

# World Church of the Creator: One Year Later

A Special Report by the  
Center for New Community

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# **WORLD CHURCH OF THE CREATOR: ONE YEAR LATER**

## **A Center for New Community Special Report**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

One year after the deadly Midwest shooting spree by World Church of the Creator (WCOTC) activist Benjamin Smith, the organization remains a magnet for young, volatile white supremacists. Through a barrage of speeches, publications, and events, WCOTC leaders equip young recruits with the ideological ammunition to commit further acts of racist mayhem and terror.

The latest Center for New Community report, *World Church of the Creator: One Year Later* provides a complete picture of one of America's most violent white supremacist groups. The report reveals that:

- To menace communities on the one-year anniversary of the death of killer Benjamin Smith, the WCOTC is planning a "Ben Smith Literature Blitz" for Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2000. WCOTC activists are planning to distribute a special "Benjamin Smith flier" en masse.
- Since the July 1999 Midwest killing spree, the World Church of the Creator expanded from 41 to 76 chapters, an increase of 85%. WCOTC now has chapters in a total of 25 states and 5 foreign countries.
- Trying to turn the "Land of Lincoln" into an Aryan homeland, WCOTC has established its most active network in Illinois with 11 chapters. WCOTC is active in Berwyn, Bourbonnais, Decatur, East Peoria, Rantoul, Chicago, Springfield, and Wilmette. According to one member, "Our presence in Illinois will allow us to virtually conquer the state."
- WCOTC is recruiting amongst violent inmates. WCOTC chapters based in prison have increased from 3 to 16. Prison contacts include inmates convicted on charges ranging from murder to forgery, and from assault to drug possession.
- WCOTC has created a niche for female white supremacists by forming two women's groups. The Sisterhood of the WCOTC has grown from 3 to 6 chapters in the past year, while the Women's Frontier has grown from 2 to 4 chapters. The WCOTC is unique among white supremacist groups in its successful recruitment among young women.
- WCOTC members have been busy spreading the hate-filled message of "creativity." 28 communities in 11 states have been hit with WCOTC "literature drops" in the past year. The group has conducted 20 different rallies and public events in the past year.
- WCOTC leaders continue to promote violence. Despite WCOTC leader Matt Hale's familiar mantra that the WCOTC is 'non-violent' and 'legal', his rhetoric has continued to encourage violence. In a recent hotline message, he dehumanized Jewish people as "parasites" that need to be "expelled" from "the racial body," stating that, "The only real question at this point is whether the Jews are going to be literally swatted, or whether they are going to go peacefully."
- Concerned individuals can help curb the growth of violent white supremacist groups like WCOTC by preparing for potential white supremacist activity, breaking the silence, speaking out, facing the fear together, and organizing for the long haul. Youth, in particular, need to be equipped to handle recruitment initiatives by white supremacist groups.

## WCOTC: One Year Later

On Friday, July 2, 1999, World Church of the Creator (WCOTC) leader Matt Hale lost his well-publicized appeal to practice law in Illinois. Just hours later WCOTC member Benjamin "August" Smith began a deadly three-day rampage of racially motivated violence.

Targeting Orthodox Jews in the Rogers Park area of Chicago, Smith's bullets wounded six people leaving Sabbath services at Congregation Adas Yeshurun on W. Touhy Ave. He then traveled north to Skokie where he fatally shot Ricky Byrdsong, former Northwestern basketball coach, as he walked with his children. Smith then drove to Northbrook, where he shot at, but missed, an Asian-American couple.

By midday July 3, Smith made his way downstate to Springfield, where he fired at two black men, missing them both. In Decatur a few hours later, he shot and wounded Rev. Stephen Anderson. In Urbana late that night, he shot and seriously wounded Steven Kuo, a student at the University of Illinois.

On Sunday, July 4, exactly one year after he first distributed WCOTC literature around Bloomington, Indiana, Smith fired into a crowd entering the Korean United Methodist Church. Won Joon Yoon, a graduate student at the University of Indiana, was killed. Smith fled the scene, eventually carjacking a vehicle in Ina, Illinois. Police then chased him into Salem, Illinois, where he took his own life.

One year later, the same group that provided the ideological ammunition to the killer is planning a massive hate brochure distribution campaign to commemorate the killer. The World Church of the Creator is organizing a "Ben Smith Literature Blitz" for July 4, 2000.

To help communities prepare for this latest WCOTC onslaught, the Center has developed this special report, *WCOTC: One Year Later*. Contained in the report is: an analysis of the WCOTC since the Smith killing spree; a chronology of WCOTC activity since July 4, 1999; the location of WCOTC chapters and contacts; the history of the WCOTC; and recommendations for community response.

### BEING CREATIVE

The World Church of the Creator claims to be a religious order. The "theology" of the WCOTC, known as "Creativity" teaches that Adolf Hitler "was one of the greatest White men who ever lived," and that the Holocaust never happened. Its admiration of Hitler is grounded in rabid anti-Semitism, but it is not a collection of stereotypical Brown-Shirted neo-Nazis. Creativity is *different*.

Melding a romanticized history of ancient Rome with old-fashioned American bigotry and violence, the rambling volumes of Church of the Creator founder Ben Klassen take thousands of pages to explain that the only thing followers should worship is "the White Race [sic]."

The WCOTC is set apart from most of the rest of the contemporary white supremacist movement in the U.S. by its explicitly anti-Christian stance, contending that Christianity is a Jewish plot. Creativity teaches members that minorities are "mud races," inferior to white people, and that blacks are "not far above monkeys and chimpanzees."

While claiming to be non-violent, Creativity teaches to "hate and destroy your enemies." These acts of demonization and dehumanization are to prepare Creators for RAHOWA! – Racial Holy War – the genocidal outpouring of violence to cleanse people of color and Jews from the planet. Not

surprisingly, Creators have a long history of violence – assaults, firebombing an NAACP office, murder, not limited to last summers bloody shooting spree.

With his glasses, overly starched short-sleeve dress shirts and plain ties, 28 year-old Matt Hale gives his organization a bookish, pseudo-respectable façade. Behind the scenes, however, the WCOTC continues to attract some of the most violent recruits of the white supremacist movement.

