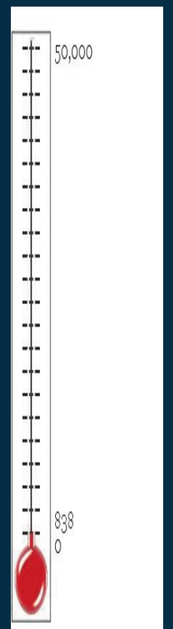
OUR GOAL
50,000 PLEDGES



TAKE THE PLEDGE TO SHRED THE HATE

I, _____,
pledge to eliminate the words "retard", "retarded", "retarded", and all other hateful speech. The use of these words is offensive to persons with intellectual disabilities, their friends, and families. I will join with the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council to condemn and fight to eliminate hate speech.

Return the signed pledge to: **Shred The Hate** Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council * 1033 S Washington Ave. * Lansing, MI 48910 or by Fax to (517) 334-7353

Congratulations on taking the pledge to **Shred The Hate** ! Now it's time to turn your commitment into action. There are many ways for you to get involved and help **Shred the Hate**. Below is a list of suggestions to help start you on your way. For additional information contact the council office at (517) 334-7240

1. Host a Shred The Hate Party
2. Organize a Pledge Day at School
3. Attend School Board Meetings
4. Speak out when you hear some one using offensive language
5. Attend RICC meetings in your community

Shred the Hate Issue 01 May 2011

May 9 Diversity Committee/Shred the Hate Meeting Notes

Present: Delta RICC, Huron RICC, Jackson RICC, Ontonagon RICC; Allen, Bidinger, Jackson, Liebetreu
Absent: Alger-Marquette, Allegan, Alpena, Baraga, Berrien, Calhoun, Cheboygan, Iosco, Kalamazoo, Manistee, Muskegon, Oakland, Washtenaw RICC

- **Delta RICC:** Collected 70 pledges at their dance. They plan to watch the DVD, Offense Taken, at their next RICC meeting. On Thursday they will present the **SHRED THE HATE** (STH) message at the Rapid River 5th grade. They have scheduled dates in Gladstone, Escanaba, and will participate in the Salvation Army Day. The RICC has purchased t-shirts .
- **Ontonagon RICC**: Will watch the DVD, Offense Taken, at their next meeting. They hope to work with senior citizens on the STH campaign.

Bullying and Suicide: Tandy Bidinger reported on the workshop she attended with Kevin Epling as the featured speaker. Epling has advocated for anti-bullying legislation and worked to bring the problems of bullying and teen suicide into the open. She also provided an update on pending bullying legislation. The Michigan Senate is considering a new anti-bullying law, but the bill still lacks important components such as reporting requirements and specific protections for groups that are often victimized by bullying and harassment, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender students. There is still time to amend this bill before it comes to a vote . Please call Senate leadership and ask them to pass a bill which creates real protections for Michigan students. Bidinger encouraged those present to begin to prepare stories which can be used for written testimony. Usually the turn-around time is short so its best to be prepared.

STH: Thurs, April 28, MDCH celebrated their annual "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day. Tedra Jackson, Diversity Committee, set up a STH display and collected 80 pledges! The youth, of all ages, were eager to participate and many invited Jackson to come to their schools to deliver the message! Jackson referred interested parties to their local RICCs.

Shred the Hate

PARTICIPATING RICCS

Alger-Marquette
Allegan
Alpena
Baraga
Berrien
Calhoun
Cheboygan
Delta
Huron
Iosco
Jackson
Kalamazoo
Kent
Manistee
Muskegon
Oakland
Ontonagon
Washtenaw

FACT
Up to three percent of the world's population have intellectual disabilities - that's 200 million people around the world. It's the largest disability population in the world.

this issue

Shred the Hate P.1
Iosco RICC P.2
Alpena RICC P.3
Huron RICC P.3

DD Council Launches Campaign to Eliminate Hate Speech

Across the nation advocates are campaigning against the word "retard", pledging to remove it from everyday vocabulary. Calling someone or something "Retard" is not a joke, or slang, its hate speech.

The Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council is attempting to change attitudes towards Michigan citizens who have intellectual disabilities by pledging to eliminate hate speech. Hate speech is a term for speech intended to degrade a person or group of people based on their race, gender, age, ethnicity, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. Hate speech makes threats, intimidates, harasses or is used to bully.

Shred The Hate (STH) is the Council's campaign to encourage Michigan citizens to eliminate hate speech from their vocabulary. All advocates, parents, students, and community members across the state are invited to participate and **Shred The Hate**.

In 1895 the word 'retard' was used to replace terms like idiot, moron, and imbecile. In fact it was the politically correct term for persons with what was called mental retardation. Fast forward to 2011, the word is now used to be hurtful, offensive, and derogatory for more than 190,000 Michigan children and adults with intellectual disabilities, their families and friends.

It is the council's goal to collect 50,000 pledges by March 2012. During the year there will be a variety of activities to gather pledges. Michigan citizens are encouraged to **Shred The Hate** in their communities all year long.

For additional information on the STH campaign, contact the council office at (517) 334-7240.

RICCs SHRED THE HATE

The **Iosco RICC's** is off to a strong start. The RICC combined the **STH** with an anti-bullying message and took the campaign to several schools in their area.

Sue Parent, RICC Chair, says she knows they are being successful in getting the message out "when one day while loading groceries at a market a young person called to me, "Hey Anti-bully lady!" I turned to look at who was calling to me and saw a young man with his grandma and sister.

He asked me how the **Shred The Hate** thing was going and asked if I was telling other kids to "stop bullying and talk nice?" I shared with our success at the schools.

"I really like what you said", he replied. I asked him how he was doing on his pledge to change his language and *be the change?"* he replied, "*I used to call people retard, but don't do that anymore*." This young person's statement reminds us of a quote by Carl Rodgers, "*that the only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn…and change."*

After hearing the STH message the student made a conscious effort to change his behavior.

Parent reports, Iosco RICC has collected **800 pledges** to date!

CHANGING STUDENTS ONE AT A TIME

Starting with schools is a great place to deliver the STH mesage. Teen-agers and young adults account for a significant proportion of the country's hate crimes both as perpetrators and as victims. Hateful attitudes and behaviors can escalate if left uncheck and most schools will welcome your presentation.

It's not too early to begin to make appointments for fall presentations.

Check with your local school to see if they are planning a **disability awareness day.** This may be an ideal time to introduce **STH.**

When going into schools check to see if the district has a photo release policy in place that would cover you. If not, send the photo release prior to your visit asking students to have signed and return by the specific date.

LEGISLATIVE LUNCH

The **Alpena RICC** joined the Council's Shred the Hate initiative.

As reported by Diversity Coordinator, Christine DesOrmeau, the RICC had a Legislative Luncheon April 18th to introduce the RICC and the Shred the Hate Campaign to their legislators. Sen. John Moolenaar and Rep. Peter Pettalia were both in attendance.

The RICCs happily collected 38 signed pledges!

DesOrmeau understands meeting with legislators is a most effective way to explain the importance of an issue or advocate for change.

These visits allows you to put a face to the issue and helps to establish a personal relationship with your legislator.

Alpena's next STH activity is May 18 when the RICC will make a presentation to the Junior Youth Department of St. Johns Baptist Church.

HURON NEWS

Huron RICC kicked off their **Shred The Hate** advocacy campaign with a massive email blitz. Emails are a great online marketing strategy to build relationships and get your message out to both new and existing advocates.

In addition to the emails, the RICCs have teamed with their local Thrift Store by placing a STH poster and pledge sheets inside the store. The business will collect signatures and report back to the RICC. This is a great way to form partnerships!

To keep RICC members motivated, Laurie White, coordinator, stated they are competing to see who collects the most pledges. The winner will receive a prize.

Future activities include going to the school and participating in a community day where the target audience is expected to be several hundred people! What a wonderful opportunity to gather pledges and promote the STH message.

RICCs SHRED THE HATE