



advancing diversity | challenging assumptions | advocating for understanding

NEWS RELEASE

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ANNOUNCING: CHARTER ONE 2012 YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Middle and High School Student Diversity Champions Honored by Charter One and The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio

Cleveland, Ohio – January 18, 2012 — The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio and Charter One Bank will honor one middle school student and one high school student at the 2012 Youth Leadership Luncheon on **Friday, January 27, 2012**, at John Carroll University. The Luncheon, sponsored by Charter One Bank, will host **200 middle and high school students** and their educators from thirty different schools and youth-serving organizations.

The annual Youth Leadership Luncheon honors students who have a passion for creating diverse and inclusive environments in their schools and communities and honors Dr. Martin Luther King’s continued legacy.

“Charter One began a partnership with The Diversity Center seven years ago to honor Dr. Martin Luther King and recognize the contributions of young people,” said Ken Marblestone, President of Charter One, Ohio. “Each year, I am impressed by the students’ commitment to service in their schools and communities. It gives me great hope for the future when I spend time with such remarkable young men and women.”

Educators nominate students that exemplify leadership in the area of diversity. One middle school student and one high school student are then chosen by The Diversity Center Selection Committee and are honored with an award at the Luncheon and each receive a gift card from Charter One.

This year’s keynote speakers represent **Not in Our Town**, a national organization that encourages and connects people who are responding to hate and working to build more inclusive communities.

Rhian Miller, from Not in Our Town, and **Alana Garret, a Shaw High School graduate** and former student liaison with Not in Our School, will present clips from Not in Our Town’s latest film, “Light in the Darkness” and other local video projects.

The Diversity Center of Northeast Ohio, Inc. advances diversity, challenges assumptions, and advocates for understanding through education and training. Additional information on the organization and its programs is available at www.diversitycenterneo.org.

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