### **GROWING PAINS: WCOTC EXPANSION**

The past year has been busy for Matt Hale and the World Church of the Creator: conducting twenty different rallies and public events, developing two public access television shows, publishing several different newsletters, launching a radio program, and appearing on virtually every major media outlet in the country. WCOTC members have distributed hate literature in 28 areas in 11 states (Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Massachusetts, Montana, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Washington, and Wisconsin).

The group is organized by local chapters, or “contact points.” It also has two women’s groups, the “Women’s Frontier” and the “Sisterhood.” Local activists are required to follow the leadership of Hale - the “Pontifex Maximus” or supreme leader.

Since July 1999, the WCOTC organization has expanded from 41 to 76 contact points (an increase of 85%). There are an additional 4 cities that have WCOTC activists, but that do not have listed contact point addresses, bringing the total number of chapters to 80 (*For complete contact point information, see the map on page 19*).

WCOTC now has contact points in 25 states: Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin. In addition, WCOTC claims contact points in the Australia, Belgium, Sweden Canada, and France.

Drawing on older bigots like long-time Chicago neo-Nazi Art Jones and Aryan Book Center owner John McLaughlin, along with a new cadre of young organizers, WCOTC has established its strongest racist network in the state of Illinois. There are 11 chapters (including 4 contact points, 2 prison contacts, 2 women’s groups, and 3 other groups) in the state. That figure is up from 4 in 1999. At least seventeen Illinois communities have been littered with hate propaganda in the past year.

In 1998, Hale put out a call for Creators to move to Illinois (See the Center report *State of Hate 1998-1999*). Ohio Creator Kenneth Molyneaux recently echoed the call, exhorting members to move to the state to create a “Creator Community” around the World Headquarters in East Peoria. According to Molyneaux, “Our presence in Illinois will allow us to virtually conquer the state.”

There are two primary reasons for World Church of the Creator expansion.

First, WCOTC has been extremely busy over the past year. While a very small number of activists do all the work, the *appearance* of movement causes potential recruits to gravitate to the organization.

Second, there is a virtual absence of competition. With the implosion of groups like the Aryan Nations and White Aryan Resistance, WCOTC has a near-monopoly on a certain niche of younger white supremacists – the violence-prone “revolutionary” wing of the movement between the outdated ceremonialism of the Ku Klux Klan and the pan-Aryan elitism of the National Alliance.

Demographically, the group continues to recruit among disaffected white youth. At a July 23, 1999 gathering at the world headquarters Hale spoke about the WCOTC strategy. “We are offering our

people something very new, and the youth are flocking to it.... We're not trying to win people over in their seventy's. The old have had their day. It is time to make room for the young, and certainly, we are trying to bring the younger, the better, into our cause."

Leading the WCOTC expansion is its prison outreach and its women's auxiliary. Under the guise of religious "ministry," WCOTC prison membership has expanded considerably, particularly among violent offenders. Prison contact points increased from 3 to 16 in the past year, thanks to initiatives like *Heritage & Faith*, a new publication for Creators behind bars developed by Arkansas activist Raymond Barrett.

Incarcerated violent offenders serving as WCOTC contacts include "Reverend" Larry Harper - currently serving a life sentence for 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder in Milton, Florida. The new Pontiac, Illinois WCOTC contact point, Sabin Lewis, is serving a 40-year prison sentence for Murder. Recent convert Keith Rozhon is serving a 25-year sentence for attempted murder, home invasion, and armed robbery in Sheridan, Illinois.

Other WCOTC members have previously seen prison time. Montana leader Rudy "Butch" Stanko served a prison sentence for selling "adulterated and mislabeled meats" to school lunch programs in 1984. Stanko was recently denied permission to distribute WCOTC literature to female prisoners by the Montana State Supreme Court. Northwest leader Jason LaRue was arrested in 1995 for assaulting an African-American and an Asian student in Washington State.

Unlike many other white supremacist groups, WCOTC has successfully created a niche for female activists. WCOTC leaders explicitly encourage and recruit women to become members and "Reverends." Although women play more of a role in the WCOTC than most other white supremacist groups, female Creators are by no means feminists. WCOTC Women's Information Coordinator Lisa Turner explains, "It must be emphasized that while we recognize that women can play a variety of roles within the Church, Nature's Eternal laws clearly show that men and women are not 'equal'. They are not 'alike' - a truly anti-woman idea which the Jew feminists such as Gloria SteinMAN [sic] and Betty Friedan have pushed onto our brainwashed womenfolk. We recognize that the highest and most natural role for a woman is as a mother to White children, raising them in a home filled with love, discipline, order and racial education and pride." (Women's Frontier website).

To this end, there are two networks of women within the WCOTC, one for support of current female members and one dedicated to recruiting new women into the WCOTC.

The Sisterhood of the WCOTC labors to help "all White Racial Females to take a more active role within the Creativity movement" (*Sisterhood of the WCOTC*, issue 3). Its leaders produce a bi-monthly newsletter, host a website, and act as a discussion forum for 'women's issues' within the WCOTC. Since June of 1999, the Sisterhood has doubled in size – expanding from 3 to 6 chapters.

The Women's Frontier of the WCOTC, on the other hand, "is dedicated to spreading the word of Creativity to White women worldwide through racial support, education, and outreach" (*Sisterhood of the WCOTC*, issue 2). Included in the Women's Frontier's list of upcoming projects are a children's coloring book and a home school curriculum. The Women's Frontier grew from 2 chapters to 4 in the past year.

An organizational growth spurt isn't always easy, and support from new WCOTC members has been limited. Despite his desperate pleas for support when Hale held rally at Northwestern University in January, only three Creators joined him. When it was "mandatory" for Midwestern Creators to attend the "Public Meetings" in Peoria and Mattoon this spring, fewer than a dozen showed up at either event. Nonetheless, the WCOTC has a small core of committed activists who would do anything demanded by the Pontifex Maximus.

Massive media attention in the wake of the Smith shootings undoubtedly increased the visibility of the WCOTC, and attracted some new members. The attention has not always been to the groups advantage. Post-shooting scrutiny caused several long-time members to abandon Creativity. For instance, Kelly Daniels, the former WCOTC webmaster, abdicated his position and left the group. The media spotlight kept many other potential recruits away, particularly those who did not want to belong to an organization known for trouble. Law enforcement investigations and community efforts to shun the group have also kept membership growth in check.

