

**DISTRICT SPONSORS PENNSYLVANIA VOV ACTIVITY  
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On a cool September day, just a few days after the Sept. 11 terrorists attacks, York District in Pennsylvania gathered 150 SGI-USA members and friends for “Victory Over Violence: Create Peace and Unity In Our Community.” It was based on the district members’ wish to bring the spirit of “Create Peace” — the region-wide Family Youth Festival held a month earlier in Washington, D.C. — to their community.

“We held this event to raise capable youth in the SGI-USA and reach out to the community,” expressed York District Men’s Leader Robert Lee, “to show love, appreciation and create something positive for the community.”

The activities included a multicultural display of visual arts, performances by African, Korean and Japanese dancers and drummers, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament and the Gandhi, King, Ikeda exhibition.

“I have a dream...” resounded with 17-year-old Rachel, a guest who came out to take a stand against violence. Her friend, David, also 17, said of the terrorist attacks, “Differences between people can be worked out in a peaceful manner.” David had copied some lyrics on his jacket to let the world know how he felt: “Stop this War!”

Keynote speaker Anthony Kemmerlin Sr., a “violontologist,” spoke about the importance of training others in violence intervention, management and prevention. Kemmerlin is a former gang leader who now counsels youth in the prison system to help them overcome their violent pasts. With regard to the events on Sept. 11, he stated: “We [the United States] must set the true example for the rest of the world. Other areas of conflict will observe how we handle the current situation.”

SGI-USA Baltimore Area Men’s Leader Clint Tearnan, in his opening remarks, commented on why the SGI holds these types of events: “Our activities are models for a peaceful society. Our values and culture bring a whole new perspective to other people and society. The cooperative values that the SGI supports are emerging in business, the arts, culture and education.” It unites society, he said.