Hawo's Dinner Party

THE NEW FACE OF SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

Event Planning Toolkit and Facilitation Guide

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be. BeCause Foundation

Shelbyville MULTIMEDIA

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About "Hawo's Dinner Party: *The New Face of Southern Hospitality*"

"Hawo's Dinner Party: *The New Face of Southern Hospitality*" is a video "module" designed to support dialogue, bridge-building and cultural exchange in communities that receive immigrants and refugees from Muslim-majority countries.

Adapted from the documentary *Welcome to Shelbyville* directed and produced by Kim A. Snyder, the module follows the trajectory of Hawo Siyad, a refugee and former nurse from Somalia, who has come to work at the nearby Tyson Foods chicken processing plant. Dressed in colorful hijab even on the assembly line, Hawo is determined to learn English and to connect with her neighbors. But as news of "home grown terrorism" appears in the national media and as Hawo tries to reach out, we get an intimate glimpse into the honest—and often uncomfortable—encounters that emerge.

Produced by Active Voice in association with the BeCause Foundation, "Hawo's Dinner Party" shows what happens when newcomers and "welcoming ambassadors" communicate and work together to transform their community, even in the most challenging times. This toolkit includes event planning and facilitation tips to help you put together a meaningful and powerful event. Other story-based resources for community leaders—including clergy, educators, law enforcement and public officials—who are committed to making their communities safe, welcoming and inclusive are available at *Shelbyville* Multimedia at www.ShelbyvilleMultimedia.org.

photo credit:
Greg Poschman

How To Use "Hawo's Dinner Party"

Are you a community-based organization that works to make your community safe, welcoming and inclusive? Do you think that personal stories help people connect emotionally to issues like diversity, hate crime prevention and social inclusion? Are you looking for new ways to talk about immigration in your neighborhood? If so, then "Hawo's Dinner Party" can help get the conversation started off right. Many of the sections in this guide are designed to help walk you through the process of using "Hawo's Dinner Party" in a public setting and to ensure you have an impactful and successful screening event.

GETTING STARTED: DEFINE YOUR OBJECTIVES

Figuring out your objectives is the first step in planning a successful event. Why do you want to host a screening of "Hawo's Dinner Party"? How can it enrich your current programming and/or support your organization's longer-term goals? In your ideal scenario, what outcomes do you hope to achieve? How will you know if it was a successful event?

Here are some suggestions for how to use "Hawo's Dinner Party":

- To put a human face on immigrants and refugees from Muslim-majority countries and highlight their stories and contributions. Useful formats include panels or Q&As.
- As a prompt to spark productive dialogue and bridge-building across cultures, faith and citizenship status. Use it as an icebreaker at meet-and-greet or potluck gatherings.
- As a resource to help break down stereotypes (in meetings and at community events). Useful formats include facilitated dialogue with experienced facilitators, as part of religious programming, or classroom discussion.
- As the centerpiece of programs and activities that encourage civic participation among immigrants and refugees. Use it to draw attention to your program launch and gather resources and support.

These are just a few ideas. What are yours? Take a moment to reflect on what you would like people to take away from a screening. This will help you plan and set the tone.

KNOW YOUR TARGET AUDIENCE

Whatever you decide to do, it's important to have a good sense of who your audiences are going to be. You may choose to host a community-wide event or perhaps you have very specific objectives in mind. If the latter applies to you, your event will require more targeted partnerships. So take a moment to get clear. Who needs to be in the room if you are to achieve your objectives? Once you have worked this out, take time to meet with representatives of those groups and ask them to weigh in on the planning from the beginning.

As a key ingredient to success, Everyday Democracy (experts in supporting public dialogue and problem solving—see the resources at the end of this Toolkit) encourages as much diversity from within the community as possible. This requires careful planning from the beginning, so you may even ask these other groups to become stakeholders by cosponsoring your event or partnering with you. When you know what their priorities are and what will resonate with them, you'll be better positioned to make sure you are creating an event that matters to those groups.

