COMING TO THE TABLE RVA

Taking America Beyond The Legacy of Enslavement

Community Report 2021



Vision Our vision for the United States is of a just and truthful society that acknowledges and seeks to heal from the racial wounds of the past — from slavery and the many forms of racism it spawned.

Dear Friends,



It has been a strange and difficult year all over the world, and no less so with Coming to the Table-RVA. We have transitioned in just two years time from:

- A loose, grassroots and totally volunteer organization to a certified 501c3;
- A Board of 3 to one of 12, maintaining a balance by race and gender;
- Founder, Martha Rollins as Co-CEO transitioning to Co-Chair of the Board;
- A budget of $0 to $90,000 to $180,000 (putting money into the work);
- No paid staff to part-time (four) and full-time (two) paid staff plus contracted Ambassadors (15).

We have been challenged by the pandemic to move from live events to almost everything happening via Zoom. That has meant learning and supporting new technology. It has also meant our programs of uncovering history, connecting, healing, and action are available nationwide. That is an unanticipated blessing, as we hear what is happening on race equity in other parts of the country. We gain ideas and hope from others engaged in race equity in their communities. We also gain partners.

While we have mourned and raged at the racial violence of the last year, we are thankful for the awareness of long-standing personal and systemic issues of racism being widely exposed. We are thankful that the awareness continues to bring friends to our programs to learn more and connect differently than they have in the past. Below you can see a few examples of how our programming is moving this community closer to "a just and truthful society that acknowledges and seeks to heal the racial wounds…" Through our living into our mission to "provide leadership, resources, and a supportive environment" we are inviting changes in personal habits, creating inclusive traditions, and finding ways to make systems that bring life to ALL the people. We invite you to join us, to make stronger commitments, to be more and give more, as we "step out of the shade" of the past to take joy in each other!

May it be so…with love in our hearts,
Danita Rountree Green and Marsha Summers
Co-CEOs, Coming to the Table-RVA

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Members of our Board of Directors have given over 100 volunteer leadership hours.

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(More volunteer hours than we can count!)

Mission Coming to the Table provides leadership, resources, and a supportive environment for all who wish to acknowledge and heal wounds from racism that is rooted in the United States' history of slavery.

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

Through Monthly Programs

Our on-going, monthly programs now total over 60 per year and cover all four of the approaches, or "legs" of our Table: Truth in History, Relationships, Healing, and Action. Our regular programs are: two Book Circles, a Movie Circle, Reparations Circle, third Tuesday Discussions, and Racism At Work (R.A.W.) Speakers Series. In addition, there are special events like those described in the following pages. Along with our website, newsletter, and reparations newsletter, we count around 3,000 people touched by our activities in the last year.





"SMART," "COMPASSIONATE," "EXTREMELY ENJOYABLE"

Movie Discussion, 9/28/20

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

Through Special Partnership Events

CTTT-RVA has community partners with whom we occasionally stir up "good trouble" by jointly creating supportive environments for the work of racial healing in Richmond. We do this remembering all four approaches are important.

Truth-Telling In History

Sharing Our Unique Narratives at The Table

Film Series – After a meaningful introduction to the CTTT approach in August, we embarked on a six session Film Series with First Presbyterian Church of Richmond. This was the first phase of a three-phase program entitled "The Best Of CTTT-RVA." Each phase will offer six opportunities for learning about race related topics, historical to present day. The next six session phase starts in May, concentrating on thought-leaders of the current movement.

"I've learned so much I didn't know about my own history."
"The conversation in my breakout room has been so powerful!"

Participants, Film Series

National Day of Racial Healing 2020 – We began the year with boldness, choosing to address Racial Healing and Reparations as our theme for this two-day event. We collaborated with the Virginia Museum of History and Culture to stage an event that would boldly move Richmond residents to action. We opened by hosting our first donor appreciation luncheon, A Different Truth, featuring our own Allison Thomas. That same evening, we hosted *Repairing the Breach: Race, Religion and the Racial Divide* attracting an audience of nearly 300 to witness a "dream team" panel discussing our original sin and its impact on Richmond's past and present. Our panelists were among RVA's bravest and most respected voices – Brian Blount, Ed Ayers and Corey Walker, and our first-ever flown in speaker as well as David Ragland of the National Reparations Network and the Truth-Telling Project. Ultimately, Repairing The Breach inspired reparative action throughout our city.



