

ACEH meeting will focus on bridging the gap

The Holland Sentinel

Posted Apr 06, 2009 @ 02:08 PM

Holland, MI —

Who's your neighbor? Who's your friend? What do you know about people from cultures different from your own? Do you go beyond a smile and saying hello? How often do you interact?

On Friday, April 10, the Alliance for Cultural and Ethnic Harmony will offer some ways to help bridge the gap that exists between different cultures and ethnic groups. Two local women, the Rev. Angela Taylor Perry, pastor of reconciling ministries at Faith Christian Reformed Church, and diversity trainer Eleanor Lopez, will lead the presentations and discussion.

The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Center for Women in Transition, 411 Butternut Drive. Those attending are asked to bring a dessert to share from their own ethnic background. Perry developed the "Hearts in Harmony" program, which matches people of different backgrounds who meet monthly over a year's time to share stories, opinions, and frank discussions about race and ethnicity. Several sets of "Hearts in Harmony" partners will talk about their experiences.

Lopez will lead an interactive exercise that uses different colors of jelly beans to illustrate who people have as friends, neighbors, and associates. This will be followed by a Cultural Competency Snapshot, and sharing by participants.

At this meeting, ACEH also will elect new members of its board of directors. For more information, call (616) 392-5086 or go to the ACEH Web site, www.harmonyalliance.org.