



Photo by Gwynedd Rzegocki

Students at the Holy Child Program wash and prepare grapes grown on the school grounds.

Figs, pomegranates, limes, and olives are also grown at the school

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Children of Peace Foundation

2008 End of Year Report

END OF YEAR REFLECTIONS

Happy Holidays! As 2008 nears a close, we would like to take a moment to let the supporters of the Children of Peace Foundation (CPF) know what we have been up to this year.

Many of you attended the first charity dinner and silent auction for the Children of Peace Foundation on December 8, 2007. The night was a huge success, with over \$38,000 raised to support victims of trauma in Palestine.

Over 150 people showed their support for CPF that night, including Seattle University President, Father Stephen Sundborg, S.J., who praised the work being done by the foundation. The founder of the Holy Child Program (HCP), Mother Rose Mesa, spoke about the types of therapy provided by HCP and how they benefit the children. Guests enjoyed traditional Middle Eastern food and music while bidding on unique auction items, including olive oil and carved olivewood pieces from Bethlehem and original artwork.

Part of the money raised that night went to fund a \$2,000 three-day trip for 30 students to the Sea of Galilee. That vacation gave the children a chance to play, relax and heal in an environment far away from the traumatic situations they have experienced. In August the Children of Peace Foundation sent \$30,000 to the Holy Child Program to help cover operating costs and scholarships.

Join us on December 13, 2008 at Seattle University's Campion Ballroom for the Children of Peace Foundation's second annual charity dinner and silent auction. With your help, we can make this year's event bigger and better. We have set a fundraising goal of \$50,000 for this year's auction and we hope to see you there for some great food, music and auction items.

NOTES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

Diane Rzegocki, MSW and a CPF board member with 20 years experience as a licensed clinical social worker, has been working in Bethlehem as a consultant to the Holy Child Program since August. This is her second trip there, and after a holiday visit home, she will return in 2009 for another six months.

"It is such a privilege to be here and to be a part of this program. It is a pleasure working with such a dynamic, talented and caring staff, and collaborating with members of the community to develop the institutional capacity of the program. The kinds of therapy the Holy Child Program provides are unique in the region and their results are visible in the sense of comfort and security the children feel arriving at school every day.

Recently, the school community harvested the olives which grow on the property. Cooperative projects are a big part of the curriculum of the Holy Child Program, and it was wonderful to see the children working and learning together to produce a staple of Middle Eastern life. Through this program they have an opportunity to learn and grow in a safe, nurturing environment. Thank you for supporting our efforts. It has made a significant impact and positive difference for the staff and students of the Holy Child Program."

— Diane Rzegocki

(Story continued on p.2)



(Notes from the Middle East, cont.)

In September, a delegation from Seattle University also traveled to the region on a "Capacity Building for Peace" trip. The group included SU faculty Yvonne Harrison, Janet Quillian and Phil Barclift, and students of the Nonprofit Leadership program, Blair Burroughs and Julie Wilcox. The goal of the humanitarian trip was to assess the needs of the Holy Child Program. The delegation sought to identify the ways in which Seattle University can be involved in helping the Children of Peace Foundation with fundraising and other types of development. During their week-long trip they met with the HCP Board and Catholic Relief Services in Jerusalem to learn about the peace building work they do in the region, talked and worked with staff from the Holy Child Program and even toured the historical monuments of the Holy Land.

IN THE NEWS

Khaled, the Rzegocki family and the Children of Peace Foundation were featured in the Fall 2007 issue of *Seattle University Magazine*.

http://www.seattleu.edu/home/news_events/magazine/details.asp?elltemID=MAG_1132

The Seattle University MNPL Bulletin profiled Yvonne Harrison's Boards and Volunteers class developing an organizational workbook for the Children of Peace Foundation as part of their service learning program.

http://www.seattleu.edu/artsci/npl/MNPL_Newsletter.pdf

Khaled has also been raising the profile of CPF by presenting to rotary clubs and high schools as far as Pasco, WA. He plans to expand this program, increasing awareness of CPF and encouraging students and organizations to support programs that work with traumatized children with their own fundraising

INTRODUCING THE BOARD

efforts.

The Board of Directors have been hard at work this year, meeting regularly to guide the foundation's development. They are currently in the middle of laying out plans for continued success and growth for CPF in 2009!

Children of Peace Foundation Board of Directors

Khaled Jaraysa, President; Nancy Roach, Vice President; Vera Giampietro, Secretary; Tamer Adel, Treasurer; Diane Rzegocki, Member; Leigh Goodrich, Member; Dan Roach,

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Photo by Gwynedd Rzegocki

Diane and Claire Rzegocki overlooking a vista near the Holy Child Program, September 2008

Don't forget! Bring your dancing shoes and join us at the Dance for Peace. March 13, 2009, 8pm, Campion Ballroom.

Interested in volunteering for the 2008 auction?

Please send an email to info@childrenofpeacefoundation.org and let us know how you would like to help.

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS!

with special thanks to:

Seattle University Jesuit Community • Father Stephen Sundborg

Jim Rzegocki • Dr. Faizi Ghodsi • Yvonne Harrison

Mary Bichler & Venita Fischer • Joel & Maureen Benoliel

June & Manuel Tarsha • J. Peter Van Der Veen • Jane Orr

Keith & Debra Ronnholm • Richard & Kathleen Sanders

Seattle University MNPL 2008 Cohort • Judy Piggot

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Peace Foundation
on Facebook!**



If we are to teach real peace in this world,
and if we are to carry on a real war against war,
we shall have to begin with the children.

— Gandhi