David Ragland, Ed Ayers, Danita Green, Brian Blount and Corey Walker

FULFILLING OUR MISSION

Through Special Partnership Events

Building Relationships

Coming Together, Building Bridges, Knocking Down Barriers

Book Circle with VCU ASPiRE – Two of our facilitators lead a book circle discussion with 20+ students from Virginia Commonwealth University, two of our interns, and a few more seasoned participants. This was a six-session series on consecutive Mondays in the Fall semester. Discussion was around the book *One Person, No Vote!* by Carol Anderson. The outreach toward young adults has been intentional, and in all our circles, we experienced an increase in the number of young people joining the conversation on race. Students from Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Richmond, and J. Sargent Reynolds Community College joined us at the table. They brought a new energy to tackle historical problems, working as interns and partners for collaborative projects. Whether dealing with current events with global or local perspectives, a multi-generational gathering that honors past and present can together chart the future.

BONNER CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
University of Richmond

Reynolds COMMUNITY COLLEGE



FULFILLING OUR MISSION

Through Special Partnership Events

Healing Wounds

Going Deeper and Forward to Repair What is Broken



LINKED: Stories Crossing the Color Line Linking Virginians through Blood, Purpose and Places, is partially funded by the Virginia Humanities Foundation and went into production last fall. LINKED spotlights black and white Virginians boldly making connections to heal a broken past. In this 13-part series, Coming To The Table-RVA is excited to work with award-winning correspondent, James Gannon, and *Back In The Black* podcast creator Frank Moseley. Emerging talent Lauren Stenson, co-founder of a racial healing organization called "Interpoint" on the University of Richmond campus, moderates the conversations. We anticipate that these stories about how slavery links us, what that means today, and what actions we can take to create a new narrative together will impact groups and individuals across generations, races, and locations.

Virginia Humanities

This program is sponsored in part by a grant from Virginia Humanities.

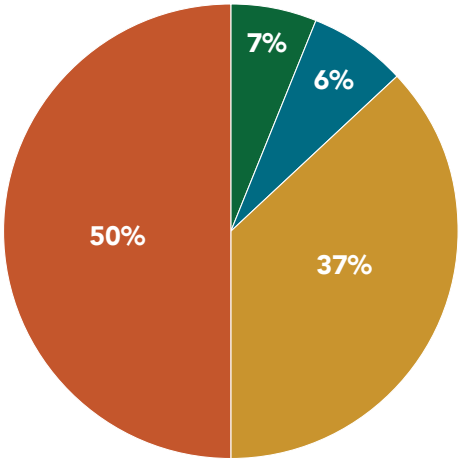
Taking Action

The Unity Walk – (August 28, 2020) held on the steps of the Virginia Museum of History and Culture, was well attended and gained media attention from three print and three online news sources. With approximately 200 Richmond residents participating, we forged relationships with nine local organizations including Child Savers, Black Lives Matter, Women's League of Voters, RISC, etc. We communicated our themes of unity and solidarity as well as met our goals of bringing a diverse audience together, breaking down barriers and "bringing love to the fight!"



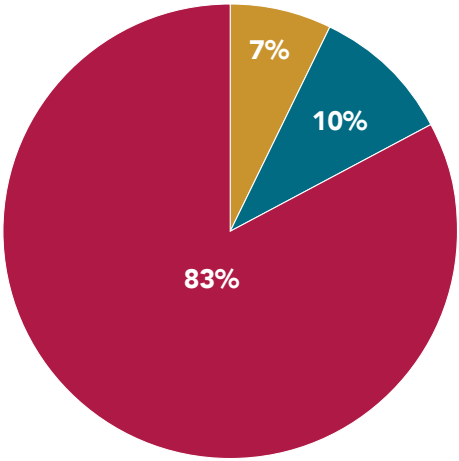
Financially, You Made It Happen!

