



ABOUT MARNITA'S TABLE

Marnita's Table, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization registered in the state of Minnesota; is a donor-supported organization whose mission is to ignite enduring cross-cultural connections through intentional social interaction. It was founded to break down the barriers of race, class and culture in order to build authentic, positive and productive relationships.

Over the past 3-1/2 years, we've welcomed over 4,500 people of every ethnicity, class and culture to forge strong relationships and find common ground over an abundant meal in a private home. We literally provide everyone a seat at the table for peer-to-peer exchange and collaboration.

Evidence of the need for the work Marnita's Table undertakes is everywhere. Minnesota has some of the highest rates of racial disparities in student achievement, incarceration, access to healthcare, income and employment in the United States. Our work is guided by a simple idea: to succeed in being a fully integrated society, we must socialize across the boundary lines that so often divide us.

Before a healthy community can arise, relationships among disparate organizations and individuals must be built through trust and mutual respect. Social capital is the foundational capital that allows the human, intellectual and financial capital invested in a community to realize its full potential. We have learned it is not enough to meet and work with people only in institutional settings. Building social capital intentionally helps break down the structural causes of disparities.





DEMOGRAPHICS

Marnita's Table has hosted a unique mix of cross-cultural participants ranging from socially aware corporate and government leaders to middle class workers, community activists to the homeless and underemployed. 50% of all table participants are thought-leaders from either immigrant populations or communities of color representing every social class and a variety of ages, primarily teens and adults.

CURRENT SUPPORTERS:

The Supervalu Foundation, Wells Fargo Housing foundation, Minnesota Department of Health, the Minneapolis Foundation, Park Nicollet Foundation, PFund, REI, The Citizens League, Social Venture Partners Minnesota, DIVA Minnesota, Create CommUNITY (St. Cloud), and a variety of generous individual donors.

MEDIA EXPOSURE

Press reports on Marnita's Table include:

MARQ Magazine (published by the Star Tribune), October/November, 2008.
Feature story: Harmony

Utne Reader, November/December, 2007. Feature story: A Feast of Ideas.

Rake Magazine, April 2007. Feature story: Mixing and Mingling: Revolutionary Dining

Star Tribune, April 2005. Kim Ode's column entitled: The Elephant Is...



DEMOGRAPHICS



THIS YEAR'S EVENT

Join us to kick-off the first annual **Start The Conversation**. as Marnita's Table hosts over 600 multicultural attendees including teens, singles, parents and grandparents in some SERIOUS, FUN! At this first of its kind public dialogue, we will explore the "truth or consequences" of Sex, Drugs & Reality TV.....start the conversation about pop culture's impact in your life. Don't miss this historic event, which will take place on Saturday, October 24, 2009, at Saint Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, overlooking beautiful Lake Calhoun in Minneapolis.

EVENT ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE:

A multi-media, "truth in advertising," experiential gallery presented by the visual arts community

Celebrity "Conversation Starters" - over 40 community leaders and subject matter experts will be on site serving as table facilitators

Virtual "Hotspots" - impromptu video interviews to comment on the effects of Sex, Drugs and Reality TV in our lives

"Bust To Move" Dance Club - A hip and quirky dance appropriate for all ages at the later edges of the evening

THE EVENT





SEX
DRUGS
REALITY
TV
TRUTH OR
CONSEQUENCES
CULTURES
START THE CONVERSATION
ABOUT POP CULTURES
IMPACT IN YOUR LIFE...



BACKGROUND

For over four years, Marnita's Table has served up substantive, conversation and "finger-licking good food" to over 4,500 people of every age, ethnicity, class, and culture for the purpose of igniting enduring cross-cultural connections through intentional social interaction.

Recognized by the community and media alike for their groundbreaking work building "bridging capital" (establishing networks across socially heterogeneous groups), Founders of Marnita's Table, Marnita Schroedl and Carl Goldstein "walk their talk" by graciously opening their home to thousands of individuals and organizations yearly.

Those fortunate enough to attend a "Table" are guaranteed great food and intimate conversation with people they would never have met through their own social network. Unexpected things happen when people get to experience firsthand how inclusion is achieved - finding common ground and building trust one person at a time. Table attendees always leave with a minimum of three practical items: the skills for expanding one's personal and professional network in the broader world, a satiated appetite, contact information for at least one person, not to mention a uplifted spirit and sense of hope.

In order to step up the efforts of Marnita's Table as catalysts for change and make their dynamic work accessible to a larger audience, we've created an annual platform called "**Start The Conversation**". In October of 2009, hundreds of people will gather under one roof to partake in a delectable feast, discuss topics that range from the silly to the sublime, controversial to transformational, and party like there's no tomorrow!