olympia's response to hate.](#)

Silent March to End Stop-And-Frisk



This Sunday, civil rights, faith, labor and community groups will silently march together against NYC's "Stop and Frisk" Policy. On Father's Day, organizers encourage New Yorkers to stand together and show that they "refuse to let our children be victimized by racial profiling."

Not In Our Town has been invited to be part of a work group, joining the NAACP, National Education Association, Teaching Tolerance, Facing History and many others who's work is committed to safe and inclusive schools. [Learn more about Sunday's march here.](#)

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