Depending on your objectives, you might consider inviting the following groups as potential partners or cosponsors:

- Chambers of commerce
- Civic engagement groups
- Civil rights groups
- Community foundations
- Faith-based and/or interfaith organizations
- Human rights organizations
- Immigrant service providers
- Libraries and museums
- Local businesses that employ refugees and immigrants
- Public officials
- Refugee resettlement groups
- School district/school board leaders
- Service groups
- Teachers and school professionals
- Universities and colleges

Partner organizations not only help broaden your reach but, depending on their interest and capacity, can also lend credibility and contribute ideas, time, resources and/or panelists for the event. In some instances, event-based partnerships or coalitions can even pave the way for longer-term relationships that will benefit your mutual efforts.

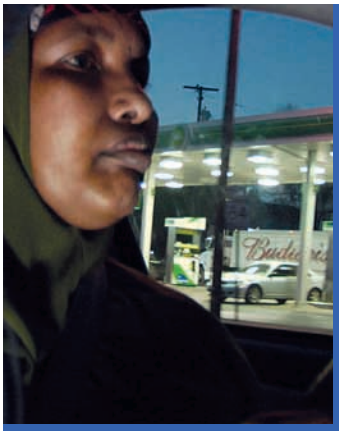

photo credit: Greg Poschman

About *Shelbyville* Multimedia

"Hawo's Dinner Party" is a component of *Shelbyville* Multimedia, a platform developed by Active Voice to promote community-building and harmony between native-born Americans, immigrants and refugees nationwide. Inspired by the straight-talking people featured in the 2010 documentary *Welcome to Shelbyville* (directed and produced by Kim A. Snyder and executive produced by BeCause Foundation, in association with Active Voice), Active Voice's *Shelbyville* Multimedia shines a light on the challenges and opportunities of our increasingly global communities. It includes the following components:

- Full-length and hour-long versions of the independent film *Welcome to Shelbyville* that can be screened in policy, faith-based and community settings.
- Resource materials including a discussion guide and an event planning toolkit, which allow viewers to delve deeper into the themes raised in the film.
- Shorter video **modules**, such as "Hawo's Dinner Party," that use compelling storylines as training tools for service providers and community leaders. For tips on how to use a module as a training resource, see page 6.
- Webisodes that feature new footage and reveal the complex dimensions of the residents of Shelbyville.
- Social media tools, including an interactive website and a **Facebook page**, to inspire broader community-building among people nation- and worldwide.

Using "Hawo's Dinner Party" as a Training Resource

"Hawo's Dinner Party" can be an effective training tool for small groups and within organizations to enhance cultural competency and professional development.

For example, use it to train:
Congregations
Employers
First-responders
Service providers
Teachers

You may have an idea for how to incorporate "Hawo's Dinner Party" into existing programming or you may want to create a separate workshop. In either case, you probably don't need to worry about partnerships and publicity but there are many sections in this guide that will be valuable in your planning. Be sure to take a look at the following sections: Getting Started (page 4), Tips for Successful Facilitation (page 10) and the Resource list (page 14). And let us know if we can help! Visit www.activevoice.net.

Here are some tips for reaching out to groups you've never worked with before:

Send along information. You could pass them the link to the two webisodes about Hawo and provide them with a brief description of the project so they can see what it's all about. You can use language from the beginning of this guide or direct them to the "Hawo's Dinner Party" page on *Shelbyville* Multimedia at www.ShelbyvilleMultimedia.org/meet-the-locals/hawo and www.ShelbyvilleMultimedia.org/get-involved/modules/hdp.

Highlight overlapping interests. Be clear about your objectives and point out areas of intersecting interests. For example, if you want to help educate people about the challenges refugees face, local civil rights groups may see a connection between those challenges and the different groups they work with. Remember to highlight the elements of the video module that are most relevant to your potential partners' work and members. For example, if you are reaching out to a house of worship, tell them about the Thanksgiving scene.

Let them know about partner benefits. Emphasize that their involvement can be a good opportunity to spotlight their work, raise the visibility of the organization and reach new audiences. If you are open to a more collaborative partnership, invite them to get more involved in event planning and design, such as suggesting panelists for the discussion, brainstorming target audiences, etc.

Remember that groups have different capacities. Levels of involvement will vary. Some groups will simply just send your email blast to their listserv, others might get more involved in event planning and some might even be able to contribute funds. Be mindful of what your partners are capable of and make sure you're not asking them for too much (or too little!) as you plan your event.