Income Sources



- Foundation Grants
- Individual Donors
- Faith Communities
- Program Revenue

Expenses



- Management
- Fundraising
- Programming

Supporting Foundations and Organizations

The Benevity Community Impact Fund

Community Foundation of Greater Richmond‡

The Crouch Family Giving Fund

The Giving Foundation

Network 4 Good‡

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Evelyn and Richard J. Gunst Foundation‡

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RECO Foundation

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Synod of the Mid-Atlantic Peacemaking Grant‡

Verizon Grants‡

Virginia Museum of History and Culture

Virginia Humanities Foundation‡



‡ *Denotes gifts of $5,000 or more given in 2020*

With People Power You Made It Happen!

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** Denotes gifts of $1,000 or more given in 2020*

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CTTT-RVA Donors and Supporters

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American Civil War Museum

Black Lives Matter, RVA

Black Caucus, Presbytery of the James

First Presbyterian Church, Richmond

First Unitarian Universalist Church

Ginter Park Presbyterian Church

Presbytery of the James Dismantling Racism-BBC

University of Richmond

Reynolds Community College

VCU – Aspire Program

Living Legacy Pilgrimages

Union Presbyterian Seminary

Virginia Museum of History and Culture

Michael Plumb, VMHC

John Vest, Joyful Feast

CTTT-RVA Contracted Businesses

Accounting Strategies to Solutions^

Faith Printing^

Marcy Horwitz Associates

MPowered Productions^

Nutty Buttery Restaurant^

Pro Payne Graphics

Visual Media Service on the Spot!^

^Denotes Black Owned Business

Stepping into the Future

Welcome CTTT-RVA Ambassadors! In the Spring of 2020, our facilitation team made the decision to invite and recruit more African Americans to join us at the table to share their stories – particularly in predominantly European American spaces. We call them our CTTT-RVA Ambassadors. This work has been tested, and we plan on bringing the richer exchanges it creates to as many caring groups in Richmond as we are able. Our Ambassadors are building relationships across racial lines and growing cultural understanding. They are opening eyes to untold history and to systems that still need changing.

This new program also creates new paid positions within our operations and programming teams. We plan to fill them with talent and wisdom from our most vulnerable communities. We will also continue tapping into the younger generation's fresh ideas and future-orientation through university partnerships. We expect this dual strategy, focusing on youth along with underserved communities as partners, will create both our greatest joy and greatest financial need. Our intentions for honoring their time and valuing their voices, will mean we need the financial commitment of the wider community. We hope you can see with us visions of youthful promise leading to justice, and visions of dimmed hopes brightening – for a nation healing its fractured relationship with itself.

Ambassadors

Michele Banks, Jo Booker, Barbara Brown, Jenise Brown, Lorna Charlton, Rich Green, Matthew Hayes, Georgia Thweatt Johnson, Pamela McMullen, Ralph Roane, Pamela Smith and Sandra Taylor





Come Join Our Table

Meet our Friends. They have enlightening stories.

Bring yourself. You have stories, too.

Give your time…

Share the wealth of your life…

We are expanding the Table in anticipation!

"I have shared what we did with many of my clergy colleagues around the country and recommended they look for a CTTT chapter wherever they are, although I don't know if any of them are as wonderful as you all! Thank you!"

Amy Starr Redwine, Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Richmond, VA

"The CTTT-RVA experience was inspiring! The concept of CTTT is profound, proactive and professionally executed. The questions, in my opinion, were easy to engage and prompted introspection…a new experience of intergenerational dialog. Their approach creates a safe space to engage in challenging conversations, address complicated concerns and dissect historically convoluted conceptions."

P. Branch, VCU, Arts in Healthcare

COMING TO THE TABLE RVA

Taking America Beyond The Legacy of Enslavement

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