The publicity also created controversy within WCOTC ranks. Internally, many worry that Hale, the concert violinist, is fiddling while his new Rome burns. Media appearances and lawsuits have been a wasteful distraction, according to some former and current WCOTC members. One female Creator privately refers to Hale as "Pontifig Bananamus" and describes him as "not the most fun guy to be around." Due to the number of individuals leaving WCOTC because of Hale's leadership style (or lack thereof), she predicts, "he will slowly fade away[sic]."

### CREATIVE DOUBLESPEAK

Almost as an afterthought, Matt Hale always adds the standard disclaimer to his writings and presentations that WCOTC is a "non-violent" organization. Given the violent history of the WCOTC, that claim is certainly disingenuous. Since the 1999 shootings, Hale's violent rhetoric has strayed far from his "we're non-violent" mantra.

In a private WCOTC meeting on July 23, 1999, Hale couldn't hold back his rage. His speech to the small group of Creators in attendance threatened, "If you continue to allow niggers to run rough-shod over our people, violence will occur."

Just two weeks after the shootings, as the intense media scrutiny of the organization subsided, Hale returned to his battle cry – that people of color must be "eliminated" in a racial holy war:

If people are willing to die for their soil, willing to die for money, willing to die for fame, then certainly we must be willing to offer that sacrifice if it came to it, for our own blood, for our own family, our White family, our White Race. We intend to push people off the fence, we are doing this, we will continue to do it, we will sit people down and tell them they only have two choices, ultimately. They are either with the White Race or they are against the White Race. No one can say that it is good for the White Race to be integrated with the niggers and other mud people, no one can say that it is good for White people to give our money to the non-Whites, no one can say that it is good to mongrelize with the non-Whites. These travesties must be destroyed, these symptoms of decay must be eliminated and the causes must be eliminated as well. My Brothers and Sisters, let us go forward, let us continue to fight for what is right, let us win this Racial Holy War. RAHOWA! (WCOTC Hotline, July 27, 1999).

As summer turned to autumn, Hale returned to his violent rhetoric. In an October 1999 hotline message he extolled the virtue of hatred and the necessity to destroy the impediments to a white world:

One of the many particulars that distinguish our World Church of the Creator from the other White racial organizations is the fact that we Creators refuse to shun what has been called a "negative emotion": hatred. On the contrary, we Creators recognize that in order to create, one must first often destroy what stands in the way in the process, and necessarily, in order to destroy, the emotion of hatred must be involved. To think otherwise is folly. To think and express the idea that we don't hate the Jews and mud races but only "love our own" is a flight from reality--one which many in the White racial struggle all too often choose to indulge in (WCOTC Hotline, October 5, 1999).

In a more recent telephone hotline message, Hale mixes metaphors to unleash a particularly violent anti-Semitic outburst. He dehumanizes Jewish people as parasites that need to be "expelled" from the "racial body" and predicts that they will be killed like "mosquitoes":

On this week's message, I wish to discuss the eternal enemy of peoples and races: the Jew. I do this because I know that there are still those who do not understand why we oppose this tribe. The reason why we oppose the Jew is the same reason why a deer opposes the tick and a horse opposes a mosquito. We oppose the Jew because, like a tick and like a mosquito, the Jew is a parasite. He lives off of other peoples not of his Race. He is not a producer, but rather, a destroyer. The Jew pretends to be an "American" or a "White man", while in reality, the Jew is a parasite that sucks the lifeblood from our people. He therefore necessarily must be opposed at all costs...we of the World Church of the Creator naturally do not want this parasite within our racial body. We wish to expel the Jew from our racial body and render him harmless. The Jews can call this "anti-semitism" [sic] all they want. We call it simple self-preservation. The only real question at this point is whether the Jews are going to be literally swatted, or whether they are going to go peacefully. If history is any guide, it will probably be the former (WCOTC Hotline, June 12, 2000).

Apparently, his followers are listening. Since the shootings, a number of other WCOTC members have been charged or convicted of violent crimes. Shortly after the shooting, WCOTC "Reverend" Jody Mathis was arrested for selling a stolen gun. After Mathis was arrested, Hale announced that he hadn't been a WCOTC member for several months, just as he denied that Ben Smith had been active in WCOTC. On November 19, 1999, Florida WCOTC leader James Fettu and three supporters were convicted of attacking two men who would not accept WCOTC fliers they were distributing outside of a Megadeth concert. Just days before the scheduled April 22, 2000, WCOTC "Public Meeting" in Mattoon, Illinois, the event organizer, Sean Patrick O'Connell, was arrested on a sexual assault charge. In June, Rudy "Butch" Stanko was arrested on charges stemming from an altercation in which he allegedly handcuffed a woman to a staircase and refused to release her.

## **CONCLUSION**

At the one-year anniversary of the Midwest shootings, it is imperative that we not forget the victims – those who lost their lives, those injured, and those frightened and intimidated by the presence of white supremacist violence in their communities. We must also never forget that the threat of violence from the World Church of the Creator remains with us today.

Fortunately, the World Church of the Creator is not the only thing to have grown since the shootings last year. As witnessed by the tremendous response during the CNC-sponsored "Journey Against Hate" last year, community anti-bigotry groups have blossomed across the region. In suburbs, rural areas and big cities, people are forming broad-based coalitions dedicated to countering white supremacist activity by breaking the silence, speaking out and organizing for the long haul to face the fear together. Perhaps the most encouraging development has been an upsurge of young people willing to organize themselves and their peers to challenge the bigotry being promoted by groups like WCOTC.

As memory of the horrific events last summer fades, the Center for New Community will carry on being a resource for all those midwestern communities continuing the long journey against hate.

## CHRONOLOGY OF HATE: WCOTC ACTIVITY JULY 1999 - JULY 2000

*The following is a chronological list of World Church of the Creator activities in the past year, since the shootings last July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. The list includes all known marches, rallies, public meetings, leafleting, literature publication, legal activity, and other items of interest. The list comes from information gathered from WCOTC publications and events, activist reports, field sources, and media reports.*

*For more information on the Benjamin Smith killing spree and the World Church of the Creator, see the CNC/AJC Special Report, "Creating" A Killer: A Background Report On Benjamin "August" Smith and The World Church Of The Creator. The report is available online at [www.newcomm.org/smith](http://www.newcomm.org/smith)*

### **July 6, 1999**

Hale speaks publicly on the Benjamin Smith shooting spree. "As far as we're concerned, the loss is one white man." When asked if he felt bad about Smith's victims, hale replied, "No, our founder Ben Klassen said that we must have compassion only for our own kind. We can have compassion for animals, but animals aren't a threat to us. The blacks and the non-whites are taking this country right from under us. We are becoming a niggerfied (sic), Jewified (sic), mongolfied (sic) country and it's disgusting. We have to stop it."