CHOOSE YOUR FORMAT

Facilitated Dialogue: Use "Hawo's Dinner Party" and other webisodes (available on www.ShelbyvilleMultimedia.org) as prompts during neighborhood town halls, workplace meetings, Church group convenings, local service group meetings and classroom discussions (such as History, Social Studies, English Language Arts and Math). Take a look at our resource list at the end of this guide for groups that specialize in this work.

Panel Discussion: Use "Hawo's Dinner Party" to launch and set the tone of a panel discussion that features local immigrant voices and lifts them up. Or consider including people active in refugee resettlement, local service providers, faith and other leaders. Keep reading for tips on creating a successful panel.

Q&A Session: Feature local "experts" on a range of issues, such as local refugee resettlement agency, city and government officials and local advocates. You may even decide to invite a cast-member or the filmmaker. If so, contact Active Voice at info@activevoice.net and we'll get you in touch with them.

Tie-in Opportunities

Consider using "Hawo's Dinner Party" around significant holidays to help raise the profile of your event and make connections to relevant themes. Here are a few examples:

- Religious Freedom Day (January 16)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (January 17)
- International Women's Day (March 8)
- Lent
- Memorial Day (last Monday in May)
- World Refugee Day (June 20)
- Independence Day (July 4)
- Anniversary of 9/11 (September 11)
- Citizenship Day (September 17)
- Rosh Hashanah (Jewish New Year)
- Islamic New Year
- Ramadan
- Eid ul-Fitr (Muslim Festival Breaking the Ramadan Fast)

Meet & Greet: Use "Hawo's Dinner Party" as an icebreaker at cross-sector, cross-cultural, interfaith meet-and-greets. You might even consider hosting a VIP reception with local leaders, policymakers and funders. Whatever you decide to do, refreshments are always a good idea!

Welcoming Gatherings: Bring long-term residents and newcomers together at a local ethnic restaurant, in churches or mosques so they can break bread with their newest neighbors. To learn more about how to host a Welcoming Gathering, visit www.ShelbyvilleMultimedia.org/get-involved/welcoming-gatherings.

Present Your Work: Consider using this event to highlight the work your organization is doing. Think of ways to use the film as a springboard to highlight those issues and provide concrete action steps for audience members. Save some time after the screening for you and/or your co-sponsors to give a brief presentation about the work you do and how audience members can support it.

Host a Fundraiser: There's nothing wrong with making a funding pitch at the event, especially if your audience includes potential big-time donors. You can ask for a suggested donation as people enter the event, or you can set up a donation table by the door for folks to see on their way out.

GET THE WORD OUT

If you or one of your partner organizations has a communications department, get them involved right away. But even if outreach is new to you, here are some simple ways you can get the word out:

Contact us! We're here to help – so take advantage! We'll direct you to a resource site where you can download customizable event flyers, email blasts, press release templates and other promo materials. You can get a hold of us at info@activevoice.net.

Make it easy. Spend a few minutes thinking about your target audience and how you can reach them where they already are. What do they already listen to, read, watch and log on to? Those are the first places you should target.

Think local. What makes your event special? All of your outreach should highlight local hooks and themes in the films that are most relevant to your community and target audience. If your event will feature prominent panelists, be sure to mention it! Likewise, if your event is a benefit or fundraiser, be sure to let people know.

Hit the inboxes. The simplest thing you can do to promote your event is to create an email blast and send it out widely via listservs. Send out two emails: the first at least two weeks before your event and then a reminder several days before.

Put it on the calendar. Try to get calendar listings in your city's weekly publication(s) and on the web. Newspaper websites and event sites usually require two weeks' notice and can help you reach a broader audience. If you have a website of your own, make sure to post information about your event there. Ask any co-hosts to do the same.

Post flyers. Customize one of our flyers to advertise your event. Make copies and post them in high traffic areas, such as grocery stores, libraries and university halls.

Start the presses. Ten days before your event, send a press release to local newspapers, radio stations and blogs, including ethnic media. Depending on the focus of your event, you may wish to target reporters who cover related issues.

Be proactive. Jump ahead and search for reporters in your area who are writing favorably about issues connected to your event or project. Then send them an email or give them a call. Start with: "I read story X, was impressed by Y, it made me think you would be interested in Z..."

