CREATIVITY FOR PEACE is proud to share the highlights of our work in 2016.

Despite deterioration on the ground in Israel and Palestine, our young women continue the work of peace and social justice. They have matured in tandem with our growth as an organization – performing small and large acts of courage and determination, compassion, and reconciliation.

We thank you for your part in supporting these leaders and peacemakers.

TRANSFORMING POLITICS

With a grant from USAID, we initiated a project to teach inclusivity and peacemaking to Palestinian and Israeli women at the early stages of their careers in politics. Participants represent a diverse cross-section of the region, including religious, right-wing, and Gazan women.

PRACTICING PEACE

In 2016 our young women put their training to work as dialogue facilitators, public speakers, and group leaders. They embodied peacemaking in their studies, volunteering, careers, and families.

At the University of Oregon, Deema and Yaara – a Palestinian and an Israeli – major in international studies and conflict resolution and give many talks about their work for peace.

Sivan is the director of the Cologne Peace Daycare Center in Jaffa, one of the only schools to serve a mixed population of Jewish, Muslim, and Christian children in both Hebrew and Arabic.

Dima is a psychologist who volunteers for the Arab Association for Human Rights, raises funds for medical care for Gaza children, and leads dialogue in high schools and universities.

2016 highlights

Today I can say that I’m a new person who will bring big change to this world.

– Lihi, Israeli

“More than even peace, I have gained an unbreakable sisterhood.”

– Lana, Palestinian
INSPIRING OTHERS

Hundreds of American youth were inspired by the accomplishments of our young women, who led workshops and gave talks in high schools and colleges.

American girls trained as Peace Ambassadors, created handmade gifts, participated in a girls’ circle with our campers, and organized a “virtual” dialogue with Israeli peers.

Shirit, an Israeli, and Aia, a Palestinian, spoke to 2,000 people at the Santa Fe Opera, part of a benefit concert by musicians Michael Franti and Lila Downs.

A corps of 150 volunteers, teens to seniors, provided logistical and administrative support for our programs in New Mexico, Israel, and Palestine.

We received generous bequests from departed supporters Lorraine Schechter and Neysa Pritikin, as well as many gifts from the families and friends of Penny Holland and Javier Aceves, Louise Hocking Smith, Gloria Hocking, and Betsy Thompson.

PREPARING WOMEN LEADERS

Our unique leadership model teaches three principles:
- emotional foundation, the personal qualities of a lifelong peacemaker
- practical skills, the ability to act
- partnership, coexistence in practice

“Nothing has ever sparked the passion that Creativity for Peace instilled in me.” – Julia Jordan

At our 18th summer camp, compassionate dialogue and therapeutic art created the foundation. Once home, young women studied conflict transformation, gender, and the dual historical narrative and learned project management skills, both in-person and online.

We introduced these skills to 20 Arab and Jewish high school girls from the municipality of Matte Asher, Israel. Our hope is to replicate this program in the region.

MODELING EXCELLENCE

Members of our board of directors deepened their commitment to our mission and expanded their understanding by organizing a trip to Israel and Palestine that included visits with grassroots peacemaking groups, religious and governmental leaders, and 70 Creativity for Peace young women and their families.

We welcomed four new directors: Shaza Anderson, a native Syrian from Houston; Leslie Boni, finance professor at the University of New Mexico; Alicia Smith, retired public policy expert from Santa Fe; and Albuquerque attorney Rebekah Wright.

We were nominated for a 2017 New Mexico Ethics in Business Award and, for the fourth consecutive year, received a certificate of good management in Israel.

“Creativity for Peace is doing the best work of any group I’ve encountered.” – Mickey Klein

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