### **July 7, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Lexington, Massachusetts.

### **July 16, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Waukegan, Illinois.

### **July 21, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Schaumburg and Palatine, Illinois

### **July 22, 1999**

The Journey Against Hate, co-sponsored by the Center for New Community, stops outside of the WCOTC's World Headquarters in East Peoria, Illinois. Matt Hale holds up a copy of *The White Man's Bible* while religious and civic leaders hold a vigil outside.

### **July 23, 1999**

Hale holds a meeting at the World Headquarters in East Peoria. Commenting on the death of Ben Smith, he states, "But, we will not condemn this man as our enemies would want us to do. We will say, resoundingly, that he was worth not only 2 muds, but a hundred million muds. That he was worth much more that what he sacrificed and what he did. I am happy to say that he was my friend and was my comrade in this struggle."

### **July 27, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Emerald Hills, Florida.

### **July 30, 1999**

A "memorial service" for "fallen brother" Benjamin Smith is held in East Peoria.

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed around Edison grammar school and the Holliday Hills neighborhood in Pekin, Illinois.

### **August 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Oak Park and Cicero, Illinois.

**August 1, 1999**

A new WCOTC contact point opens in Carmichael, California.

**August 5, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Northbrook, Illinois.

**August 7, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Brookfield, Illinois.

**August 8, 1999**

The WCOTC announces that it will begin a recruiting drive around St. Louis, Missouri. Hale claims, "As much as it might be 130 years after the Civil War, there are a lot of people in St. Louis who think the South was right. It's the gateway to Dixie."

**August 11, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Highland Park, Illinois.

**August 24, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Anderson, Ohio.

**August 27, 1999**

Matt Hale is fired from his position as a violinist in the Milliken-Decatur Symphony Orchestra.

**September 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in River Grove, Illinois.

**September 4, 1999**

WCOTC members meet in Superior, Montana, for the annual Northwest WCOTC Rendezvous. In response to questions about recent violence by members, Hale repeatedly stated WCOTC does not support violence, but then added that our current multicultural society "must be destroyed, and we will destroy it." Hale predicted 40-50 members would attend the annual meeting at Reverend Slim Deardorff's shack. However, fewer than 25 Creators from Illinois, New York, Idaho, Washington State, and Montana showed up (Montana Human Rights Network).

**September 13, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are found in the mailboxes of nearly 600 law students at the University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign.

**September 14, 1999**

Richard Mayers distributes copies of *The Facts...* in Berwyn, Illinois. After he is arrested for littering, he is sent to the Madden Mental Health Clinic.

**September 15, 1999**

Chicago Anti Racist Action holds a rally outside the home of WCOTC literature distributor Richard Mayers in Berwyn, Illinois. Mayers, who lives with his mother, chants "Jews Out!" at the 30 protestors.

**October 1, 1999**

New WCOTC contact points open in Ina, Illinois, and Thamesford, Ontario.

**October 6, 1999**

Judge Luther Dearborn rules that Illinois State University's Global Review program did not violate a contract when they cancelled plans for Hale to speak on "The Hypocrisy of Democracy" earlier that year. Hale's invitation to speak was withdrawn when the program learned of his racist views.

**October 7, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Decatur, Illinois.

**October 12, 1999**

Creator Richard Mayers announces plans to run for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional Seat. If elected, he promises to "outlaw interracial marriage, deport black prisoners to Africa, and abolish the metric system."

**October 15, 1999**

Matt Hale speaks to students at the University of Montana.

**October 16, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Puyallup, Washington.

**October 17, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Evanston, Illinois.

**October 19, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed on Northwestern University's Evanston, Illinois, campus. Hale calls the distribution "ministry".

**October 26, 1999**

WCOTC sends a letter to Northwestern University asking to become a campus religious group.

**October 31, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**November 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in La Grange, Illinois, Hinsdale, Illinois, and Riverside, Illinois.

**November 2, 1999**

WCOTC members Christine Weiss and Justin Frogge appear in court on a littering charge stemming from their distribution of *The Facts...* in Highland Park, Illinois. Their motion to dismiss is denied. The two ask for a jury trial, which is then set for November 19. They are accompanied by Hale and Aryan Book Center owner John McLaughlin.

**November 4, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Highland Park, Illinois.

**November 6, 1999**

1,000 copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Highland Park, Illinois.

**November 7, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Peabody, Massachusetts.

**November 11, 1999**

The Illinois Supreme Court announces that it will not review Hale's appeal for his law license.

**November 18, 1999**

Hale and 3 other WCOTC members demonstrate outside of Stephen Decatur High School in Decatur, Illinois.

**November 19, 1999**

Creators Christine Weiss and Justin Frogge plead guilty to littering charges. They are each fined \$500.

Florida WCOTC leader James Fettu and three supporters are convicted of attacking two men who would not accept fliers they were distributing outside of a Megadeth concert.

**November 21, 1999**

WCOTC holds a rally in Nelson Park in Decatur, Illinois. Approximately 50 supporters and 25 demonstrators show up.

**December 1, 1999**

A new WCOTC contact point opens in Akron, Ohio.

**December 9, 1999**

Chicago Anti Racist Action holds a rally outside the home of WCOTC activist Justin Frogge. Frogge and his cohorts wielded a baseball bat, an axe, and a golf club to threaten the 35 ARA members gather in the street.

**December 19, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Skokie, Illinois.

**December 4, 1999**

Hale speaks to a group of "Creators and other Racial Loyalists" on Whidbey Island, Washington. The speech was part of a celebration commemorating the death of Robert Mathews, leader of the racist terrorist organization The Order, who was killed in a stand off with Federal Agents there in 1984 (Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity).

**December 12, 1999**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Brookfield, Illinois.

**December 23, 1999**

Matt Hale is temporarily banned from demonstrating on or near school grounds in Decatur, Illinois.

**January 1, 2000**

The winners of the 1999 'Creator of the Year' award are announced. They include Massachusetts Creators Robert Griffin and Valerie Walsh, Chicago Creators Christine Weiss, John Schlisman, and Justin Frogge, Northwest Regional Director Dan Hassett, and Washington state Creators Jason and Melody LaRue.

