

# Annual Youth Unity Summits 2024 & 2025 Events Summary



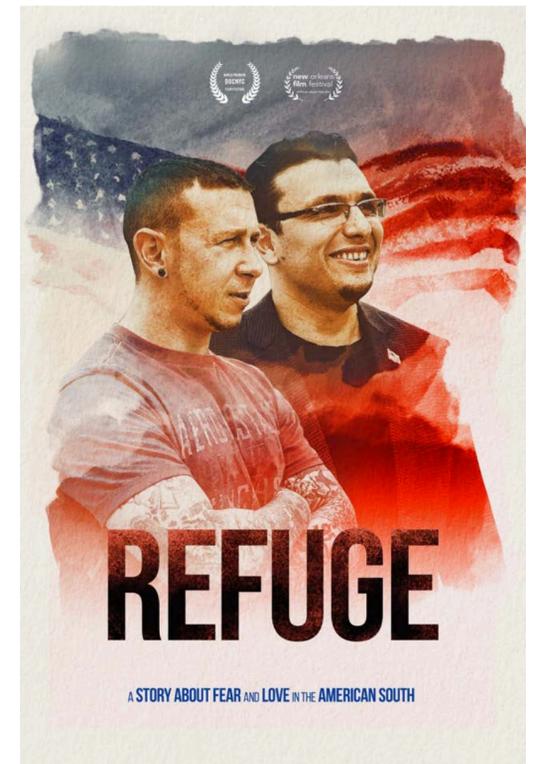
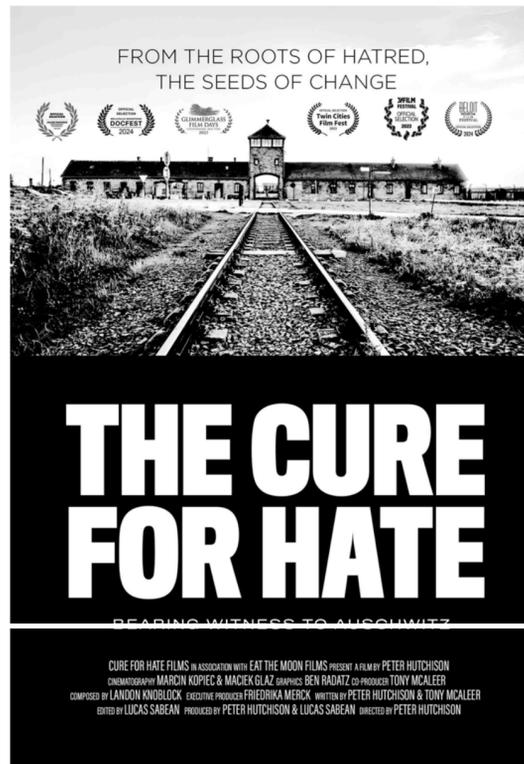
February 28, 2024, Performing Arts Center Auditorium, McFarland High School  
 March 19, 2024, Stoughton High School Performing Arts Center  
 Over 1,400 students representing various area schools

February 25, 2025, McFarland High School Performing Arts Center  
 February 26, 2025, Wisconsin Rapids High School Performing Arts Center  
 Over 500 students representing various area schools



## Featured Speakers and Real-Life Stories

Richard “Mac” McKinney, Tony McAleer, and Chris Buckley, who shared their deeply personal journeys from hatred and extremism to acceptance, accountability, and community. McKinney, a former Islamophobe, McAleer, a former white supremacist, neo-Nazi, and holocaust denier, and Buckley, a former leader in the Ku Klux Klan, spoke candidly about how prejudice shaped their lives, and how human connection ultimately changed them.



**Richard “MAC” McKinney**

**Bibi Bahrami**

**Tony McAleer**

**Chris Buckley**

(a Former Marine and Army Veteran who became the President of a Mosque that he planned to blow up) Yorktown, IN; and Honorary Board Member of WAM-U

(an Afghan refugee warmly welcomed Richard “MAC” McKinney when he walked through the door at the Mosque he intended to blow up), Muncie, Indiana; and Honorary Board Member of WAM-U

(a Former White Supremacist, Neo-Nazi, and Holocaust Denier); Vancouver, British Columbia, Honorary Board Member of WAM-U. Tony McAleer is the author of the book *The Cure for Hate* and is an international speaker that strives to educate individuals, families, communities, law enforcement, and governments that are struggling to grapple with the White Supremacist movements.

(a former KKK Leader and Radicalized US Military Veteran), Athens, Tennessee; and Honorary Board Member of WAM-U. Buckley left the KKK in 2016 to save his marriage but continued to harbor intolerance toward Muslims. That began to change when his wife introduced him to a local cardiologist who had come to the U.S. as a Syrian refugee. After years of conversations by phone and text, the two met in person in 2018. Today, they describe their relationship as brotherhood.



**Joshua Seftel**

Oscar-Nominated, Emmy-Winning Filmmaker; and Honorary Board Member of WAM-U

## Awards Presented at the 2024 and 2025 Youth Summit Events

- Certificates of Achievement given to student leaders from Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers
- Certificates of Recognition given to student leaders by Wisconsin Humanities, We Are Many-United, and Department of Public Instruction
- Welcoming remarks by Vice President Kamala Harris
- Certificates of Achievement Honoring the Principals of High Schools for hosting the summits from Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers