

For Immediate Release:

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THE INTERFAITH CENTER OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Hosts a **DAY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION**

As part of the National Day of Interfaith Youth Service

Sunday, April 13, 2008

1:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center

700 Cobbs Creek Parkway

(Catherine Street and Cobbs Creek Parkway)

Two hundred high school youth from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds will come together for the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia's 3rd Annual Day of Interfaith Youth Service, on Sunday, April 13. **Youth representing 30 congregations in the Philadelphia area will join in a day of interfaith environmental action. They will engage in dialogue about the shared religious value of 'taking care of the earth' and act on this value through work in the fields and streams of one of Philadelphia's greenest treasures: Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Center.** The afternoon includes stream cleaning, trail clearing, removing invasive vines, and reforesting native trees, followed by artistic reflection workshops including: poetry, collage, photography, movement, voice and drumming.

This event is sponsored by the **Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia** in cooperation with the **Fairmount Park Commission** of the City of Philadelphia, the **Philadelphia Green** program of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, **Neighborhood Interfaith Movement (NIM)**, the **Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Education Center** and the **Arts & Spirituality Center**.

This Day of Interfaith Youth Service is an extension of the Interfaith Center's ongoing service learning initiative, called *Walking the Walk*. Throughout the school year, 60 youth comprise three *Walking the Walk* groups, meeting twice/month for community service and dialogue, deepening respect and understanding and living out their common values, such as caring for those in need, hospitality, love your neighbor, and honoring the dignity of all. **The**

Interfaith Center's Day of Service is a means for youth of many backgrounds to learn about factors affecting an urban environment and the value of urban restoration and gardening. It also **provides 'a taste of interfaith service learning' to youth new to this concept.** The event has been planned, and will be led, by a Youth Leadership Team comprised of teens from the *Walking the Walk* groups.

Some of the congregations that will be participating with their youth are:

White Rock Baptist Church, Quba Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies, Al Aqsa Islamic Society School, Beth Am Israel synagogue, West Catholic High School, First United Methodist Church of Germantown, Mishkan Shalom synagogue, Chestnut Hill Presbyterian Church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Germantown Jewish Centre, Masjidullah, Masjid Mohammad, Main Line Reform Temple, Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Archbishop John Carroll, Villanova Foundation for Islamic Studies, BAWA Fellowship and the Bahai Fellowship,

EVENT DETAILS:

The Day of Service will begin at 1:30 PM with a welcome ceremony by an elected official and one or more civic leaders, the planting and dedication of a large ceremonial tree, and an interfaith activity. This will be followed by 2 ½ hours of work in fields and streams. After the work is completed, participants will engage in a choice of artistic reflection workshops. In closing, each youth will share their commitments to continue to care for the earth and to promote interfaith understanding.

THE INTERFAITH CENTER OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Creating communities of hope and reconciliation in workplaces, schools and neighborhoods is at the core of the Interfaith Center's vision. From grassroots to leadership, the Interfaith Center contributes to the area's strength and vitality through multi-faith collaboration, education, dialogue and service. The Interfaith Center's mission is to advance mutual trust, understanding and cooperation among faith communities, in order to work together for the common good of the region.