Think outside the box. Get creative about where you look for journalists or media placement. Some reporters or bloggers that generally cover one topics—health, food, arts—would be eager to spice up their content with tie-ins that are a bit out of the ordinary. Are you putting together a panel about refugees that features a health provider? Then consider getting in touch with someone from the heath sector. Is your screening being held at a restaurant? Consider getting in touch with a food blogger. Think about how your event may be attractive to their interests and help them make the connection.

Use Twitter. Be sure to find the hashtags that are relevant to your topic and tweet to those tags to get the attention you want. Reporters will not necessarily go to your blog but they will look up those hashtags to find out what is going on in the field.

Get on the air. Make calls to local television and radio programs including local news programs, talk radio, youth programs or sports stations. Let them know about your event, explain its importance to your community and, if possible, direct them to a local spokesperson (such as a staff person or panelist) who can be available for interviews. Try contacting assignment editors (for local TV news) or producers (for public affairs programs or talk radio).

Remember! Nail down the details and confirm the exact time, location, venue and ticketing/RSVP procedure before you send out notices to anyone. If you are taking RSVPs, plan to accept 30% more RSVPs than you have room for and let late responders know you might be able to accommodate them if people earlier on the list don't show. Also, don't forget to give everyone credit for their hard work on your materials.

SUGGEST FOLLOW UP ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS

To make the most of the opportunity, be sure you have follow up activities that you can direct your audience to. Suggest concrete ways they can get involved, from visiting your website to find out about upcoming events, volunteering, becoming a member, making a donation, learning about related policy, etc. Take a look at the "Take Action" section on page 9 for our suggestions. Be ready with sign up lists and flyers. Finally, don't forget to stay in touch! Follow up with audience members and cosponsor organizations in the days after. You've worked too hard to let those relationships disappear!

photo credit: Greg Poschman

Take Action!

Become a "Welcoming Ambassador." Like Ms. Luci, several of the residents appearing in "Hawo's Dinner Party" were active participants of the Welcoming Tennessee Initiative, a statewide effort to help improve relations between long-term residents and immigrant newcomers. www.welcomingamerica.org

Watch "Building a Nation of Neighbors," another short video module by Active Voice that hones in on select scenes that exemplify the Welcoming America model. www.ShelbyvilleMultimedia.org/modules/bnn

Host a Welcoming Gathering. Foster deeper trust and understanding between newcomers and long-term residents by inviting your new neighbors over for a potluck dinner. You might consider working with a local immigrant/refugee-serving agency or ESL program to help you. Take a look at the "Hawo's Dinner Party" Recipes and Discussion Guide for recipe ideas. www.ShelbyvilleMultimedia.org/get-involved/welcoming-gatherings

Support local service organizations. Consider donating money, goods or your time to immigrant service and refugee resettlement organizations, which often need volunteers with special skill sets, such as language, financial, legal and even medical expertise. You can start with U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants network. www.refugees.org

Volunteer with or donate to organizations providing relief to camps in Kenya and other bordering nations that house Somali refugees. You can start with the American Red Cross. www.redcross.org

Tips for Successful Facilitation

Below are some guidelines for establishing safe, productive conversations among groups of all backgrounds.

Before Your Event, Make Sure Your Facilitators:

Can handle the size of the group. If you are hosting a large screening, you may want to break out into small groups of six to eight people to allow for more intimate conversations. If you go this route, identify a handful of facilitators well in advance and make sure to go over these guidelines with them before your screening. But don't worry if you only have one facilitator – you can still have a great dialogue if you follow these tips!

Are prepared to remain neutral. All facilitators should view the entire film before the event so they have time to process their own reactions, read through this guide and discussion questions and prepare themselves with some basic information about the issues raised in the film. Facilitators are not teachers. Their job is to guide a group's dialogue without taking sides.

photo credit:
Greg Poschman

Can work well with others. Sometimes working with a co-facilitator can be the right choice for your event. Pick someone who represents a different group or point of view, especially if you represent a religious group that is a part of the dialogue.

Can direct people to resources. Facilitators don't need to be experts but most audiences will be curious to know more about the issues. Having a list of organizations and websites that audience members can turn to for questions is a great way to field questions. (See the back of this guide for suggestions.)

Are ready for challenges! Facilitators should be prepared for audience members who might strongly disagree with each other. This can be a great opportunity for people to hear different viewpoints, but facilitators should help keep the conversation on track and make sure everyone stays positive and respectful.

