

Dear Rome First Friends,

I write you on behalf of our uniquely beautiful city of Rome, Georgia, the place the Cherokees called the 'Enchanted Land'.

A group of Rome's concerned citizens, of all races and creeds, came together last March to begin an effort to protect our wonderful community from becoming a victim of division among its peoples, as so many others have over the past three years, and to ensure that ours is truly a city too busy to hate.

Our joint effort is intended to make our city **One Community United**, across all races, creeds and cultures. To further our goals, we are planning an Event to Celebrate Rome's Strength Through its Diversity where people of faith and good will can come together to show our dedication to love, peace and respect among all people, not as color blind, but in open acknowledgement and celebration of our differences.

The event has been called a **HEARTS UNITED GATHERING (HUG)** and will be held on February 18th at 6:30 pm, in the Wilder Center of Rome First United Methodist Church.

We have secured the nationally famed duo of Otis Pickett and Justin Jones-Fosu to lead what we believe will be the largest gathering of citizens of one community in US History to come together and talk about racial reconciliation, love and respect for all our citizens with a goal of bridging all divides that separate us. We are reaching out to all our Civic Organizations, City and County Governments, State and National Elected Officials, Churches and Religious Organizations, and have been met with great acceptance and enthusiasm for this great event we believe will be the largest gathering of people of one community to come together in this nation to celebrate its strength through diversity. Our gathering has the potential to be world changing and we hope you will agree to become a part of it.

The two young speakers, from Mississippi, one White, one Black, have taken their dynamic message to college campuses, corporate retreats, civic groups and churches across the U.S. They have spoken to large audiences everywhere and have received many awards and acclaims as among the best Motivational/Inspirational speakers in the land. Their personal stories are unique and their presentation is at once entertaining, informative and inspiring. Their enthusiasm is infectious and they are making a positive difference on a difficult topic of our time. We can't wait to see and hear them.

Put the date February 18th on your calendar and come party with our neighbors and friends. Pizza and soft drinks will be served and we will be entertained by the popular local band "LIFE".

Shalom,

Robert ><>