

# CURE



**CURE Inc.**  
***Community Understanding for  
Racial and Ethnic Equality***

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## **Plans for 2006**

2006 is shaping-up to be a landmark year for CURE. The organization's strategic plan will include several projects that are vital to its mission to promote equality, understanding and peace in our communities.

During 2005, CURE, under the leadership of its founder, Mary Crisalli Sansone, brought together groups of people who have divergent viewpoints on their lifestyles and religions who were simply not talking to one another. Much of the organization's work was spent on holding focus groups and facilitating communication between religious groups and members of the gay and lesbian community, as well as continuing to organize and plan for 2006. This planning included solidifying CURE's relationship with existing community leaders and developing new bonds of trust and respect with more diverse cultural and religious leaders.

Mary Sansone's long track record of success includes an impeccable reputation on issues of equality. Her lifetime of work and accomplishments has earned her the respect that led to such rare coalitions of people working together. Mary has now cultivated such a strong group of leaders in CURE that the circle of respect and trust she created is growing exponentially. A perfect example would be the focus groups mentioned above, where people in need of help, dialogue and understanding - who "did not know us, but knew of us" and of Mary's reputation - reached out and were heard. The more people that are reached, helped and understood, will undoubtedly lead to more peaceful and productive lives and relationships in our communities.

During 2005, the CURE Executive Board and its Board of Directors has spent considerable time digesting and analyzing the ideas presented at its 2004 symposium, entitled "Organization + Education = Emancipation", and is now ready to put those words into action during the coming year. The organization plans to utilize whatever methods it can to accomplish its goal of bringing together diverse people - and keeping them together, including focus groups and community mediation where appropriate and needed. CURE will also begin its work on a long-term plan involving cultural and diversity education.

First, the historic accomplishment of bringing together religious and gay and lesbian leaders will be continued - with more focus groups and dialogue - and hopefully a framework for understanding that can be utilized for keeping peace between groups with different lifestyles and religious beliefs. Second, CURE will continue to expand its grassroots network of community leaders, especially from areas of New York City where racial, ethnic and/or religious tensions are simmering. We will continue to strengthen the bonds between our coalition of leaders to address any difficult situation that may arise, and to promote understanding and respect among diverse neighbors. Finally, CURE will start working on a plan to teach children about diversity and tolerance; wherever and however children can best be reached - including schools, religious institutions, community centers, activities/events, or any other appropriate forum. We will also work very closely during 2006 with CIAO, under the leadership of its President Sal Aspromonte, who has pledged the organization's continued support for CURE's work on these projects wherever and however we can join forces.

These plans entail a tremendous amount of work - but the members of the group are certainly up to the task. The intense interest and desire to help on these common goals continues to be an inspiration, and we will succeed in bringing CURE to the next level.