At Your Event:

Explain the purpose of the conversation. To keep the group on track, clearly articulate your goals for the event at its outset. Why did you bring everyone together? Some examples include: to listen and learn from one another's experiences, to build community together, to collaboratively think of proactive solutions to tensions or any other agreed upon objective.

Set ground rules. Whatever format you decide to use for your vent—panel, debate, town hall meeting—it's a good idea to establish some ground rules for the discussion before you proceed. This is especially important if you're bringing together people who don't know each other and who may be accustomed to different ways of expressing themselves. Start by reading aloud our "Basic Ground Rules" (next page).

For discussions about religion, be sure to explain that the room is a "no proselytizing zone." In order not to offend those who believe they have a religious duty to convert non-believers, be clear that you are not judging the practice, but that the dialogue is likely to be more productive if the space remains neutral, so you are requesting a time out from the practice (much as candidates are not allowed to campaign at polling places).

SUGGESTED ACTIVITY: Record a "Welcoming Story"

Many immigrants and refugees on the road to "becoming an American" were helped by someone along the way. Contribute to this collection of stories that celebrate small acts of kindness, big-hearted moments and simple but life-changing connections. Sharing these stories can help broaden the conversation about immigration.

So take advantage of the energy in the room and highlight the welcoming nature of your community by telling your story and collecting the stories of others. Then, send them to us and we'll highlight them on our website.

You'll need a way to record the story: an iPhone, laptop with video or audio recording software, video camera or other device will do. You can even write down the Welcoming Stories and illustrate them with photographs. Visit the Welcoming Stories site for prompts to get the conversation going: www.shelbyvillemultimedia.org/get-involved/welcoming-stories.

Take a minute to reflect. Right after you screen the film, ask people how they felt about it. Let people speak from their hearts before you move the conversation into the discussion questions.

Talk about the difference between "dialogue" and "debate." In a debate, participants try to convince others that they are right. In a dialogue, participants try to understand each other and expand their thinking by sharing viewpoints and actively listening to each other.

Consider focusing on common-ground issues first. For example, belief in human rights or democracy might provide a useful starting point.

Guide the discussion, but don't micromanage! Pick a few discussion questions you think your group will find most interesting to get the conversation started, but be flexible. People will bring in unique ideas and experiences, so let the conversation flow!

Encourage everyone to participate. Factors like age, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, education level and familiarity with a topic can all influence how comfortable people feel about sharing their reactions, especially if people don't already know each other. Keep this in mind and actively encourage everyone to participate! For example, to help break the ice, you might ask everyone to write down a sentence about their initial reaction and ask a few people to read their thoughts aloud before starting the conversation.

For suggestions on more facilitation tips and resources, see the resource page at the end of this toolkit.

BASIC GROUND RULES:

Discussions are most productive when people feel safe, comfortable and engaged. That balance can be difficult to achieve when the topic is religion or politics or prejudice, so you may want to consider finding an experienced facilitator for your event. If you plan to facilitate the dialogue yourself, think about how you will ensure that the tenor remains respectful and everyone has an opportunity to be heard. Here are some basic ground rules to consider for any successful conversation:

- Make space for everyone to speak, including people who may not usually feel comfortable doing so.
- Allow people to "pass"— they do not have to speak.
- Keep everything said in the group, within the group; confidentiality may be important to some participants.
- Make sure to listen to others without interrupting.
- Use "I" statements (instead of "Everyone thinks," "We all know…") to avoid putting words in other people's mouths.
- Seek clarification if you don't understand something someone else is saying.
- Practice active listening: pay attention not only to what the speaker is saying but also to the emotions behind their words and to what may be most important for them.
- Suspend your judgment.
- Don't expect others to know everything about your experiences or the topic at hand.
- Encourage curiosity: no question is stupid!

Remember to have fun and enjoy getting to know your neighbors. Sometimes people get wrapped up in emotion and the conversation can get heated, but that usually means someone cares deeply about the issue. Take a moment to acknowledge the experiences in the room that make this an important discussion to everyone and remind participants of the ground rules and shared objectives. Then, begin again.

Planning Checklist for "Hawo's Dinner Party" Events

Once you have defined your target audience, objectives and framing, begin planning the event.

