

HANDS of PEACE

Celebrating 10 years of dialogue and friendship!



1000 Elm Street, Glenview, IL 60025

www.handsofpeace.org

Questions? Call 224-406-5045



Update on HOP's Expansion

I am happy to report that Hands of Peace California has made excellent progress over the past few months! We have designed promotional materials,

established California legal status, and networked extensively within the community. Pacific Ridge School, a beautiful, independent school with a curricular emphasis on global engagement, has agreed to be our host site. In November, we held our first fundraising event with over 40 attendees and more than \$25,000 raised. Alumni Adam Heffez, Maor Lawton, Jafar Qutob, and Joumana Silbak spoke to the audience via Skype and impressed them with their stories of how HOP has changed their lives. It is all very exciting, but there is much more work to do. You can support this expansion effort by setting up your own Facebook Causes fundraiser over the holidays or providing us with local California contacts that you or your family might have. Onwards and upwards!

~Scott Silk, HOP San Diego Site Coordinator and HOP Facilitator



Michael Foss, HOP Site Coordinator Scott Silk, HOP Founder Gretchen Grad, HOP Board Member Erman Randazzo and Cheri Foss at a Nov. 4 fundraiser at the Foss home in Rancho Santa Fe, CA.

Alumni Club Update

Both the Middle East and US Alumni Clubs have been holding meetings. In some cases, US and Middle East alumni have taken part in each other's meetings via video. The US Alumni Club has submitted letters to a local church, mosque, and synagogue requesting permission to erect a Peace Pole at each location. "May Peace Prevail on Earth" would be inscribed in Arabic, English, and Hebrew on each side of the pole, which would be constructed by HOP alumni. Unfortunately, the Middle East Alumni Club had to postpone a two-day seminar that was scheduled for November 23-24 due to safety concerns. We are all hoping for a cease-fire soon, and will continue to work for a just and lasting peace for all in the region.



A sample Peace Pole, courtesy of The Peace Pole Project.

APPLY NOW!

The 2013 Summer Program dates are July 5 to July 22. Participant and host family applications are available online (www.handsofpeace.org).

December 2012

Featured Volunteer: Suaad Khatib

Suaad Khatib, mother of 2012 XL Rawy Khatib, is also a member of Yael's Group, which brings together Palestinian and Israeli adults every month to embrace co-existence with lectures, dialogue, and cultural activities. Suaad recently brought 12 HOP alumni and 20 members of Yael's Group together at her home in the Galilee village of Shafa'amr for an evening of dialogue and sharing. "The whole evening gave me a glimpse of hope and brought a smile to my face," said Hanna Levy Efron, a Jewish Israeli member of Yael's Group. Badea Khneefes, a Druze member, came with her teenage daughter, who is eager to dialogue and hear both sides. "The adults have failed in doing what these kids are doing," she said. "We have forgotten how to treat a person as a human being and nothing else." Thank you, Suaad, for making this beautiful event happen—and for everything you do to spread hope for a better future!



Suaad Khatib (third from left) at her home with HOP alumni on Sept. 24, 2012.



SAVE THE DATE!
HOP's 10th birthday celebration will be held on April 13, 2013! Details coming soon....

XLs Creating "The World We Want"

HOP's 2012 ME XLs recently received a \$5,000 grant from The World We Want Foundation, a unique foundation that supports only youth-led projects. Over the next year, the XLs and other alumni will accompany HOP recruiters on visits to schools and community organizations and will conduct their own peace-building and stereotype-challenging activities. During Hanukkah, Christmas, and Eid Al-Fitr, HOP alumni will also organize an interfaith charity drive for donations of toys and clothing to children at hospitals. Thank you XLs, and thank you to the World We Want Foundation for investing in our young leaders!

Introducing Our (Not So New) Communications Manager

Ashley Bates has been our Program Director extraordinaire for the past five years, and I'm thrilled to announce that Ashley is taking on an additional role! Ashley is now also serving as our part-time Communications Manager. Her new responsibilities include creating newsletters and other materials, updating website content, managing our database, grant-writing, and other fundraising initiatives. If you know of any possible funding sources for HOP, please let Ashley know! Ashley has tackled her new duties with the same energy and enthusiasm she brings to her job as Program Director. We are so excited about her expanded role with HOP!

Looking Ahead....Way Ahead!

Our big birthday bash on April 13 is not the only way we are marking our 10 year anniversary. Thanks to Board Member Wendy Rhodes, we are also diving into a professionally-driven strategic planning process, which will help ensure that the next 10 years and beyond are every bit as successful and inspirational as our first 10 years. This process will help us determine our priorities and our goals as well as how to address any obstacles that might stand in the way. Thank you, Wendy, for making this happen! The next newsletter will include the results.

~Julie Kanak, Executive Director



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