Ordinary People on the Frontlines of Change

2022 ANNUAL REPORT
Our Mission

We empower ordinary civilians to become nonviolent agents of sustainable peace and justice. We pursue this mission through strategic partnerships and capacity building initiatives that bolster locally driven justice and peacebuilding efforts.

Since 2011, we have trained more than 8000 individuals in nonviolent skills, including youth. In 2022, we touched the lives of 3000 people and their communities through five core programs. Learn more about each program by clicking on its icon.


DEAR FRIENDS,

This year has been full of growth. As a Community-Based Organization, we made a commitment to always center the voices and experiences of the people and communities that we serve. In doing so, we developed meaningful partnerships that opened new doors to exciting opportunities with respect to advancing sustainable justice and peace and made great strides toward achieving our goals.

This report presents a snapshot of some of the activities made possible through the very generous support of our donors, partners, and volunteers. Highlights of the year include:

- **Supporting Local Efforts to Achieve Justice and Peace:** We continued to support community-based stakeholders in establishing responsive community-driven violence prevention and response strategies through training, Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) deployments, Restorative Justice (RJ) Circles, and Advocacy.

- **Forming New and Strengthening Existing Partnerships:** We developed new partnerships and continued our work with existing partners across the Washington, D.C. area, nationally, and globally, working directly with a total of 54 organizations and groups.

- **Building a Community of Nonviolent Peacemakers:** We welcomed 7 new board members, 10 new Community Safety Unit members, a new Sustainable Development Committee, and many other volunteers, while making notable progress in our community outreach activities.

As we move into 2023, we are filled with hope for a better future—one rooted in a profound commitment to justice and peace. This future is a dream that can become a reality if we continue to work together.

Thank you for your unwavering support!

The DC Peace Team
**Milestones**

**2,221**

People trained in **nonviolent skills** across the U.S and abroad.

*Since 2011, we have trained more than 8000 people in nonviolent skills. The majority of participants are based in the Washington, D.C area.

**900**

Hours of **Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP)** Deployments to prevent violence and strengthen local peace and justice infrastructures, including numerous deployments across the DMV area during intense political demonstrations or events. Communities served include the Columbia Heights Plaza community and Fresh Farm Markets in Washington, D.C. Learn more about our Community Safety Unit (CSU) Project at Columbia Heights on pages 7 and 8.

**21**

**Restorative Justice (RJ)** circles and processes facilitated to help strengthen relationships and support individuals and communities impacted by harm.

**ANTI-RACISM & EQUITY**

We continued to take concrete actions to address the root causes of racism and close the equity gap. Such actions include carrying out our own work through a race equity lens, participating in a de-colonization working group of Unarmed Civilian Protection (UCP) organizations around the globe, facilitating training sessions on Anti-Racism, and building collaborative relationships with communities, government agencies, and organizations throughout the DMV area and beyond to help them incorporate racial equity into their policies, practices, and decision-making processes.

**POLICY ADVOCACY**

We advocated for and supported the implementation of local and national policies and practices that advance nonviolence and justice, including D.C. Gun Violence Prevention strategies and U.S. Violence Prevention programs.

An estimated 40% of all participants participated in 2 or more programs.
I learned new ways of thinking about Domestic Violence bystander intervention and how I can better help others and the community.

—Participant, Active Bystander Intervention (ABI) Training

Restorative Justice could certainly have a place in my conflict resolution toolbox!

—Participant, Introduction to Restorative Justice
The Community Safety Unit (CSU) Project provides direct protection of civilians from violence and helps foster an environment where every member of the Columbia Heights Plaza community would feel free, safe, and welcome, regardless of their race, ability, age, cultural background, ethnicity, faith, gender, gender expression, gender identity, ideology, income, national origin, documentation status, sexual orientation, or other characteristics. The CSU has contributed to significant improvements in the neighborhood in terms of safety, relationships among community members, access to resources, and sense of dignity and belonging. We are grateful for the invaluable contributions of community members and the financial support of Progressive Life Center, All Souls Unitarian Church, Diverse City Fund, District Bridges, and our generous donors.
"The plaza situation has been much better this summer, like night and day compared to last summer."

Kevin
Frozen Yo Shop Owner
Meet Martha Cooper

When did you join the DC Peace Team and why?

The DC Peace Team RJ sessions during COVID have been a source of nurture and relief. Joy Peyton introduced me to the Restorative Justice (RJ) section in 2020. Since then, I participated fully in many circles.

What does your involvement entail and what has been your experience so far?

A keen interest of mine is the challenging subject of aging. In January 2022, I proposed doing a couple of sessions on aging at an RJ team meeting. Before the meeting was over, it morphed into four sessions on various topics. Sal supported Angela and me as we prepared for the first session. I worked with Debra and Sal on subsequent sessions. Participants were college students, church leaders, and other professionals, all touched by aspects of aging. Many attended multiple sessions. Sal and the RJ team supported this endeavor magnificently. I also had the privilege of working on Accords International’s introductions to RJ last summer and in November. It was quite exciting to work across continents.

What are your hopes for the future?

I hope to support DC Peace Team in the design and facilitation of restorative practice workshops. The variety we could offer has no limits. With a good team, so much is possible.

An active member of the Restorative Justice (RJ) Team, Martha joined the DC Peace Team with hopes to bring Restorative Justice practices to older adults and their communities. Since joining the team, she has leveraged her experience to inform our programming and has facilitated several circles on issues related to aging and grief.
As a small organization, we rely on the support of our grantors and generous donors to advance our mission. Your contributions enabled us to sustain our programs in 2022, seize opportunities to create change, and respond to the urgent peace and justice-related needs of the communities we serve. We can’t thank you enough for your support and for believing in our mission.

**REVENUES**

- **Programs**: $72,875.00 (63.7%)
- **Grants**: $33,500.00 (29.3%)
- **Individual Donations**: $7,998.00 (7%)

**Expenses**

- **Programs**: $79,728 (75.4%)
- **Supportive Services**: $25,983 (24.6%)

**GRANTS**

- **IF Foundation**: $20,000
- **Building Blocks**: $10,000
- **Diversity City Fund**: $2,500
- **All Souls Church Rapid Response**: $1,000
Building Momentum
Accords International
Academy of Hope
Joseph's House
Kolbe House
Marian University
Georgetown University
LAYC CLUB class
Groveport Madison High School
Community Mediation
Chicago Peace Team
Sasha Bruce
Arts and Strategies
University of West Chester
Bryant University
Black Swan Academy
McKenna Center
Network for Victim Recovery of DC
Community Connections
Pace e Bene
200+ Men's Scholars Academy
Young People for Progress (YPP)
Diocese of Orange
Academy of Hope
DC Dyke March
Potter's House
Unitarian Universalist Church
National Association for Advancing Returning Citizens

DC Frederick Douglass Juneteenth March
Grace Episcopal Church
George Mason University
U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia
Challenging Racism
McClendon Center
Joseph's House
Arts Strategies
Quaker Call To Action
Mt. Pleasant Library
District Bridges
Aids Healthcare Foundation
Faithful Democracy
Rehumanize International
Family & Youth Initiative (DCFYI)
New VA Majority
Sidwell Friends
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
The Welders, DC
DC Primary Care Association (DCPCA)
Amara Legal Center
Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS (BCCHS)
Bon Secours
A Wider Circle
**District Bridges** was born out of a collaborative grassroots effort, known as the Columbia Heights Initiative (CHI). CHI started as a group of neighbors who shared a vision for preserving the cultural diversity that made Columbia Heights vibrant while also celebrating local businesses and building a more inclusive and connected community! In 2005, these founding members organized the first Columbia Heights Day Festival. After ten years, the CHI board set out to develop an organization that could serve the community year-round, laying the foundation for what District Bridges has become today.

In 2022, District Bridges financial support was very instrumental in enabling us to continue our Community Safety Unit Project at FreshFarm Markets and Columbia Heights Plaza. We are thankful for this partnership and excited to continue to work together in the year ahead.
We are grateful to all the volunteers, interns, staff, partners, and board members who supported our programs in 2022. We couldn't have done it without you.

15 Volunteers
12 Trainers
20 UCP Deployed Members
2 Interns
4 Staff Members
7 Board Members

Board Members

Angie Whitehurst
Sal Corbin
Kay Newhouse
Princia Vas
James A. Lynch, Jr.
Heather Legge
Heather Thompson
Get Involved

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