The Peace Center

2016 Annual Report
Peacebuilding in 2016

With a mission to educate, empower and support individuals and organizations in efforts to prevent violence, promote the peaceful resolution of conflict and foster equitable and safe communities locally, nationally and globally, The Peace Center has been following the wisdom of Dorothy Day this past year! We have much work to do!

We have been carrying out this mission since 1982, and as we go into our 35th year building peace, it has now become more difficult, more challenging and more critical than ever. Since the election of 2016, our work increased immensely. Throughout most of 2016, we were transforming conflict and violence by teaching peace, increasing emotional/social intelligence, empathy and compassion, touching more than 4,000 people in the process. However, as the election neared, we began to witness an increase in racism, bigotry and intolerance, bullying & cyberbullying and chaos in the most marginalized communities.

With our team of dedicated, creative and talented staff, an active Board of Directors, and our many loyal members, we have been able to address these dark times with some light. Here are some of our accomplishments:

- We were part of a community-wide response when hatred and bigotry enveloped the Council Rock School District in November. Over 300 people turned out.
- We were part of assisting the Council Rock School District with Town Hall Meetings.

Arun Gandhi spoke on the critical role of using non-violence to address both local and global issues in Bucks County.

- We held film screenings and dialogues on the abuse of the Native Americans and how we can be allies in addressing the continued racism and ignorance that still exists.
- We completed our fifth year as the Bullying Prevention Resource Center (led by Kate Whitman) with our continued partnership with the County Commissioners, the District Attorney and school superintendents. We held many interventions when racism, homophobia, bullying/cyberbullying traumatized young people; we offered weekly Support Circles, and increased our circle of support for young people facing racism and all other ‘isms’.
- Girls Unlimited, a program that serves young women vulnerable to relational aggression that can scar for life, was implemented in more than 15 schools throughout Bucks County, Philadelphia, New Jersey and even Florida and Mississippi under the creative and dynamic leadership of Karin Kasdin and a team of very highly skilled Peace Educators through the generous funding from St. Mary Medical Center, the Arbonne Foundation, Giving Hope Network and Foundations Community Partnership.
- Kate Whitman and her team of Peace Educators delivered Respecting Me, Respecting You to more than 750 elementary school students throughout Bucks County thanks to a grant from the Connelly Foundation and the Makefield and Fallsington Elementary School PTO. When we began to witness overt racism and bigotry after...
the presidential race – in schools and in the community, a talented and dedicated team of Peace Educators created a program to address it: Celebrating Me, Celebrating You. It was piloted at Makefield Elementary School with fantastic results!

- We trained peer mentors of SAGE, a program of George School in which students help their fellow students through difficult times.
- We held monthly Dialogues on Race that began in July after the death of two unarmed black men. We have had from 30-75 participants for these important Dialogues to help us break through stereotypes and assumptions.
- We met with families of color to identify what they needed from their local school district; they went on to form a Diversity and Inclusion Council to oversee the district’s changes to include teacher training in anti-racism.
- Facilitated student dialogues on racism to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. The event was held at Central Bucks South High School with more than 400 students participating. This is an annual collaborative effort with several organizations and faith-based institutions.
- Partnered with the Langhorne Council of the Arts to commemorate the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. with a film and discussion on race, injustice and civil rights.
- Offered a weekend workshops on Non-violent Communication and Tools to Dismantle Racism.
- Provided Mediation services or Conflict Coaching for those who called with disputes with neighbor, family or business.

- Mentored 3 more Interns, bringing the number of Paul Zimmerman Interns to over 100 who have served The Peace Center in the last 33 years!
- Hosted The Green Hour, WURD 900 AM on Sundays, a weekly radio program on peace and sustainability.
- S.A.F.E. Counseling, Inc. continues to help many families trying to end the cycle of family violence/domestic abuse, led by John Anthony and Vera Bochnowicz.

We know that at the heart of peacebuilding lies relationships and connections – we are grateful that 2016 was a year when we were able to form so many new, strong relationships in our community!
Programming in Schools and in the Community

Summary of Bullying Prevention Resource Center
The Peace Center completed a fifth year as the Bullying Prevention Resource Center for Bucks County, collaboration between the DA’s office, the Bucks County Commissioners’ office, and all Bucks County school districts. Through this service in 2016, we delivered bullying prevention support circles, teacher trainings in how to respond to bullying and create safe classrooms, bullying prevention presentations, and restorative interventions and circle processes for students in conflict. Last year, the Resource Center reached at least 2,500 people! These services, especially our support circles, have made a huge difference for children and families in Bucks County; one mother shared with us that since attending our support circles, their family has become strong, and their son who was once bullied in school is now thriving.

Respecting Me, Respecting You
In 2016, The Peace Center was awarded a grant by the Connelly Foundation to deliver our character education and bullying prevention program, Respecting Me, Respecting You, to Catholic schools in lower Bucks County. Through this grant, The Peace Center was able to reach a whole new population of students, school staff and families; already, our work is being integrated into these schools’ cultures!

In one of these schools, the principal saw how effective our program was and asked The Peace Center to intervene when a new student from Haiti was being bullied on the bus. One of our Peace Educators held meetings with this student, the aggressors, and then with the whole 5th grade class. This was a wonderful learning opportunity for both the students and teachers, and truly transformed this student’s experience in school.

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Celebrating you Celebrating Me
After seeing great need for diversity programming at young ages, our Bullying Prevention Director and a team of our Peace Educators collaboratively created our new diversity program for elementary-aged students, Celebrating Me, Celebrating You. The program includes lessons on building community; dismantling gender stereotypes; challenging racism and discrimination; sharing and listening to each other’s experiences of prejudice; and reclaiming identity by rejecting assumptions others may make about us. Through activities and storytelling, students learn to open their minds and hearts to experiences other than their own, and emerge from the program able to recognize and intervene in prejudice or discrimination. In early 2017, a very successful pilot of the program ran at Makefield Elementary School, with requests from more schools coming in.

Schools we implemented RMRY:
- Churchville Elementary School
- Fallsington Elementary School
- Holy Family Catholic School
- Holy Trinity Catholic School
- Makefield Elementary School
- Our Lady of Grace Catholic School
- Snyder-Girotti Elementary School
- St. Ephrem Catholic School
- St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School
- Quarry Hill Elementary School
- William Tennent High School

PEER Mediation
- Fallsington Elementary School
- Makefield Elementary School

Circles and Restorative Interventions
- Bristol High School
- Council Rock High School North
Girls Unlimited

We estimate that nearly 1700 girls received the program in 2016. Sales of the Girls Unlimited curriculum were in the hundreds, leading us to believe that the program is now being delivered in many schools across the country.

Comments from girls were universally positive. One in particular, stood out: ‘Before Girls Unlimited I was thinking about killing myself. But you guys made me feel much better about myself and now I am not going to do it.” GU staff was able to get this girl the support she needed because our program provided her with a safe place to express her feelings.

Our research summary for the year shows that more than 94% of girls report improved friendships after participating in the program. Many report that they look forward to coming to school much more and nearly 20% see improved academic performance.

We delivered Girls Unlimited in the following Bucks County Schools

- Log College Middle School--Centennial School District
- Klinger Middle School--Centennial School District
- Neil Armstrong Middle School--Bristol Township School District
- Snyder-Girotti Middle School--Bristol Borough School District
- Newtown Middle School--Council Rock School District
- Richboro Middle School--Council Rock School District
- Maple Point Middle School--Neshaminy School District
- William Penn Middle School--Pennsby School District
- Cecelia Snyder Middle School--Bensalem School District
- Robert Shafer Middle School--Bensalem School District
- Our Lady of Grace--private school
- Gray Nun Academy--Private School

In addition to the Bucks County Schools, GU was delivered to the following schools:

- Sovereign Middle School--Atlantic City School District
- Resilience Charter School--Gainesville, Florida
- Colmer Middle School--Pascagoula, Mississippi

“Compassion for others begins with kindness to ourselves.”
--Pema Chodron

Karin Kasdin, Founder and Director of Girls Unlimited and participants from a school in Atlantic City
Wise Guys

Our boys grow up in a society where emotional suppression is interpreted as strength and vulnerability is interpreted as weakness. When bravado or physical violence presents itself in young male behavior the notion of “boys will be boys” often comes to mind. Yet male behavior is more complex than a scuffle on the playground, we do not see so much of what goes on beyond the eyes of watchful adults. Our society has woven a complex web of standards that demands rough but not brutish, smart but not geeky, athletic but not a dumb jock, motivated but not the teacher’s pet, etc. Imagine the anxiety that is produced for boys who are trying to walk this delicate line of being perceived as a successful male in this society.

In 2016, The Peace Center began formulating the curriculum for a 4th grade program for boys called Wise Guys. Wise Guys is designed to address the challenges of being male in this society, relational aggression that happens between male friends, and build social and emotional intelligence. Topics in Wise Guys include:

- How to recognize their own emotions and treat themselves and others with kindness and respect
- Challenging male stereotypes
- Upstander skills
- The meaning of self-respect and self-care
- Topics on privilege and power

2016 was a year of preparation for the successful launch of the Wise Guys pilot program. Preparation included; intensive curriculum writing, three focus groups (at Goodnoe Elementary, Quarry Hill Elementary, and Fallsington Elementary), and a facilitator training. All of these efforts culminated in the pilot program of Wise Guys launching in Goodnoe Elementary in 2017. 2016 was just the beginning for Wise Guys and we are excited to bring this program into schools in 2017.

Peace Camp:

Peace Camp 2016 used the Disney Pixar movie “Inside Out” as the theme, covering valuable lessons on the role and importance of emotions, how negative emotions can hurt ourselves and others, how to handle negative emotions (through conflict resolution and calming techniques) and how emotions allow us to relate and connect to others. It was amazing to see how in one week, the children grew in identifying and expressing their emotions! We know camp was a great success by seeing how the children used the skills taught in emotional intelligence and conflict resolution during their free play time, lunchtime and through cooperative games.
Dialogues on Race
Each month, the Peace Center, in collaboration with a local place of worship or community organization, holds a discussion with a diverse group of citizens on current social and moral justice issues relevant to race and persecuted ethnic groups. Using a Compassionate Listening model, participants identify ways in which to promote social change by dialoguing with one another to gain a better understanding of themselves and each other.

The first Dialogue on Race was held at Newtown Friends Meeting House in July of 2016 following a rally by concerned community members outraged and saddened by the increasing number of black males killed by police in America. Additional topics for discussion have included addressing stereotypes and assumptions, race relations in our local schools, and confronting hate in our communities to name a few. Dialogues have been held in several houses of worship in Newtown, Bristol, Wrightstown, and Doylestown. Our goal is to hold a dialogue in every community in Bucks County.

The desire by individuals to listen with empathy to the experiences of people of color, or offer one’s own experience with those of a different race or ethnicity, is all that is required. Hundreds of people have joined us for these dialogues in communities across the county. Our desire is to continue to hold a safe space for individuals to talk about the uncomfortable subject of race, build bridges with our brothers and sisters of all races and tear down the walls of intolerance and hatred.

Community Collaborations
- Arcadia University’s International Peace and Conflict Resolution master’s program
- Temple University, Rider University
- Bucks Safe
- Bucks Against Gun Violence
- Bucks County Human Relations Council
- Bucks County Women’s Advocacy Coalition
- Bucks County NAACP
- Buxmont Coalition for Peace Action
- Central Bucks School District
- CB Cares Education Foundation
- Interfaith Committee of Lower Bucks
- Jack & Jill of Bucks County
- Langhorne Council of the Arts
- Native Awareness Committee
- Arrows
- Pennswood Village Retirement Community
- Temple Judea of Doylestown
- Welcoming the Stranger
- SURJ of Doylestown
- Pearl Buck International

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. —Mahatma Ghandi

The Lenape Choir of Lenape Middle School

Candlelight vigil to end gun violence and support the Muslim community
### INCOME

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#### Liabilities

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**Total Liabilities & Equity** | **174,442**

**Excess of Income over Expense:** $5,421 (unaudited)

### Income Sources

- **Grant Income:** 25%
- **Contributions:** 13%
- **Special Events:** 22%
- **Program Income:** 14%
- **County Contracts:** 17%
- **Fees:** 9%

### Allocation of Funds

- **All Programs:** 54%
- **Fund Raising:** 21%
- **General Operation:** 26%
2016 Donors

