



UNITY

AN EVENING OF INTERFAITH
MUSIC, A CELEBRATION
OF COMMUNITY

Co-Chairs

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Dear Friends:

THREE YEARS AGO, ON THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11TH, the people of Sacramento came together for a night of peace, remembrance and celebration of the diversity of our community. The event, at the Memorial Auditorium, featured many of Sacramento's best interfaith music performers as well as speakers from a diverse political and cultural framework. Members from many different faiths and ethnicities found common enjoyment in the music of the Japanese drummers, Gospel choir, Hindu chants, Russian choir, and many others. Speakers shared words of peace and inspiration as we reflected upon the unspeakable tragedies of the previous year.

The first A Call for Unity built upon Sacramento's foundation of communication, cooperation and understanding among its interfaith and ethnically diverse communities. The coalition of Muslims, Sikhs, Jews, Hindus, Russian Baptists, Christians of all denominations, and many others, wanted to expand the goodwill and solidarity generated by the event. Out of the September 11th tragedy came A Call for Unity, and from that call emerged our response—Building Unity.

In the years following, A Call for Unity has been presented at the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis. These sold-out concerts have raised thousands of dollars for Building Unity and Habitat for Humanity. We put this interfaith goodwill to work by building and refurbishing homes in the Oak Park area of Sacramento. In concert with the Interfaith Service Bureau, Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together and many other faith-based, non-profit, community, government and corporate partners, we are working to create safe, affordable housing in one of Sacramento's most under-served neighborhoods.

Last year, A Call for Unity continued its fundraising efforts in support of Habitat for Humanity, celebrating its 20th anniversary of serving the Sacramento area. More information on this extraordinary endeavor and its remarkable accomplishments is included with this letter. In addition to raising funds for Habitat for Humanity, we will be presenting the Building Unity Award to Reverend Faith Whitmore of St. Mark's United Methodist Church for outstanding contributions to interfaith understanding in the community. Before the concert on September 23rd at the Mondavi Center, we will host a VIP reception honoring Rev. Whitmore for her many years of exemplary service and leadership promoting interfaith cooperation. And, of course, the event will once again feature the stirring music and message from many different faiths in the Sacramento community. This September 23rd, I hope you will join us at the Mondavi Center as we again remember those lost when the towers fell, and as we celebrate the friends gained while building unity in their memory.

Sincerely yours,

Jeff von Kaenel
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