



# Richmond Peace Education Center

## *2008 Annual Report*

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The staff and Board of Directors of the Richmond Peace Education Center are pleased to present this report to you covering our activities during 2008. The Richmond Peace Education Center was founded in 1980 as an initiative to widen the Richmond community's understanding of nonviolent approaches to conflict. It has been a leading voice for nonviolence in the greater Richmond region for almost 30 years. In 2008, the center worked actively in a variety of ways to build a more peaceful and more just community and world, reaching thousands of people through five programs:

## Programs

### CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Workshops in conflict-resolution skill-building for adults and youth.

### RICHMOND YOUTH PEACE PROJECT

Innovative violence prevention and empowerment program for teenagers, which RPEC runs jointly with Drums No Guns.

### PEACE ESSAY CONTEST

Annual essay contest for youth, kindergarten through 12th grade.

### RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

Dialogue and action for racial justice in metro-Richmond.

### PUBLIC EDUCATION ON PEACE AND JUSTICE ISSUES

Public forums and collaborations on a range of topics related to peace and justice. As part of this program, we co-coordinate Eyes Wide Open-Virginia, a display of combat boots designed to promote reflection about the cost of war.

During 2008, RPEC organized or cosponsored dozens of different program opportunities and events.

### CONFLICT RESOLUTION

RPEC's conflict resolution workshops teach concrete skills for resolving disagreements nonviolently, focusing on communication, conflict problem solving, affirmation, and emotion regulation. In 2008, RPEC facilitators led conflict resolution workshops with more than 16 different organizations and schools, including these:

Albert Hill Middle School, Bon Air Presbyterian Church, Boys and Girls Club, Equality Virginia, Friends Association, Gilpin Jackson Center, Fifth Baptist Church, Richmond Department of Social Services, Richmond Shakespeare, Community Housing Partners, Milk and Cookies, Rappahannock Office on Youth, ROSMY, Shiloh Ministries, Winchester Greens Community Center, and William Byrd Community House.

Some workshops were co-led by teen members of our Youth Conflict Resolution Team. Our youth-led workshops reached 160 other children and teens in a range of settings including afterschool and summer programs, faith communities, and schools.

In addition, RPEC offered the community a two-day basic training in conflict resolution, an evening workshop on Anger Management, and a 16-hour Alternatives to Violence Project training.

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

RPEC made youth programming a top priority in 2008, expanding and strengthening its Richmond Youth Peace Project (RYPP) and Peace Essay Contest.

- In January, RYPP held a citywide performance of poetry and music honoring the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. About 500 people attended this creative youth production held at VCU's Singleton Center for the Performing Arts.
- In April, more than 130 youth attended the Fourth Annual Youth Peace Summit, taking part in workshops and activities focused on conflict resolution and positive self expression. The size of the summit increased substantially in 2008, over previous years.
- Also in the spring, about 500 young people from dozens of different schools submitted thoughtful essays to RPEC's Peace Essay Contest. Their essays responded to the quote by Israeli Moshe Dayan: "If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies."

### RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

In the fall, more than 30 RPEC members and friends participated in a guided walk along Richmond's historic slave trail led by Cricket White and Rev. Tee Turner of Initiatives of Change / Hope in the Cities. The experience deepened participants' understanding of the history of slavery in our city. RPEC racial justice initiative members also began planning and conducting outreach for the 2009 racial justice discussion series.

### PUBLIC FORUMS AND EVENTS

RPEC organized and cosponsored several discussions, film showings, and large public forums in 2008 on a range of topics. In February we held "Living Simply, Making Green and Just Choices," a panel discussion followed by break-out groups focused on the variety of ways that people in the Richmond region can promote simple living and environmental justice. Also in February we cosponsored "The Power of Forgiveness," a documentary film, together with the Richmond Catholic Diocese Office of Justice & Peace and other groups. Later

# *The Richmond Peace Education Center works for a just and peaceful community by promoting nonviolence locally and globally.*

in the year we hosted a talk about immigration and trade policies by Mexican sociologist Marco Antonio Velasquez Navarrete, as part of a statewide speaking tour led by Witness for Peace. In the fall, RPEC cosponsored a lecture focused on the Prince Edward County school closings, together with the William Byrd Community House and the VCU School of Social Work, entitled “Civil Rights and Race Relations in Virginia Public Education.” The peace center was also involved in two Richmond events commemorating the anniversary of the war in Iraq, and supported community-wide peace events including the Family Peace Festival.

Throughout 2008, RPEC, together with Midlothian Friends Meeting and Richmond Friends Meeting, co-coordinated the Eyes Wide Open-Virginia exhibit statewide. The exhibit consists of more than 120 combat boots tagged with the name, rank, age and home town of Virginia soldiers who have died in Iraq. It includes shoes representing Iraqi casualties, and information about the economic cost of war. Seven different hosts across the state, including churches, college campus organizations, and community groups, held the exhibit in their local communities. The display reached more than eight thousand people over the course of the year—more than any of our other programs—stimulating reflection and discussion about the human and economic cost of the war in Iraq.

## *Newsletter, E-mail List & Website*

In addition to its programs, the center links concerned residents in the Richmond area with information on local, national, and international peace and justice issues through its bi-monthly newsletter, e-mail list, and Website. Each issue of the RPEC newsletter reaches more than 1,200 members. The e-mail list links 350 Richmond-area community members, keeping them informed about local events and opportunities. The Website ([www.rpec.org](http://www.rpec.org)) provides access to a wide range of resource materials on peace and conflict resolution. In addition, the office has a lending library and other educational resources.

