

# COME TO FERGUSON TO SHARE YOUR LOVE WITH THE COMMUNITY, THE PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATORS AND THE POLICE!

#### **WHO WE ARE**

New Spirit of St. Louis is an open association of citizens who come from diverse cultural, ethnic, economic and occupational backgrounds who want to express love to all of the peaceful demonstrators, residents of Ferguson, law enforcement agencies and the businesses affected by the unfortunate shooting and death of 18 year old Michael Brown. We want to express our belief in a society where the color of ones skin, economic status and language do not determine ones destiny in a democratic society and we want to embrace all who find themselves at the crossroads of positive change in St. Louis. Transformation is not easy but the love of the community can ease the challenges.

#### WHAT WE WILL DO

Our goal is to bring together multicultural peace lovers who will be <u>dressed in white</u> and will march from Greater St. Marks Family Church through the community with messages of love. We will engage in conversations, spontaneous artistic expression and share our food from all over the world "breaking bread" with all that want to come.

Our goal is to touch hearts and to symbolically demonstrate the model for building community between all segments of Ferguson. This we know happens with broad cross-cultural engagement that is authentic and intimate.

We want St. Louis and the world to visually see and recognize New Spirit of St. Louis and know that there are many citizens who are grounded in inclusion, acceptance and active cross-cultural engagement based

on love and fellow-feeling. We are but a microcosm of an entire community in transformation!

## WHEN, WHERE AND WHAT TIME?

Monday, August 25 • 3:00 PM-6:00 PM Greater St. Marks Family Church 9950 Glen Owen, Ferguson 63136

Alternate Date: Tuesday, August 26 (same time and location)

#### WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

There is a need to let the various groups at ground zero "feel our love" and hear "our hearts." This can only be achieved by face-to-face engagement. The healing process can begin if there is tangible evidence that there is broad support coming from all directions. The demonstrators, residents and police need to feel this love unequivocally. What could do that more powerfully than to have a group of all nationalities and backgrounds.

Our mission is not political. (though we may have political views) Our mission is to show unequivocal love by our actions. We will sing as we march, shake hands even with those who seem beaten. We will talk to everyone with smiles and gestures of love meant to start the healing and we will perform as artists bringing the power of the arts to touch souls and to receive inspiration.

BE A PART OF FERGUSON HISTORY & FUTURE

We also invite you to be a part of the *Ferguson Canvas Project*, a yearlong effort led by Ferguson residents and peacemakers who want to transform our current story. The canvas project represents what Ferguson can demonstrate to the world: that we can start anew with the kind of world we want to create – to move from a place of violence, pain, and powerlessness to a place of peace, healing, and empowerment. The process of transformation is just beginning; we will need educators, neighborhood association leaders, social workers, artists of all kinds, healers, youth advocates and civic leaders to assist in participating in this creative process.

Contact fergusoncanvas@gmail.com if you'd like to help.

## YOU CAN:

- **1.** Bring your own signs with words of encouragement for a peaceful demonstration RIP for Michael Brown. (Not larger than 2ft by 3ft.)
- **2.** Express your artistic talent at any location where there are people. (Performances should not be more than 5-8 minutes so as not to distract from the protests and work of the police. You can move from one area to another to perform for others.)

# FOR INFORMATION YOU MAY CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

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