

REGIONAL BAHÁ'Í COUNCIL OF THE NORTHEASTERN STATES

October 24, 2008

To all youth and adults in the Northeast region,

Dearly Loved Friends,

We write to you with news of the NEBY (Northeast Bahá'í Youth) 2009 youth conference. The year's conference has all the signs of being a breakthrough moment for the progress of the Cause in the region and we invite every youth to set aside the weekend of February 14-15, 2009 to attend this important event.

As you may have experienced, the Northeast is alive with the spirit of teaching! From Pittsburgh to Portland, children, youth and adults are arising to share the Faith through a variety of direct teaching methods. We are seeing not only dramatic numerical growth, but also increased Feast attendance, a surge in core activities and an overall excitement and vitality not seen in the region in decades.

The involvement of youth and young adults has been key to this process. As youth have stepped into roles of service on teaching teams, in youth projects, as tutors, and on Area Teaching Committees, we have witnessed firsthand the power youth have to transform our communities. Their energy, clarity of vision and excitement are contagious. At this critical moment in history, we need all the youth in the region to work together to bring the healing message of Bahá'u'lláh to a society being shaken to its core by the destructive forces of prejudice and materialism.

This year, NEBY is being redesigned to advance the goals of the Five Year Plan. Along with the elements that have made NEBY such a success in the past, we are adding:

- **A renewed focus on teaching and consolidation.** “*NEBY Fest*” has been renamed “*NEBY: The Movement*” to express its focus on mobilizing the region's youth to the forefront of the Plan. While continuing to integrate the arts, NEBY 2009 will equip youth with the insights and skills required to return to their clusters as enkindled teachers of the Cause, planners of core activities and builders of community.
- **A stronger connection to clusters.** The Regional Bahá'í Council will work with cluster agencies from around the region to collaborate with youth at the conference and back at home.
- **Refined attendance parameters.** This year's conference is limited to 700 youth ages 15 and over from the Northeast. This regional youth focus will allow for clarity of vision, expression, and mobilization that will promote rapid learning and cluster-level action. Youth from outside the region will be able to register on a standby basis. Parents are, as always, welcome.
- **Enhanced program elements.** To support active skill building, NEBY will incorporate capable youth speakers, testimonials from new Bahá'ís, participatory devotionals, involvement of cluster-level agencies, workshops on core activities and youth-centric issues, musicians and artists with proven Plan experience, teaching workshops with a field component, and much more.

We invite youth 15 and over to register for *NEBY: The Movement* on www.NEBY.org when online registration opens on Monday, November 24, 2008! More detailed information will be shared via NEBY.org starting on November 7 and in subsequent communications.

The Regional Council is thrilled with the growth of the Faith over the past year. Youth are essential to the process and we look forward to being with the region's youth at NEBY in just a few short months. You are in our constant prayers and we are confident that by working together, “Youth can move the world.”

With loving greetings to each and all,

The Regional Bahá'í Council of the Northeastern States