

The Peace Resource Center of San Diego

2008 Program and Service Review



The year 2008 marked the Peace Resource Center's 28th anniversary.

For 28 years, the Peace Resource Center has been a consistent presence in the San Diego community, speaking out against violence in all of its forms and providing a voice for peaceful, nonviolent ways to solve interpersonal, community and global problems.

2009 will be an exciting year. A new Administration in Washington opens up possibilities for reversing policies set during the Bush years. It will, however, take all peace and social justice-loving people working together to help achieve our shared goals and we will need to continue to speak out for peace, social justice, nonviolence, tolerance and reconciliation and to help build the mass movement needed to address the momentous challenges and opportunities ahead.

As we move into our 29th year, we will continue to provide the kind of active presence for peace, social justice and nonviolent solutions that is needed, especially in these times!

Peace Resource Center members can be proud of our past 28 years of work and look forward to building an even larger peace and social justice community as we continue our work in the new year to build a "Culture of Peace" and a better world for future generations.

The Peace Resource Center of San Diego...
working for peace, social justice and the environment since 1980

The Friends Center

Our Future Permanent Home

The Friends Center is a collaborative effort of the Peace Resource Center, the First Church of the Brethren, the San Diego Friends Meeting, and the American Friends Service Committee, San Diego Area. It will be an enduring visual statement of our dedication to advancing peace, social justice and spiritual growth. As an environmentally-sound "green" building, it will be a witness to our commitment to wise stewardship of the earth's resources. Built and operated in collaboration, the building will daily demonstrate how organizations with common values can share resources and work together to create new models for social change. (See the building website at www.sdfriendscenter.org for more info.)



*Exterior View of Friends Center
November 2008
Photo: Alvin Stern*



*Volunteer Jack Leshefka on the lift setting "ribs" in the Friends Meeting Room.
Photo: Wayne Reed*

As you can see from the picture above, we made great progress in 2008 on the exterior of the building. Doors and windows, exterior plaster and a beautiful green metal roof now secure the Friends Center against winter rains. Our building's exterior is nearly complete. Also exciting are our connections to city water and sewer lines. A power pole is set and the underground conduits are in making possible a permanent electrical connection. Inside the building we have completed both the rough electrical and plumbing systems.

Our building has attracted much attention from people seeing it from Interstates 15 and 805, during our own open house on International Peace Day on September 21st, the annual Green Built Tour and from casual visitors who drop by. We continue to provide information about our design choices and use of materials that support earth-friendly practices through an online video, "Friends Center: Design & Materials," a talk by Project Architect Juergen Zierler of Hubbell and Hubbell.



*Your donations at work--
finishing the exterior of the building.
Photo: Wayne Reed*

"Gardeners 4 Peace," a group of volunteers who have come together to take care of our permaculture garden, continue their efforts. In addition to weeding and taking care of the fruit trees, they've made mulch waddles which are amazingly successful at holding water on the property. Recently the Gardeners have built a compost bin system and are digging holes to put clumping bamboo in to grow a shade structure to serve as a classroom. In January there will be another free class in fruit tree pruning and then we'll start having compost and rainwater harvesting classes. The trees are bearing delicious fruit; come by some time and sample the "fruits" of their labor. To help, contact them at gardeners4peace@hotmail.com

Three permanent volunteers, along with our paid construction manager, continue to work on the building all week. They are aided by the help of volunteer work parties on weekends. The building is a true participatory endeavor! You can help by volunteering as we continue the process of finishing the inside of the building. If you or a group you work with would like to be on our volunteer list and receive e-mail notices of building progress and volunteer opportunities, please contact us.

We would like to complete the building in 2009, but accomplishing this will depend on raising the necessary additional funds and more volunteers.

This project is only possible through donations of money, materials and services and volunteer labor from people like you. If you can help in any way, please contact Carol Jahnkow at 619-263-9301 or info@prcsd.org



*Annual Work-a-thon for Peace & Justice
June 2008
Photo: Rick Jahnkow*

PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

TEACHING PEACE, CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND NONVIOLENCE

Children and Nonviolence Program:

Our Children and Nonviolence Program is designed to reach parents and teachers of young children through workshops and providing information that encourages purchasing toys that promote positive, cooperative play, use the child's imagination, and teach pro-social values. We also talk about ways to monitor a family's use of media—TV, video games and movies. Over the years we have developed a number of resources that continue to be used by parents and teachers, including our "Teach Peace" brochure and our "What Values Are Your Toy Choices Teaching" flier.

High School Peace Writing Contest:

This important project gives young people, grades 9-12, the opportunity to contribute their solutions to problems facing our world. Winning entries for several school years are available in booklet form on our website: www.prcsd.org. Our topic for the 2008-2009 school year is "What Can My Generation Do To Help Create a Peaceful World Free of War and Violence?"

CREATING PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The PRC's work on peace, social justice and disarmament issues is done through participation in annual community events, through coordination of special programs, by providing speakers for events, conducting media interviews, writing and distributing fliers and articles and by mobilizing our membership to respond to local and world events.

A major focus since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon has been working with the San Diego Coalition for Peace and Justice. Since its formation, just days after the attacks, the coalition has been an important voice for uniting people in San Diego who are opposed to the Bush Administration's drive to keep us in a state of perpetual war and maintain US hegemony and domination in the world. The coalition has organized a variety of events, including demonstrations, teach-ins, public meetings, leafleting at public

places, including street fairs and outside high schools.

The PRC contributes significant resources to the coalition, helping to make sure the overall effort is successful by working on and supporting coalition com-

mittees, making sure the coalition has a place to meet, helping to keep demonstrations peaceful by training and providing peacekeepers and police liaison work, serving as a media contact and press spokesperson, and providing administrative support.



Participants at March 15th demonstration and rally against the Iraq War
Photo: Susan Friedman

Some of the events on which we worked with the coalition and other community groups this year included: "Five Years of War: Look at the Cost" Rally and Demonstration, March 15; Annual Candlelight Vigil and Commemoration of the Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, August 6; Lecture and Book signing by Author Chris Hedges, June 25; and the Amnesty International "Walk for Human Rights," October 19. The PRC and members have participated in many other events including activities for immigrant rights, against the presence of the military in our schools and for civil rights/marriage equality.

STOP BLACKWATER: In early 2007, we learned that Blackwater USA, a private military contractor that trains mercenaries, had plans to build a training facility in Potrero, a small community 45 miles east of San Diego. We quickly made contact with

Potrero residents and began aiding their efforts to stop "Blackwater West." In March 2008, Blackwater announced it was withdrawing its permit application for the Potrero facility.

This was a major victory! We subsequently learned that Blackwater (under other names) was seeking permits to open a facility in Otay Mesa. Although this facility did open, our activities against this further incursion of Blackwater into our community continue and include attending San Diego



Author Jeremy Scahill speaks at anti-Blackwater Protest in Otay Mesa, June
Photo: Susan Friedman



"Remember Nisour Square" Commemoration and Anti-Blackwater protest in Otay Mesa, September
Photo: Z Kripke

THE PEACE RESOURCE CENTER: A CLEARINGHOUSE AND INFORMATION RESOURCE FOR THE COMMUNITY

Founded in 1980 by six local organizations committed to peace, the Peace Resource Center (PRC) now has over 40 member organizations and hundreds of individual and family members. The Peace Resource Center works for peace and justice by:

- **Educating** the public on peace and social justice issues
- **Facilitating** communication and networking among peace-related groups
- **Functioning** as a central clearinghouse for information about community, national and international peace and social justice efforts and activities

- **Consulting** on peace education, program planning and nonviolent conflict resolution
- **Publishing an up-to-date Peace Calendar** on the web at www.prcsd.org/webcalendar
- **Providing** speakers, trainers and workshops on a variety of peace-related topics, including nonviolent methods
- **Promoting** dialogue and understanding of the causes of violence and militarism and promoting ideas for constructive nonviolent actions and solutions
- **Mobilizing** our membership for action

City Council meetings, a press conference hosted by Representative Bob Filner, a demonstration at the Blackwater facility and hosting author Jeremy Scahill, author: "Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army," in June for public programs and meetings with Otay Mesa and San Ysidro community members and a September demonstration commemorating the Nisour Square Massacre.

Other Affiliations: We are a part of many local, national and international coalitions and networks, including the Abolition Caucus, United for Peace and Justice, National Priorities Project, Child Soldiers Coalition, Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, Bite the Bullet Campaign and the Military Toxics Project. During the year we participated in campaigns and responded to action alerts from these various organizations.

KEEPING THE PRC GOING...

Volunteer Recruitment, Coordination and Training: Volunteers are the backbone of the PRC. Our dedicated volunteers assist in many ways, including participation on our Board of Directors and Advisory Board, office support, help with mailings and at events, and serve on program committees. Volunteers are also playing a key role in helping to build our new facility.

Fundraising: The PRC's operating budget for 2008 was a modest \$70,000. This sum supports all of our program work and the salary of a full-time Executive Director—our only paid staff person.

Most of our income comes from the community through membership dues, monthly pledges and contributions by members. In addition to this our work was funded by:

- "Words Can't Go There," a concert featuring John Kaizan Neptune, January 5
- 2008 Work-a-thon for Peace & Social Justice, June 28—a joint project with Project YANO
- Two Spaghetti Dinners at the Big Kitchen Restaurant, June 11 and October 1

- Souper Supper 28th Anniversary Dinner, November 18, featuring Judge Norbert Ehreunfreund speaking about his book, "The Nuremberg Legacy," and Folksinger Peggy Watson
- Annual Peace on Earth Holiday Bazaar, December 2008

BE A PEACEMAKER! GET INVOLVED!

The Peace Resource Center of San Diego depends on community support to carry out its peace education programs. To become a member, please fill out the coupon below and return to the PRC.

The PRC is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, educational organization. All memberships and contributions are tax-deductible as allowable by law.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Sign me up! Enclosed are my membership dues:

\$40 Individual \$45 Family

\$25 Senior/student/low income \$50 Organization

I love the PRC! Enclosed is a donation of \$ _____

Enclosed is an additional donation of \$ _____ for the Peace Center's building project.

Please send me information about how I can volunteer for the new building project and other Peace Center activities.

The Peace Resource Center Of San Diego

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