The WCOTC begins selling "Brother Smith In Memoriam" t-shirts. The back features a picture of Benjamin Smith below the words "Out First Amendment martyr". The front features the logo of the WCOTC, complete with the "RAHOWA!" slogan, and the phrase "Delenda Est Judaica", Latin for "Judaism must be destroyed".

New WCOTC contact points open in Youngstown, Ohio, Boston, Massachusetts, Rio Rancho, New Mexico, and Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

**January 7, 2000**

Hale brings a complaint against the Illinois Department of Revenue seeking a permanent injunction to prevent the department from collecting taxes from the WCOTC.

**January 10, 2000**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

**January 21, 2000**

Matt Hale and three other WCOTC members demonstrate outside Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. A befuddled Richard Mayers arrives on scene late after the crowd disperses.

**February 2000**

Richard Mayers fails in his attempt to get three racist referenda on the ballot in Berwyn, Illinois. He is only able to garner 31 of the necessary 270,000 signatures required.

Akron, Ohio, Creator Kenneth A. Molyneaux is 'ordained' into the WCOTC.

**February 1, 2000**

New WCOTC contact points open in Cullowhee, North Carolina, Abilene, Texas, and Midway, Texas.

**February 2, 2000**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in Tolono, Illinois.

**February 5, 2000**

Judge Robert Barnes dismisses the case brought against the Illinois Department of Revenue by Hale.

**February 8, 2000**

Judge Julia Nowicki dismisses the lawsuit brought by Attorney General Jim Ryan against the WCOTC. The suit would have frozen WCOTC assets while the courts decided whether or not it is actually a charitable trust.

**February 10, 2000**

Hale petitions the U.S. Supreme Court to hear an appeal in his struggle to gain a law license from the Illinois Bar Association.

**February 17, 2000**

Hale speaks to an "Ethics and Social Responsibility" class at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

**February 20, 2000**

The first annual "Klassen Blitz Day"; Creators distribute literature in Montana, Connecticut, and North Carolina to celebrate WCOTC founder Ben Klassen's birthday.

**February 22-25, 2000**

A hearing is held on Hale's appeal's regarding his temporary ban from protesting within 50 feet of Decatur high schools.

**February 2000**

Ohio Creator Kenneth Molyneaux produces and airs "The Creator Hour" on public access television in Akron, Ohio.

**March 1, 2000**

The first episode of "White Revolution", the WCOTC public access television show, airs in East Peoria. The subject of the first show is "The Truth about Ben Smith."

The WCOTC announces two new publications; a prison newsletter and *Heritage and Faith*, a "newsletter that discusses life from the perspective of Creators."

Akron, Ohio, Creator Kenneth A. Molyneaux calls for members to move to Illinois to create a "Creator Community" around the World Headquarters in East Peoria. According to Molyneaux, "Our presence in Illinois will allow us to virtually conquer the state."

A new WCOTC contact point opens in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

**March 2, 2000**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in North Shore, Massachusetts.

**March 11, 2000**

The WCOTC holds its first "Public Meeting" in the Peoria Public Library in East Peoria. The topic of the speech given by Hale is "Why We Oppose the Jews." Approximately 30 supporters attend, including a gun-toting Chicago Creator John Schlissman.

**March 21, 2000**

Creator John Schlissman is tried for littering charges stemming from his distribution of copies of *The Facts...* in Deerfield, Illinois. He is found guilty and fined \$750.

**March 28, 2000**

Copies of *The Facts...* are distributed in New Berlin, Wisconsin.

**April 2000**

Mattoon, Illinois, Creator Sean Patrick O'Connell is arrested on sexual assault charges.

**April 1, 2000**

New WCOTC contact points open in Chicago, Illinois; Mattoon, Illinois; St. Cloud, Minnesota; Huntersville, North Carolina; Groveton, Texas; and Bristol, Indiana.

**April 4, 2000**

Rev. Stephen Anderson, an African American minister wounded in Benjamin Smith's shooting spree, files suit against Hale and the WCOTC.

**April 22, 2000**

Chicago Creator John Schlissman and Milwaukee Creator Lisa Russell are "ordained" as "Reverends" in the WCOTC (having successfully passed the 100 question Creativity quiz).

The WCOTC holds its second public meeting in the Mattoon Public Library in Mattoon, Illinois. The subject of Hale's speech is "The Black Plague: How the Black Race Has Destroyed America and What We Can Do About It." Creators Chris Peterson, Bill Krueger, John Schlissman, and Lisa Russell join Hale at the front of the auditorium.

**April 26, 2000**

Judge James Hendrian denies a motion to waive the cost of court transcripts Hale had requested to appeal his barring from being within 50 feet of Decatur schools.

WCOTC and Ku Klux Klan activists disrupt a vigil hosted by Jesse Jackson in Wallingford, Connecticut.

**May 1, 2000**

New WCOTC contact points open in Trenton, New Jersey; Albuquerque, New Mexico; Sleepy Hollow, New York; Tennessee Colony, Texas; and Unley, Australia.

**May 2, 2000**

The Church of the Creator, an Oregon-based Christian group, files suit against the WCOTC, claiming that the WCOTC infringed upon the trademark of their name.

**May 16, 2000**

A hearing is held on Matt Hale's car insurance. United Equitable Insurance had recently cancelled Hale's policy, citing his "celebrity risk status." Hale appeals the decision and forces United Equitable to hold a hearing on the matter.

**May 17, 2000**

Hale announces that the WCOTC will hold a second public meeting in Mattoon, Illinois, on July 8<sup>th</sup>.

**May 28, 2000**

Matt Hale speaks at Nordic Fest, a two-day, rain-drenched white power music festival hosted by the Imperial Klans of America and held in Powderly, Kentucky. In his ten-minute speech, Hale remarked, "The Jews will think that Adolf Hitler was a liberal when we have our day." The festival attracted nearly three hundred white supremacists from around the country.

**May 31, 2000**

Judge Julia M. Nowicki reaffirmed her February decision that dismissed Attorney General Jim Ryan's suit against the WCOTC challenging its status as a charity.

**June 1, 2000**

The WCOTC announces that its next "Public Meeting" will be in Peoria, Illinois, on June 17. The topic of Hale's speech will be "Racial Loyalty or Racial Treason."

