



Why a Truth Commission in Chattanooga

The city of Chattanooga TN is rapidly becoming known for its stunning beauty. The Aquarium, the newly constructed River Walk and the growing selection of entertainment and dining choices, are quickly transforming Chattanooga into an enticing spot for tourists and a wonderful place to live. Although, can we truly boast that the resources we contain in the city of Chattanooga are properly being used in the best interest of its people? Sure the city looks gorgeous, but what about the people of the city, what has truly been done to enrich and beautify their lives? There are a great number of people in the city of Chattanooga who are jobless, without proper healthcare, and without proper education, but where is their help?

In 2005, \$750,000 was given to repave the sidewalks of Chattanooga. In the same year 4.6 million dollars was committed by the city in order to build an animal care facility. In 2006, over 9 million dollars of the city's budget was given to parks and recreation. Does it matter that the sidewalks are flawlessly paved if there are homeless who are sleeping on them? In this year alone the unemployment rate in Chattanooga decreased from 4.9 to 3.7, but where is their help?

With so many different needs in our city it is difficult to know where to begin with the change that is necessary to bring about economic justice. We see the Chattanooga Truth Commission of 2007 as an important step in the process of uniting Chattanoogaans to stand against injustice. This event will be a platform to empower those individuals whose rights have been violated to speak out. It will also allow members of the community, who have been fortunate not to fall prey to the system, to understand and see

just how human right violations have negatively affected so many people's lives.