Preliminary planning – 6-8 weeks prior

- ☐ **Book the venue and date** for your screening event. Make sure it has the proper equipment for the audience you have in mind (particularly if hosting a Welcoming Gathering at an ethnic restaurant).
- ☐ **Recruit local organizational partners** to broaden your reach, and help identify roles for each one.
- ☐ **Determine speakers, panelists, facilitator and translator** (if applicable).
- ☐ **Become a fan** of the *Shelbyville* Multimedia Facebook page to learn about events and other developments that might apply to your event. www.facebook.com/ShelbyvilleMultimedia.
- ☐ **Embed a Webisode** to your site or blog to draw attention to, and interest in, your event.

Logistical planning and initial outreach – 3-4 weeks prior

- ☐ **Create a flyer** to publicize your screening (use template provided by Active Voice).
- ☐ **Send out press advisories** to media outlets for larger community events.
- ☐ **Confirm the appropriate format** for your screening (most likely DVD).
- ☐ **Draft an event agenda.**
- ☐ **Assign responsibilities.** If you plan to collect Welcoming Stories, recruit an intern from a local community college. If serving food, assign who will pick it up.

Refined logistical planning – 2-3 weeks prior

- ☐ **Create an email blast** to publicize your event electronically (template provided by Active Voice). Again, send one announcement two weeks prior and another several days prior.
- ☐ **Contact community calendars** about your event (for larger community events).
- ☐ **Secure food** for reception (if applicable).
- ☐ **Create a Facebook "event"** and announce it on *Shelbyville* Multimedia's Facebook page.

Media outreach (for larger community events) – 10 days prior

- ☐ **Follow up with media outlets** and if necessary, resend press advisories.
- ☐ **Make calls** to local television and radio programs.
- ☐ **IMPORTANT:** test screen your format version of the film well in advance of the event to make sure there aren't any glitches. If you have any issues playing your DVD/media, please contact Active Voice at 415.487.2000.

Final planning – several days prior

- ☐ **Send second round** of email blasts.
- ☐ **Send press releases**; contact individual reporters who expressed an interest in covering the story of the pending event (for larger community events).
- ☐ **Finalize agenda**.
- ☐ **Make copies** of handouts to distribute at the event, including participant evaluations (if applicable).

At the event itself

- ☐ **Take photos**!
- ☐ **Ask attendees to sign up** to your listserv as people arrive.
- ☐ **Have a timekeeper** so that panelists/speakers remain within their assigned speaking time.
- ☐ **Be prepared to suggest next steps** and have materials available for attendees to follow up.
- ☐ **Take a look at the "Take Action" section** on page 9 for suggestions.
- ☐ **Collect Welcoming Stories**! It's a great opportunity, so have a video camera or audio recorder available to record them.

photo credit: Greg Poschman

photo credit: Greg Poschman

Resources

Center for New Community helps to build community justice and equality. To learn more about efforts to promote equality, defend democracy and empower communities, visit: www.newcomm.org.

Everyday Democracy helps people of different backgrounds and views talk and work together to solve problems and create inclusive communities that work for everyone and towards racial equity. www.everyday-democracy.org/en/index.aspx.

For more tips on public dialogue facilitation, visit: www.scribd.com/doc/51991479/A-Guide-for-Training-Public-Dialogue-Facilitators.

For other dialogue and action resources that cover a range of topics, visit: www.everyday-democracy.org/en/Page.ResourceRoom.aspx.

Intersections International is promoting mutual respect and understanding between the United States and Muslim-majority countries through their Change the Story project. For related tools that support educators, religious leaders and concerned individuals, visit: www.intersectionsinternational.org/our-work/american-muslims.

The Islam Project is a multimedia effort aimed at schools, communities and individuals who want a clearer understanding of this institution. For tools and resources about Islam, visit: www.islamproject.org.

National Coalition for Dialogue and Deliberation is a network of people who use dialogue, deliberation and other innovative group processes to help people tackle our most challenging problems. To find an experienced facilitator or other dialogue resources, visit www.ncdd.org.

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights works to defend and expand the rights of all immigrants and refugees, regardless of immigration status. To learn more, visit: www.nnirr.org/index.php.

For a list of Resource and fact-sheets, visit: http://www.nnirr.org/resources/index.php?op=list&type=3.

For more recipe ideas from around the world, take a look at the NNIRR 25th Anniversary Commemorative Cookbook: www.nnirr.blogspot.com/2011/06/calling-all-recipes.html.

National Religious Campaign Against Torture is committed to ending torture that is sponsored or enabled by the United States. To learn more about their campaign "Shoulder-to-Shoulder: Standing with American Muslims; Upholding American Values," an interfaith coalition of organizations working to address anti-Muslim sentiment, visit: www.nrcat.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=442&Itemid=318.

Not in Our Town is a movement created by and for people in local communities who are finding new and better ways for everyone to feel accepted and welcome. Their latest production, *Not In Our Town: Light In The Darkness,* is a one-hour documentary about a town coming together to take action after anti-immigrant violence devastates the community. To learn more, visit: www.niot.org/front.

Rights Working Group strives to restore the American commitment to protect civil liberties and human rights for all people in the U.S. in the aftermath of 9/11. For know your rights toolkits, issue briefs, fact sheets and other resources on racial profiling, immigration, detention and/or human rights, visit. www.rightsworkinggroup.org.

South Asian Americans Leading Together elevates the voices and perspectives of South Asian individuals and organizations to build a more just and inclusive society in the United States. To learn about SAALT-led dialogues near you or to access a speakers bureau, visit: www.saalt.org.

Somali Family Care Network is dedicated to helping all Somali groups in the United States work together to improve social and economic opportunities for the Somali community. To learn more about training opportunities, training materials or capacity building resources for the Somali immigrant and refugee communities, visit: www.somalifamily.org.

Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding promotes mutual respect and understanding with practical programs that bridge religious difference and combat prejudice in areas of armed conflict, schools, workplaces and health care settings. www.tanenbaum.org.

For their CoffeeHour Conversations Facilitation Guidelines, visit: http://prepareny.ning.com/page/coffeehour-conversations.

For a complete list of Tanenbaum fact-sheets and other resources, take a look at "Hawo's Dinner Party" Recipe and Discussion Guide or visit: www.tanenbaum.org/prepareny.

U.S. Committee for Refugee and Immigrants provides tools and opportunities for self-sufficiency to refugees and immigrants nationwide, fights refugee warehousing around the world and protects the rights of migrating children. To learn more about refugee resettlement, visit: www.refugees.org.

U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division works to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans, particularly some of the most vulnerable members of our society. To learn more about the rights of refugees in the United States, visit: www.justice.gov/crt/index.php.

Welcoming America works to promote mutual respect and cooperation between foreign-born and U.S.-born Americans. To learn more about the Welcoming America model, visit: www.welcomingamerica.org.

Acknowledgments

"Hawo's Dinner Party: *The New Face of Southern Hospitality*" is part of *Shelbyville* Multimedia, a project of Active Voice, in association with BeCause Foundation. Adapted from the documentary *Welcome to Shelbyville* directed and produced by Kim A. Snyder, it is designed to support dialogue, bridge building and cultural exchange in communities that receive immigrants and refugees from Muslim majority countries. It was developed with generous support from Open Society Foundations and Andrus Family Fund.

For more *Shelbyville* Multimedia resources, including webisodes and modules, visit www.ShelbyvilleMultimedia.org**.**

Event Planning Toolkit and Facilitation Guide

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About *Welcome to Shelbyville*

Change has come to rural Tennessee. Set against the backdrop of a shaky economy, *Welcome to Shelbyville* takes an intimate look at a southern town as its residents—whites and African Americans, Latinos and Somali—grapple with their beliefs, their histories and their evolving ways of life. *Welcome to Shelbyville* is directed and produced by Kim A. Snyder and executive produced by BeCause Foundation, in association with Active Voice. www.welcometoshelbyvillefilm.com

ACTIVE voice®

Active Voice uses film, television and multimedia to spark social change from grassroots to grass tops. Our team of strategic communications specialists works with mediamakers, funders, advocates and thought leaders to put a human face on the issues of our times. We frame and beta-test key messages, develop national and local partnerships, plan and execute high profile, outcome-oriented events, repurpose digital content for web and viral distribution, produce ancillary and educational resources and consult with industry and sector leaders. www.activevoice.net

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