New WCOTC contact points open in Sheridan, Illinois, Fairfield, Connecticut, Okeechobee, Florida, Macy, New York, Salt Lake City, Utah, Ichtegem, Belgium, and Saint-Breuce, France.

**June 5, 2000**

Montana Creator Rudy Stanko, former head of the WCOTC, pleads not guilty to charges stemming from allegedly handcuffing a woman to a staircase and refusing to release her.

**June 7, 2000**

Hale wins back his 'non-celebrity' status with United Equitable Insurance.

**June 12, 2000**

In his weekly hotline message, Hale compares Jews to "parasites."

**June 16, 2000**

Hale announces a July 4<sup>th</sup> "Ben Smith Literature Blitz". "I call on you to distribute literature on Tuesday, July 4 to show the world that we White Racial Loyalists spit in the eye of the Jews, traitors, and mud cohorts. Show them that we do not retreat, regardless of their lies and attempts to instill 'guilt' in us for the acts of a man who possessed more 'character' than 90% of the population."

**June 17, 2000**

The WCOTC holds a public meeting in the Peoria Public Library, Lakeview Branch, in Peoria, Illinois. The meeting featured a 42-minute speech by Hale on "Racial Loyalty or Racial Treason." Aside from being delayed by a bomb threat phoned in to the library, the meeting proceeds without a problem.

**June 20, 2000**

The first edition of "The Matt Hale Show" airs on KNFX radio in Phoenix, Arizona.

**June 21, 2000**

*White Revolution*, the public access television show produced by the WCOTC, begins airing in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO TARGETED COMMUNITIES

*The following are suggestions for communities concerned about World Church of the Creator activity. For additional information, resources, and organizing support, contact the Center for New Community.*

**Prepare your community** – On July 4, 2000 World Church of the Creator activists plan to distribute racist and anti-Semitic flyers neighborhoods around the country. Distribution occurs in the middle-of-the-night, with drive-by leafleting. The hate literature is often wrapped in orange plastic bags, making it look like a normal newspaper. To find out if your community is a potential target, learn about the group and spread the word before it happens. Obtain additional copies of this report and distribute them to local community leaders, including government officials, law enforcement agencies, community groups and religious leaders. Additional copies of this report can be obtained from the Center for New Community. It is also available at our website – [www.newcomm.org](http://www.newcomm.org). You can also organize a neighborhood night watch to spot potential trouble.

**Break the silence** -- If literature is distributed in your area, let people know. Contact local law enforcement, anti-bigotry organizations like the Center for New Community, the Northwest Coalition for Human Dignity, the Southern Institute, the American Jewish Committee or other groups in your area, and your neighbors. WCOTC members, and other white supremacists, view silence as a green light to conduct further organizing.

**Speak out** -- Just as groups like the WCOTC have a “free speech” right to spew their message, it is the free speech responsibility of those who care about human dignity to challenge the bigotry spread by the WCOTC, and all similar groups. Develop and distribute your own literature. Hold your own public events.

WCOTC just launched a weekly radio show entitled "The Matt Hale show", airing live in Phoenix, Arizona, on KFNX Radio, 1100AM. If you live where the show broadcasts, let the radio station know how you feel about the program. KFNX Radio - North American Broadcasting Co. 2001 N. 3rd St., #102 Phoenix, AZ 85004 (602) 277-1100 Noambrdcst@aol.com. If you feel that Hale's language violates community standards, you can report this violation to the Federal Communications Commission: Mass Media Bureau, 2nd Floor, 445 12th Street SW, Washington DC, 20554. 202-418-2700.

**Face the fear together** – In addition to recruiting, another reason white supremacist groups like the WCOTC distribute flyers in the middle-of-the-night is to intimidate and isolate community residents. When literature is distributed in your community, get together and go door-to-door to pick up the literature. Doing so allows community members to know how many homes received the hate literature. It also provides an opportunity to get to know your neighbors better and to have a dialogue about hate activity and how you can work together to stop it.

**Encourage Youth Peer-based anti-bigotry organizing** – Groups like the WCOTC increasingly target young people for recruitment into the white supremacist movement. Young people need to be equipped with the tools and skills to enable them to develop their own creative ways to challenge organized bigotry. Youth organizing youth is far more effective than adults trying to organize young people. To aid young people in the fight against the newest hate recruiting tool, white power music,

the Center has published *Soundtracks to the White Revolution*. The release of this 107-page book is the first phase of Turn it Down: A Campaign Against White Power Music – designed to help youth oppose this form of bigotry.

**Organize for the long haul** – Organizing is the process of relationship building that coalesces community response in creative and effective ways, and that results in action. Organizing is a long-haul commitment and responsibility. White supremacist activity is a symptom of a chronic illness that does not go away quietly or quickly. The tendency of communities, however, is to react and respond when hatred makes a “public appearance,” and then to assume that the problem has been taken care of, that it has disappeared, once we have responded publicly. However, deep commitment to community and to community life means that every such “public appearance” is seen as an opportunity to enlarge the table at which leaders from all walks of life grapple with the daily realities of bigotry and racism in their midst.

## APPENDIX A: ORIGINS OF THE CHURCH OF THE CREATOR

Ben Klassen formed the Church of the Creator (COTC) in 1973. Although born in the Ukraine and raised in Canada, Klassen found a home in the American far-right. The former Florida state legislator moved quickly through far-right politics, first with the John Birch Society, then with the 1968 George Wallace presidential campaign. He finally found his place in white supremacist politics in 1973 when he formed the Church of the Creator, publishing *Nature's Eternal Religion*, and anointing himself "Pontifex Maximus."

Over the next decade Klassen slowly built his brutally violent, racist empire. By the early 1990's, the organization included chapters in 20 states and eight foreign countries. Klassen's "church" preached that Adolf Hitler was a religious prophet, that Christianity is a Jewish plot, and that its members should prepare for "RAHOWA!" (Racial Holy War), which it proclaimed as "INEVITABLE. It is the Ultimate and Only solution . . . It is now either them or us. We want to make damn sure it is we who survive." (*Rahowa! The Planet is All Ours*, 1987).

