

# Ducks for diversity

**TWIGGY EURE, CHAIR,  
DUCK RACE TO END RACISM**

By Samantha Leader

“The greatest power lives in Diversity and Inclusion, it is one thing to appreciate others but to include them too,” — Twiggy Eure, Director of Diversity & Inclusion at Crouse.



Photo by Alice G. Patterson

Throughout Twiggy Eure's career, she has seen firsthand how important it is to increase diversity awareness and inspire people to be the best version of themselves.

"In May 2018 I was promoted to Director of Diversity [at Crouse Hospital]," Twiggy said. "This role allows me to use my past experiences of leadership and management to help Crouse become a more diverse employer and promote community awareness."

Along with this role, Twiggy is the chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee at Crouse, which holds monthly activities around different races and ethnicities. Twiggy's enjoyment for this type of work made the offer to participate as co-chair for InterFaith Works' Duck Race to End Racism much easier to accept.

"It started in 2018, when I got the phone call to participate as co-chair, I was very busy at the time with the new position at Crouse, but it was everything I loved to do," Twiggy said. "It was refreshing to see the work that everyone came together to do and the outcome."

After being a part of the events in 2018, Twiggy was overwhelmed with happiness when she received a phone call from InterFaith Works' board of directors offering her the position of chair this year.

"InterFaith Works was founded in 1976 to build bridges of understanding," Twiggy said. "Their mission statement stuck out the most to me because it is a direct alignment with Crouse's mission statement."

The Duck Race to End Racism is one of InterFaith Works' biggest events each year. The event celebrates diversity in the community while striving for racial harmony in New York.

"All of the donations from the Duck Race go to the center of dialogue," Twiggy said. "A few of the different dialogues that they focus on are seeking common goal of safe communities, small school exchanges, seed of peace program, and the college dialogue program."

"The importance of the Duck Race is to show the urgency to discuss racism through all of the organizations and dialogues InterFaith Works does," she said.

The 2019 Duck Race to End Racism is a free event taking place from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 8, at the Syracuse Inner Harbor. The event has kids' events, dancing, live entertainment, and the much-anticipated duck races. Terra Maker Hall will provide fun science and technology activities for children and youth.

"The corporate sponsors decorate and race the ducks, and then the winner selects a non-profit organization to get a prize on their behalf," Twiggy said. "On top of that, the Syracuse City School classes decorate ducks to win a diversity library value of \$800 for the winning school."

"There is a community duck race of bath tub-sized ducks, the ducks are \$5 each and the donations go to the center of dialogue, with a chance to earn a \$1,000 shopping spree at Destiny USA," Twiggy said.

The event brings a diverse audience each year of corporations, neighborhood residences and community members around Syracuse.

Twiggy's goal is to continue to grow Diversity & Inclusion well beyond the city area and eventually get national ties.

"Syracuse has a great opportunity to get people included and talk about racism," Twiggy said. "This event does that, because the more people at the table talking, the better the outcome." SWM



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