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PROTEST AGAINST WESTBORO CHURCH TO ACCEPT DONATIONS FOR CHARITY

May 1st Rally Will Make Donations In Honor of the Topeka Hate Group

TOPEKA, Ks., A rally against the Westboro Baptist Church will be accepting donations to charities that represent groups who have been the primary focus of WBC protests. These donations will be made in honor of the Topeka-based church. According to event organizer Chris Love, "This is a tangible way to help fight the WBC." The rally will begin at Gage Park Amphitheater in Topeka, KS on Saturday, May 1st at 2:00pm.

Fred Phelps and the Westboro Baptist Church are notorious for their anti-gay protests of funerals, schools, and high-profile public events, claiming that most natural disasters and terrorist attacks are God's punishment for a society that tolerates homosexuality. Phelps and his ministry are known for the slogans they use at their protests, including "God Hates Fags" and "Thank God for dead soldiers." On March 8, the Supreme Court agreed to hear a case involving a WBC protest, after the family of a soldier who was killed in Iraq sued the group for picketing their son's funeral.

Nate Phelps, estranged son of Fred Phelps and an ex-member of the Westboro Baptist Church, will speak to attendees of the rally. Nate Phelps left both the church and his family behind at age 18 and now actively speaks out about the abuse he and his siblings suffered growing up in church. He is currently writing a book about growing up as part of the Phelps family.

Love says the primary goal of the rally is to "turn the tables, using the very same rights and laws as the WBC." Love also says the event expresses a message of tolerance and acceptance of all people. "Having Nate at the event will bring a unique perspective to our message, and we're honored he'll be there."

The event has drawn crowds of hundreds, with people from all regions of the country. Love said that it is "a diverse mix of race, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, and political viewpoint" that has received national media attention. It stresses the use of peaceful and lawful demonstration, and is open to anyone who wishes to join without fear of negative incident.

The Million "Fag" March was first organized in March of 2008 by Chris Love and Bethany Rowell. This is the second year of what is now an annual event near the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas. Details can be found at <http://www.themfm.com>

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If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with Chris Love, please call 785-783-4730 or e-mail mfm@themfm.com