The violent rhetoric became reality on May 17, 1991, when Florida COTC "Reverend" George Loeb murdered Harold Mansfield Jr., an African-American Gulf War veteran. Two years later, police in Salinas, California, arrested self-proclaimed Washington State COTC director Jeremiah Knesal, and COTC member Wayne Paul Wooten. While searching their car officers uncovered a cache of weapons, racist literature, and a page from the Portland, Oregon, telephone book listing Jewish agencies and synagogues. Knesal later confessed to involvement in the July 20, 1993, firebombing of an NAACP office in Tacoma, Washington

By 1990 Klassen was ready to anoint a successor. He first selected Rudy "Butch" Stanko, but the heir apparent declined the job when he was released from prison in December 1991, after finishing his sentence for selling tainted meat to school lunch programs. In May 1992, Klassen announced Charles Altvater of Baltimore, Maryland as his successor. But Altvater was arrested and convicted later that year of reckless endangerment after placing a bomb on the porch of a Baltimore County police officer.

Klassen took the organization back, and then handed it over to Mark Wilson, a Wisconsin skinhead. Wilson officially ran COTC until January 1993. While in charge, Wilson developed a close relationship with the COTC chapter in Toronto, Canada, particularly with George Burdi (aka George Eric Hawthorne) the singer of the band RAHOWA. Wilson and Burdi would go on to form Resistance Records, the largest distributor of white-power music in the United States.

Wilson was replaced by movement newcomer Richard McCarty, who moved the organization's headquarters to Niceville, Florida. Continuing legal problems forced McCarty to dismantle much of the COTC empire. Appointing McCarty would be Klassen's final act. With his organization collapsing around him, Klassen committed suicide on August 6, 1993, at age 75.

In May 1996, after several years of silence in the wake of McCarty's abdication, the COTC "Guardians of the Faith Committee" anointed Matt Hale to lead the Church of the Creator. He changed the name to the "New Church of the Creator," which held its first "church" services on July 2, 1995, in Washington, Illinois. He would later change the name to World Church of the Creator and revive the COTC empire. The World Church of the Creator would share the ethnic-cleansing agenda of COTC. Hale wrote to the *Peoria Journal Star* in April 1996, "White people need to utilize every legal means possible to fight against the racial treason which has become rampant . . . across the country. The very biological survival of our race depends on us ending this outrage."

Despite his vehement rhetoric, Matt Hale doesn't fit the stereotypical image of a white supremacist. A graduate of Southern Illinois University Law School, Hale is young, bright and articulate. He is also a veteran hater. For nearly a decade, he has run neo-Nazi organizations, beginning with his American

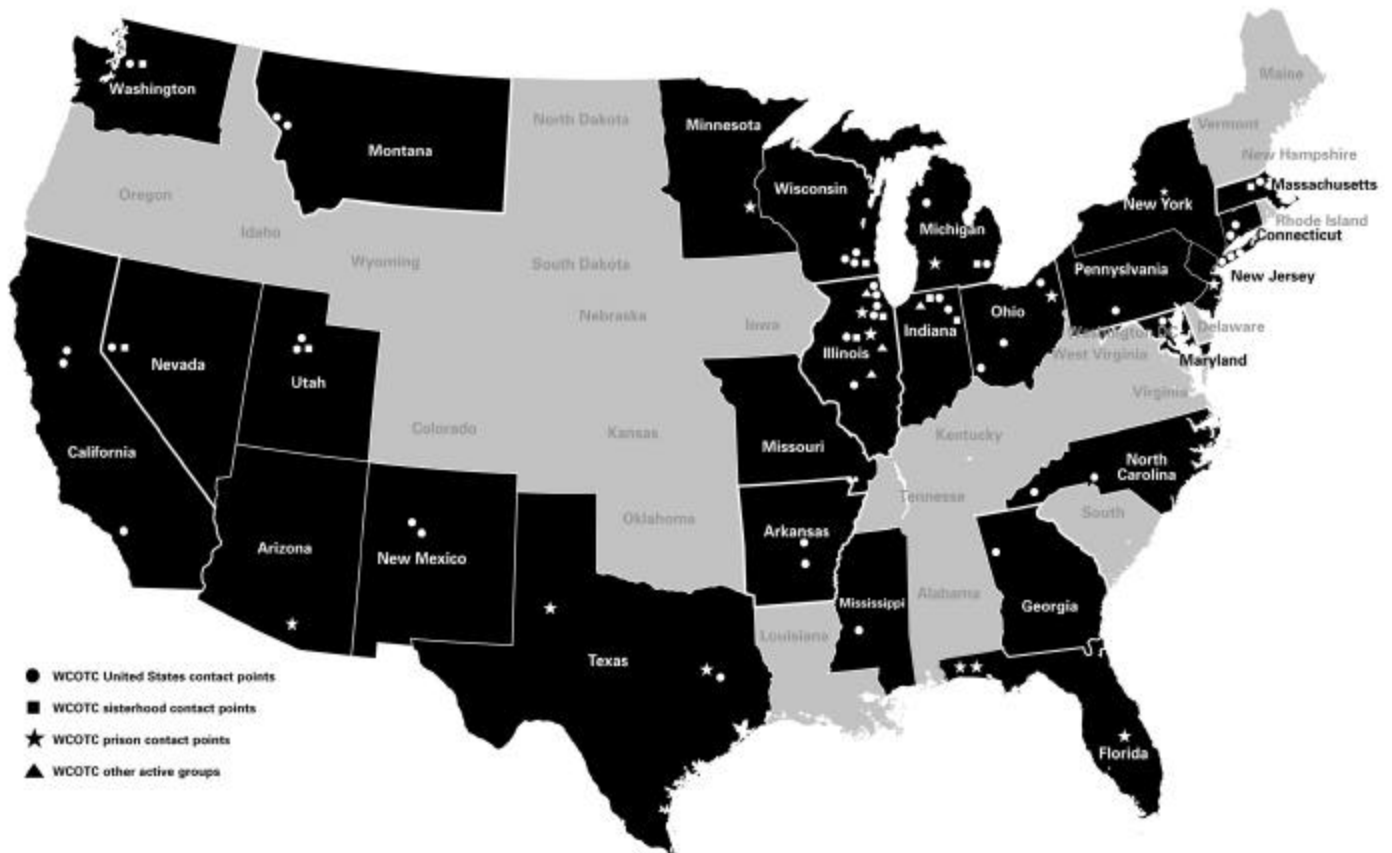
White Supremacist Party, through the National Socialist White Americans Party and the World Church of the Creator.

