

# ONEJAX

DIFFERENT TOGETHER

An Institute of the University of North Florida

EMBRACING DIVERSITY

PROMOTING RESPECT

# ONEJAX

OneJax is a catalyst for transforming our community into a place for peace and understanding ... to be truly Different Together.

## OUR MISSION

As an interfaith organization, OneJax educates, advocates and builds community to promote respect and understanding that will overcome bias, bigotry and oppression.



# OUR STORY

Originally formed as a local chapter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews in 1970 and later known as the National Conference for Community and Justice, the organization has addressed the ever-changing needs and challenges that come with promoting interfaith respect, acceptance and inclusion. In 2005, the Jacksonville chapter disaffiliated from its national group and formed OneJax.

The reputation of OneJax and its work continued to grow over the next several years. The range of topics addressed in its many forums of discussion expanded to include ethnicity, race, culture, ability/disability and sexual orientation. In February 2012, OneJax formally affiliated with the University of North Florida to become an Institute of the University. This partnership has brought numerous benefits to both OneJax and UNF; by bringing OneJax onto its campus, the University has positioned itself to strengthen its community partnerships to play an even more significant role in Northeast Florida's conversations about diversity and inclusion.

While OneJax works closely within the UNF community to support its initiatives, it also continues its work in the broader Northeast Florida region in areas such as education, advocacy and community engagement.



# WHAT WE DO

The OneJax team promotes inclusion within the community in various ways, from hosting panel discussions on timely topics, to leading diversity workshops for corporate supporters. OneJax is an engaged organization able to provide support to other community organizations when they celebrate human differences and social identity in the arts, education and other sectors. OneJax also provides a safe space for discussing the challenges associated with diversity and inclusion when those challenges threaten to polarize the community. Wherever we are, and whomever we are serving, our mission is always to engage our audience and empower each individual to take responsibility for his or her own role in the broader dialogue of acceptance that takes place every day in our city.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

### ● Diversity Education Program

Diversity education is a youth-centered program for high- and middle-school students. The program provides a safe environment to engage in the topics of bias, bigotry and stereotypes along with their effects, discrimination, racism and bullying. The 90-minute program focuses on building cultural competency with an interactive and open dialogue approach. Pushing the envelope on perception versus reality and shattering tired myths, the teen participants gain new understanding, respect and appreciation for the differences in each other.



### ● Metrotown Institute

This four-day summer program for teenagers entering grades 10-12 promotes respect and understanding among young people. Students who participate in this program engage in small-group discussions and workshops, creative and artistic expression, recreation, outdoor experiences and personal reflection around the topics of bias, bigotry, prejudice, discrimination and racism. Through the process of sharing ideas and feelings, exchanging ideas from a multicultural perspective and openly discussing topics such as religious traditions, gender roles and self-esteem, students leave Metrotown with a broader view of the world and their power to make a difference. Metrotown-In-A-Day, a scaled down version of the four-day program, is also offered several times during the school year to reach more local youths.

### ● Leaders of United Diversity (LOUD)

After Metrotown is completed, each graduate of the program becomes a member of the Leaders of United Diversity (LOUD). This group's mission is to bring the message of respect and appreciation for racial, religious and cultural difference into their community. LOUD members meet throughout the year to continue developing their human relations skills and learn further how to incorporate these skills into their daily life and work. LOUD focuses on offering service to interracial, inter-religious and intercultural groups of students.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION

## ● Humanitarian Awards Dinner

Each year, OneJax hosts a Humanitarian Awards Dinner to honor outstanding humanitarians and raise funds to support our programs. This notable event includes a formal ceremony to recognize a new group of honorees each year.

## ● Project Breakthrough

Founded in 2006 in collaboration with The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, Jacksonville Human Rights Commission and the Aspen Institute Roundtable on Community Change, Project Breakthrough: “Changing the Story of Race in Jacksonville” seeks to raise awareness about the implications of structural racism in diverse populations and introduce a common framework for understanding the causes of racial disparities. Project Breakthrough has reached corporate and civic bodies, the educational community, media leaders and the nonprofit sector. In collaboration with the UNF College of Education, Project Breakthrough has also been tailored specifically for teachers and interns who work in urban settings, equipping educators with the tools they need to break the cycle of racism and bigotry in the school setting.

## ● Interfaith and Community Forums

Hosting open, collaborative discussions about important issues facing the world today brings the community closer together. OneJax regularly organizes panel discussions and community forums, drawing insight and input from a broad range of religious, cultural and community leaders.

## ● Civil Discourse Series

In partnership with the Florida Times-Union and WJCT, OneJax hosts moderated panel discussions on issues which may challenge deeply held beliefs about controversial topics. The purpose is to promote and model civility in interacting with one another in a calm and inclusive manner about “hot” topics in order to increase understanding of opposing viewpoints.

## ● Advocacy

OneJax supports political initiatives that aim to improve the welfare and quality of life of marginalized or minority groups. In addition to advocating on behalf of underrepresented groups, we connect our base of supporters and volunteers with causes that support their passions. The Board of Directors Program/ Advocacy Committee reviews issues and recommends to the full board when the organization should engage in public advocacy.

## ● Interfaith Thanksgiving Gratitude Service

This annual service, which has taken place since 1918, pays homage to the sacred texts, prayers, songs and traditions that exalt the quality of gratitude for our blessings — regardless of what, or whom, grants them. Community faith leaders are invited to participate in the service for the purpose of expressing gratitude from their faith perspective.



# GET INVOLVED

OneJax needs your support to continue to provide programs and events that engage, enlighten and promote greater respect and understanding around differences.

You may support OneJax through a gift of your resources, either through a one-time donation or a membership commitment. Our membership levels are as follows:

- \$100
- \$150
- \$1,000 or above (Founders' Circle)
- \$250
- \$500

Donate online at [www.unf.edu/onejax](http://www.unf.edu/onejax).

For more information about OneJax:



Please e-mail us at  
[onejax@unf.edu](mailto:onejax@unf.edu)



Visit us online at  
[www.onejax.org](http://www.onejax.org)



Call us at  
904.620.1529



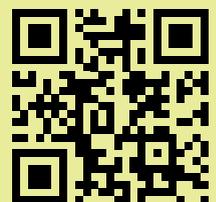


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