Auction Donations

BUSINESSES: 20° Below • 86 West Restaurant & Bar • Another Time Antiques • Attitudes Hair Studio • B & E Jewelers • Bean for Peace • Bella Tori at the Mansion • Bersamis Muscle Therapy • Bird of Paradise Flowers • Black Bass Hotel • Blue Moon Acres • Blue Sage Vegetarian Grille • Boardroom Spirits Distillery • Bristol Riverside Theatre • Buckingham Valley Vineyards & Winery • Caldwells Embroidery • Calm Waters Coffee • Capt’n Chuck’s Crab Cake Co. • Patricia Allingham Carlson • Carversville Inn • Clark’s Flower Shop • Costco • County Theater • Crossroads Bake Shop • Crowne Plaza Bucks County • David J. Witchell Salon & Spa • El Tule Authentic Mexican and Peruvian Restaurant • Erik & Mike • Fishthorn Beer Runners • Flattened Cigar Company • Flora • Fox & Hound Bed and Breakfast • Garden State Discovery Museum • George Nakushima Woodworker, S.A. • Golden Eagle Diner and Restaurant • Goodnow Farm Dairy Bar • Got Wine • Graphic Imaging • Holiday Inn Express & Suites • Holly Hedge Estate/1740 House • Hook’s Book Nook • Journey’s Spiritual Gifts • Judy’s Corner • Karla’s Restaurant • King George II Inn • Kramer Portraits • La Chocolate Box • Lehigh Valley IronPigs Charities • Lena’s Deli • Longwood Gardens • M&H Custom Framing • Mary Kay • McCaffrey’s Food Markets • Mealey’s Furniture • Merle Norman Cosmetics • Mesquite Grille • Natalie & Co • Newtown Athletic Club • Night Shift Brewing • Owowcow Creamery • Passante’s Home Food Services • Peace Valley Lavender Farm • Phi Vietnamese • Plumsteadville Inn • POSH Beauty Bar & SkinCARE Center • Rainbows of Healing • Rayman’s Homemade Candies • Reading Fightin Phils • RIAH Hair Studio • River Country • Serenity Day Spa • Sesame Place • Shaving Grace Barbers • Siam Cuisine • Speed Raceway WG, LP • Station Tap House • Steiner Sports • Stratton Family Chiropractic Wellness Center • Sycamore Salon • t.s. Cornerstones Bookstore • Temperature House • Thai Tida Restaurant • The Khalsa Health Arts & Yoga Center • The Mill Arts Collective • The Newtown Theatre • The Peacock Inn • The People’s Light & Theatre Co. • The Yardley Inn Restaurant & Bar • The Zebra Striped Whale • Township of Warminster • Trainpops Attic • Trenton Thunder Baseball • Vault Brewing Company • Vince’s Pizza & Restaurant of Yardley • Well of Life Center • Womack Studios • Yardley Country Club • Zimbabwe Shona Sculpture • GOVERNMENT: Diane Ellis-Marseglia • Tammi Mancuso • Ron Strouse • INDIVIDUALS: Cory Amssler & Eileen Shapiro • Ute Arnold • Beth Ann Bailey-Rinkus & Robert Rinkus • Andrew Burgess & Rachel White • Debbie & Ed Burns • Marge & Bernie Chertok • Lisa Darnowsky & Allan Walker • Carol Deaver • Christine Edmonds • Rachel White • Debbie & Ed Burns • Kaye & Bill Strong • Amy Taber • Barry Truchil & Bernadette West • Don & Geri Williams • Helen Wolf • Babs Zimmerman • ORGANIZATIONS: Doylestown Friends Meeting • Middletown Friends Meeting • Bucks County Historical Society • James A. Michener Art Museum • Newtown Chamber Orchestra • Pennsbury Manor • Visit Bucks County

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Foundations: St Mary Medical Center • Foundations Community Partnership • Sephora USA, Inc. • Giving Hope Network • Arbonne Charitable Foundation • Connelly Foundation • Lomax Family Foundation • Gene & Marlene Epstein Humanitarian Fund • Government: County of Bucks • Schools • Buckingham Friends School • Centennial SD • Council Rock SD • Makefield Elementary PTO • Pascagoula-Gautier SD • Pennbury SD • Quakertown Community SD
Grace Wheeler, Program Coordinator receiving a big Thank You from her students.

Peace Educator Kathia Monard-Weissman leads children in the Web of Life activity.

State Representative Steve Santarsiero speaking to a large crowd assembled in support of gun control laws.

Arun Gandhi and Jamie Maniatis with students.

Board members: (back row) Jim Murphy, Richard McLaughli, Sheila Jacobs, Jill Riggio. Front row: Lisa Darnowsky, Gayle Evans, Beth Ann Rinkus, Marge Chertok, Tarik Moor, Laura Lomax, Connie Keener, President.

Executive Director, Barbara Simmons and early founder of B.A.N.D. of The Peace Center, Bob Applebaum.