



Photo: Will Austin

## **Matt Kelley** (Bio - Long Version)

Matt Kelley is the founder of MAVIN Foundation, the nation's leading organization advocating for mixed heritage people and families. He is co-editor of the *Multiracial Child Resource Book: Living Complex Identities* (MAVIN Foundation, 2003) with Maria. P. P. Root, Ph.D. and producer of the documentary film, *Chasing Daybreak: A Film About Mixed Race in America*. As America experiences a mixed race baby boom, Matt Kelley is recognized as *the* young voice of America's mixed race movement.

In 1998, as a 19-year-old freshman at Wesleyan University, Matt founded *MAVIN*, the only magazine celebrating multiracial and transracially adopted people. While at Wesleyan, he co-chaired the Multiracial Students' Organization, resurrected the National Conference on the Mixed Race Experience and taught "Racially Mixed in the USA," a full-credit course.

In 2000, *MAVIN* became the nonprofit MAVIN Foundation. Under Matt's leadership, MAVIN Foundation has invested millions of dollars into launching ambitious and award-winning projects, including *MAVIN* magazine, the Generation MIX National Awareness Tour, the MatchMaker Bone Marrow Project, Community M.A.P. (Mixed race Action Plan), and the Mixed Heritage Center. Additionally, Matt helped found three multiracial community organizations in Seattle.

For his approach to race and diversity issues, Matt is a highly sought-after national speaker and consultant on race and diversity issues, fielding requests by interests as diverse as the Fulbright Commission, the National Education Association (NEA), Kaiser Permanente, the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services, and MTV. He has been featured in over 400 print, radio and television features, including the *New York Times*, CNN, National Public Radio, *Newsweek*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today* and *PARADE*. He has represented the mixed race community on the Decennial Census Advisory Committee of the U.S. Department of Commerce, and has presented testimony to Congress about the health needs of mixed heritage people. Matt is the recipient of numerous awards, including a "Points of Light" distinction by President George W. Bush, being named one of the "Ten Outstanding Young Americans" by the United States Junior Chamber, and was honored with the Japanese American Citizens' League's "Vision Award."

Matt volunteers with many community organizations. He serves on the board of directors of the Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS) and volunteers with the Pride Foundation. Previously, he was vice president of the Association of MultiEthnic Americans (AMEA) and conducted youth leadership training with One World Now and the Korean American Coalition. He is also a member of the Ad Council's Public Service Media Panel and the Seattle Foundation's "A Better Tomorrow" Advisory Committee. During his down time, Matt enjoys writing, fishing in Puget Sound and trying on different ethnic identities. He lives in Seattle.

*For more information about MAVIN Foundation, visit [www.mavinfoundation.org](http://www.mavinfoundation.org). If you are interested in having Matt speak at your event, email him at [matt@mavinfoundation.org](mailto:matt@mavinfoundation.org) or call 206 622 7101.*