

**HANDS OF
PEACE**



Hello Friend,

I am excited to announce that Scott Rasmussen will join Hands of Peace as our new Executive Director on International Peace Day, this coming Monday, September 21st.

With recent experience as a diplomat with the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem, Scott brings extensive peacebuilding skills and a keen understanding of the region to Hands of Peace. While he is new to the Hands of Peace family, the challenges and opportunities of our work are not new to Scott. He has spent much of the last ten years leading intercultural teams helping young people find their voice and facilitating opportunities for them to see the “other.”



From 2009-2019, Scott led people-to-people work with the U.S. Foreign Service. In his two years of service in Jerusalem, Scott was an advocate for strong relations and continued engagement with youth, even through periods of disruptive political change.

Scott managed foreign assistance grants, directed initiatives on Palestinian/Israeli cooperation, and formed public-private partnerships on research and economic development. One of those initiatives was the Hands of Peace/EcoPeace Middle East Project in 2018.

Before his experience in the Middle East, Scott worked in Washington D.C., Warsaw, and Asmara, bringing people from different points of view together to come to consensus. That skill set is invaluable in our work, where the cultural, religious and geographical differences of our alumni, partners, staff and supporters in the United States and worldwide are one of our strongest assets.

The new realities of living in a world where connections are moving online allowed us to reimagine how to bring this remarkable leader onto our team.

While Hands of Peace will continue to be based in Glenview, Scott will lead Hands of Peace from Spokane, Washington, where he lives with his wife Brooke and their seven children.



Scott's extensive international resume and experience working across international boundaries, combined with his passion for building personal connections, will expand the Hands of Peace community. We will see him frequently in person in Chicago and San Diego as COVID travel restrictions permit. In the meantime, he will be reaching out to alumni and community members in all of our locations -- in Chicago, San Diego and the Middle East -- and you are welcome to connect with him via email at srasmussen@handsofpeace.org.

Please join me in welcoming Scott as we celebrate International Peace Day. As I prepare to turn the Board Chair position over to long-time Hands of Peace supporter and parent Wayne Andersen, I could not be more confident in the future of Hands of Peace.

Thank you all for your commitment.

Peg Lee
Board Chair



For International Peace Day, you can honor the 700 alumni who are leading change around the world, advocating freedom, equality and justice.

Alumni like Emily Kenward,
who credits her Summer



Emily Kenward
2015, 2016 Alumna

“I have taken lessons I learned during my summers to heart. They are the background against which I paint my *dreams* of the future.”

Program experience as the catalyst that empowered her commitment as a change maker on both a local and global scale. Emily's senior thesis at Tulane University focused on environmental peacebuilding. Today, Emily continues her studies at Tel Aviv University where she will earn a Master's degree in Conflict Resolution and Mediation.

Courageous youth are answering our call to become engaged global citizens. You can [answer that call today](#) with a donation as we shape peace together. Join other sustaining Peace Partners with a [monthly gift](#), make a one-time gift, or request a gift from a Donor-Advised fund. Give today -- the first \$10,000 will be matched. Go to handsofpeace.org/peaceday or contact Diana Kutlow at dkutlow@handsofpeace.org, (760) 492-1623.

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