



ABOUT PARTNERS FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Partners for Livable Communities, incorporated in 1977, is a national civic organization working to improve the livability of communities by promoting quality of life, economic development and social equity. Partners helps our nation's communities set common visions for the future, discover and utilize their cultural and natural resources, and build public/private partnerships to realize their goals.

Serving as a national resource and information center, Partners is a catalyst for civic improvements through technical assistance, leadership training, workshops, research, advocacy and public awareness. More than 1,200 organizations throughout North America and abroad comprise Partner's resource network. These alliances produce a powerful force to affect positive change in our communities.

THE BRIDGE BUILDERS AWARD

Partners inaugurated the Bridge Builders Award in October 1997 to recognize outstanding individuals and institutions for building bridges of understanding and cooperation across social, economic, regional, and racial divides and creating fruitful and lasting partnerships for the betterment of their communities.

Inspiration for the award program came from the work of the late Dan Sweat in Atlanta, specifically the contributions he made to improve the fortunes of the inner city through his leadership of Central Atlanta Progress. His remarkable ability to bring downtown business leaders together to form public-private partnerships has resulted in vacant land being slated for mixed income housing and beautification of the city, that many consider the capital of the "New South." Sweat and his partner in government, the late Maynard Jackson, set a high standard that has been followed by fellow awardees from across the U.S. and abroad. Together, Sweat and Jackson devoted their skills and energies to unite the city's black and white communities, as well as the private and public sectors for the betterment of Atlanta.

In the spirit of Dan Sweat and Maynard Jackson, Partners seeks to shine a spotlight on those who are crossing social and political divides, bringing people together, and creating lasting partnerships that enrich their cities. In each case, award winners have demonstrated a commitment to create lasting change in the communities based on a strategy of collaboration.

Building bridges through the diversity of experience

The People of America Foundation was created in 1995 by Allan S. Kullen to promote Americans All[®], a national social sciences resource program that teaches democratic principles through the history of immigrant groups who peopled the United States. It aims to help students understand the social, economic and political value of America's diversity and to build bridges between all races, cultures, and social backgrounds. When Bob Knight was introduced to the program as Mayor of Wichita, the issue of racial reconciliation was one of his top priorities. He noted that while other programs were mostly confronting the issue after it was entrenched, Americans All[®] was attacking the problem at its source, engaging Wichita's youth early in the political history of the country through the experiences of immigrant groups.

Now, as Senior Consultant to the People of America Foundation, Bob Knight is working with Allan Kullen to make it as easy as possible for that information to be available throughout the United States. The employees of Todd Allan Printing donate their time and resources to ensure that the program's materials are available to all students. The staff provides support through editorial assistance, design, layout, Web site creation and management, and the printing of materials. The Foundation also provides staff development resources and state-specific data that can be used to broaden and customize the program's resources for individual school districts. The Foundation is also bringing educators together, creating a forum and community network where teachers can share lesson plans and experiences.

With the *No Child Left Behind Act* focusing on advancing basic math and reading, Allan Kullen, Bob Knight, and the dedicated employees of Todd Allan Printing work to ensure that the history and diversity of America is not overlooked nor forgotten. With its passion and commitment, the Foundation will continue to fight intolerance and build national unity by expanding its outreach beyond the 2,000 schools and libraries currently using the program into all social science classrooms across the country.



ALLAN S. KULLEN



Allan Kullen is President of the People of America Foundation and, for the past 29 years, has been President of Todd Allan Printing Co., Inc., a commercial printing company in Beltsville, Maryland. The Foundation promotes and distributes the Americans All® resources developed by Dr. Gail C. Christopher and Allan Kullen in 1988.

Kullen has been working to bring diversity and democratic traditions into the social science curriculum of America's educational system for over twenty years. His commitment started when he directed the research on the Images of Ellis Island project in 1982 for a national program created by the Coordinating Committee for Ellis Island, Inc. He formed the Portfolio Project, Inc., in 1983 to develop classroom resources on immigrant history to and through the United States. Due to his tireless efforts the Americans All® National Education Program was introduced to the country in 1991.



BOB KNIGHT



Bob Knight, the former seven-term mayor of Wichita, Kansas, is the Senior Consultant to the People of America Foundation. As Mayor, he encouraged the use of Americans All® and promoted its use in the Wichita school system for the last seven years. Knight's passion for the Americans All® program is rooted in years of advocacy for diversity and racial reconciliation in Kansas.

With 24 years of continuous public service in Wichita, Bob Knight has initiated and promoted many community-building projects. While President of the National League of Cities, *Undoing Racism* was launched in 2000. As Mayor, Wichita's *Building Bridges*, a program that increases respect among different races, cultures and religions, received the 2001 Innovation Award from the National League of Cities. In 2003, Knight was awarded the Gloria Hobson Nordin Equity Award in honor of his lifelong commitment to diversity and social justice.



THE EMPLOYEES OF TODD ALLAN PRINTING CO., INC.

The dedicated employees of Todd Allan Printing in Beltsville, Maryland, have been supporters of the Americans All® National Education Program since its inception. The staff provides support through editorial assistance, design, layout, Web site creation and management, and the printing of materials. Their commitment to the American values of tolerance and inclusiveness have enabled children throughout the United States to learn about their country's heritage.