From the "World Headquarters" in the attic of his father's East Peoria, Illinois, home, the "Pontifex Maximus" has increased the number of WCOTC chapters across the country every year. WCOTC has been able to bond aging bigots and young skinheads under the banner of a racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-Christian "religion" known as "Creativity" the "white man's religion." Hale and WCOTC are working to create a new generation of neo-Nazis dedicated to carrying the legacy of white supremacy into the 21st century.

For more information on Benjamin Smith and the World Church of the Creator, see the CNC/AJC Special Report, *"Creating" A Killer: A Background Report On Benjamin "August" Smith and The World Church Of The Creator*. The report is available online at [www.newcomm.org/smith](http://www.newcomm.org/smith).

## **APPENDIX B: WCOTC CHAPTERS (AS OF JULY 2000)**

# WCOTC Chapters – as of July 2000



- WCOTC United States contact points
- WCOTC sisterhood contact points
- ★ WCOTC prison contact points
- ▲ WCOTC other active groups

## WCOTC United States contact points ●

Cabot	AR	
Pine Bluff	AR	
Carmichael	CA	Jessica Borgelt
Sacramento	CA	
Sierra Madre	CA	Josh Gilmore
Fairfield	CT	
Wallingford	CT	
Carrollton	GA	
Bourbonnais	IL	
Springfield	IL	
Wilmette	IL	Justin Frogge, John Schlisman
East Peoria	IL (HQ)	Matthew Hale
Chicago	IL (N.side)	
Chicago	IL (W.side)	John Yonkers
Bristol	IN	Robert Smead
Ft. Wayne	IN	Bradley and Donna Cox
Peabody	MA	Robert Griffin, Valerie Walsh
Finksburg	MD	
Cadillac	MI	
Westland	MI	
Clarkston	MO	Lloyd Wallace
Raymond	MS	
Missoula	MT	Dan Hassett
Superior	MT	Slim Deardorf
Cullowhee	NC	Robert LeCates
Huntersville	NC	Mike and Jennifer Ross
Albuquerque	NM	Jason O'Connor
Rio Rancho	NM	Matt Muller
Carson City	NV	Nick Huston
New York	NY	John Pierce
New York	NY	Kirk Schmidt
Sleepy Hollow	NY	Brian Weaver
Akron	OH	Kenneth A. Molyneux
Cincinnati	OH	Matt Buschbacher
Columbus	OH	
Altoona	PA	
Groveton	TX	
Vidor	TX	Sherman Bailey
Salt Lake City	UT	Cindy Crawford
Salt Lake City	UT	
Lynnwood	WA	Melody and Jason LaRue
Milwaukee	WI	Christopher Lee Peterson
New Berlin	WI	
South Milwaukee	WI	Lisa Russell

## WCOTC – sisterhood contact points ■

Bourbonnais	IL	
East Peoria	IL	Lisa Turner
Bristol	IN	
Ft. Wayne	IN	
Westland	MI	
Peabody	MA	Valerie Walsh
Carson City	NV	
Lynnwood	WA	Melody LaRue
South Milwaukee	WI	Lisa Russell
Salt Lake City	UT	Cindy Crawford

## WCOTC prison contact points ★

Tucson	AZ	Ryan Coleman
Defuniak Springs	FL	Jerald Overturf
Milton	FL	Larry R. Harper
Okeechobee	FL	Richard Duncan
Pontiac	IL	Sabin Lewis
Sheridan	IL	Keith Rozhon
Boston	MA	David O'Regan
Ionia	MI	Patrick M Kenney
Bayport	MN	Phillip Sodler
Trenton	NJ	Gordon Wright
Marcy	NY	Kevin FitzPatrick
Youngstown	OH	Duane Jacqueman
Midway	TX	J.W. Gribble
Tennessee Colony	TX	Jerry A. Moffitt

## WCOTC other active groups ▲

Berwyn	IL	Richard Mayers
Elkhart	IN	Christine Weiss
Decatur	IL	
Rantoul	IL	

## WCOTC international contact points

Collingwood, Victoria	Australia	Patrick O'Sullivan
Unley	Australia	Matthew Ratley
Ichtegem	Belgium	
Brantford, Ontario	Canada	
Thamesford, Ontario	Canada	
Saint-Brieuc	France	
Stockholm	Sweden	Kai Owles

## About the Center for New Community's Building Democracy Initiative

From the Great Lakes to the great Plains, from the rolling prairies to the southern mountains, in village, small town and city alike, the Building Democracy Initiative is developing a lasting commitment to counter organized racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and other forms of organized bigotry in the Midwest, through exposure, education, and organizing.

### Exposing...

The Building Democracy Initiative researches and monitors white nationalist activity throughout the Midwestern United States. To expose organize bigotry and to educate about the dangers of far-right activity in the region, we publish the Midwest Action Report. This monthly update provides alerts and pinpoints trends in Christian Identity, Christian Patriot, Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazi and racist skinhead, and white power music activity. The Midwest Action Report also highlights community responses to building democracy and constructing effective barriers against hate. We also publish a number of special reports, such as *Soundtracks to the White Revolution: White Supremacist Assaults on Youth Music Subcultures*, and our annual report, *The State of Hate*.

### Educating...

To raise awareness about the nature and scope of far-right activity, we also conduct workshops, public presentations, and other training events with civic and religious leaders throughout the Midwest. Working in close cooperation with Christian, Jewish, and other religious communities throughout the region, our education and training events equip community leaders to respond effectively to the racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and other forms of bigotry accompanying white nationalist activity. By providing consultation and organizing support to communities responding to far-right activity, and by working with other organizations to address public policy issues related to such activity, the Building Democracy Initiative is helping to build strong, democratic responses to this danger in our midst. The Initiative also seeks to build democratic participation in the affairs of communities and institutions, and to redefine public dialogue and discussion on democratic values.

### Organizing...

The Building Democracy Initiative works closely with communities to help them respond when organized bigotry comes to town. We are actively engaged in building a regional network of individuals and organizations from civic, religious, educational, labor, business and governmental sectors dedicated to countering hate. To bring people from across the region together, and equip them with the tools to effectively construct moral barriers against hate, the Center holds an annual Building Democracy Conference. In addition to our work to develop a vibrant regional network we work closely with a number of other international, national, and regional organizations working to promote democracy and civil rights.

*The Center for New Community is a faith-based initiative whose mission is to revitalize congregations and community for genuine social, economic and political democracy.*