## *Support*

The center’s greatest resource is its members. Almost half of RPEC’s financial support consists of donations from individual community members who believe in peace and justice. We are grateful that individual giving increased by 20% in 2008 over 2007, enabling program expansion. As part of RPEC’s “Peace Promise Campaign,” 12 major donors made pledges in 2008 to maintain or increase their giving levels over three years.

RPEC also continues to be strengthened by its partnerships with the faith community. Thirteen different faith communities contributed to the peace center in 2008, providing essential support for RPEC’s peace and justice work.

For a number of years, RPEC has held two major fundraising events each year, a Concert for Peace and Annual Dinner and Auction. In the spring of 2008, internationally known singer-songwriter John McCutcheon returned once again to “celebrate spring with a concert for peace.” The November Dinner and Auction, where we recognized peace activist and public historian Betsy Brinson as Peacemaker of the Year, proved one of the most successful in peace center history. In addition, for the first time in 2008, Drums No Guns, led by founder and RPEC board member Ram Bhagat, sponsored a day-long Drumathon to raise funds to support the Richmond Youth Peace Project. Late in the year, Ellwood Thompson’s Local Market made RPEC the beneficiary of its “5% Day,” sharing 5% of net proceeds from one day of shopping with RPEC. Ten Thousand Villages in Carytown also generously supported RPEC with an RPEC shopping night in November. The Thrifty Quaker, a project of Midlothian Friends Meeting, made RPEC its beneficiary for a month again in 2008, providing RPEC with vital funding from the proceeds of sales.

We keep our administrative expenses low, spending just 15.7% of our total budget on administrative and fundraising costs.

The staff and board of directors recognize and appreciate your support of RPEC. Thank you for your partnership in making our community and world more peaceful and more just.

# Annual Financial Summary 2006-2008

	<u>Jan - Dec '08</u>	<u>Jan - Dec '07</u>	<u>Jan - Dec '06</u>
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Contributions	\$ 65,246	\$ 59,823	\$ 52,912
Fund Raising Events	14,763	16,971	11,116
Grants	10,812	4,999	4,100
Program Income	7,930	7,304	6,140
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Total Income	\$ 98,751	\$ 89,097	\$ 74,268
<b>EXPENSE:</b>			
Program Expense	\$ 85,610	\$ 75,107	\$ 58,778
Management	2,800	3,187	2,835
Fundraising	7,611	6,979	5,767
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Expense	\$ 96,021	\$ 85,273	\$ 67,380
Net Income	+ 2,730	+ 3,824	+ 6,888
<b>FUND BALANCES:</b>			
	<u>END 2008</u>	<u>END 2007</u>	<u>END 2006</u>
General Checking Account	\$ 18,001	\$ 21,046	\$ 16,045
Savings Account	5,895	767	733
Special Accounts	1,120	700	1,712
Materials Sale Inventory	2,030	1,800	2,000
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	\$ 27,046	\$ 24,314	\$ 20,490
Change to Total Funds:	+ 2,732	+ 3,824	+ 6,889



## Richmond Peace Education Center

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# Richmond Peace Education Center

## 2008 Contributors

### Faith Community Contributors

Bon Air Presbyterian Church  
Church of the Brethren - Virilina District  
Church of the Epiphany - Catholic  
First Mennonite Church  
Ginter Park Presbyterian Church  
Lakeside Presbyterian Church  
Midlothian Friends Meeting  
Presbyterian Church Foundation  
Richmond Friends Meeting  
St. Bridget Catholic Church  
St. Edward Catholic Church  
St. Mary Catholic Church  
St. Philip's Episcopal Church

### Youth Peace Summit Supporters

Bon Secours Richmond Health System  
Catholic Campaign for Human Development  
Farm Fresh Charitable Foundation  
Food Lion  
Kroger Foundation  
Richmond Police Department  
Richmond Postal Credit Union

### Spring Concert Program Sponsors

43rd Street Gallery  
Another Limited Rebellion  
Benham Consulting & Coaching  
Bon Air Presbyterian Church  
David Depp & Kathleen Kenney  
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Ginter Park Presbyterian Church  
Ice Cream Connection  
Images Main Street  
Integral Yoga Center of Richmond  
Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond  
LaDifference  
March Funeral Homes  
Elizabeth Mastropiero, L.Ac.  
Pax Christi Richmond  
Platinum Plus Power Washing & Landscape  
Quaker House  
Richmond Friends Meeting  
Virginia Organizing Project  
Wythken Printing

### Grants

ACW Fund  
Doherty Family Fund of The Community Foundation

United Methodist Global Ministries,  
Women's Division  
Youth Philanthropy Project

### Services

Another Limited Rebellion  
Kathy Benham  
Lisa Boudreax  
Duron Chavis  
Jo Lord  
Vedere Consulting, LLC

### Auction Sponsors

1 North Belmont Restaurant  
4025 Yoga  
43rd Street Gallery  
Adria Scharf  
Adrien Hamilton (Keen Designs)  
AirTran Airways  
AlterNatives  
Ann Holton and Tim Kaine  
Annette Dean  
Annie Jordan  
Arcade Café  
Baker's Crust Café  
Barbara Goodwyn  
Barry Lawson  
Ben & Jerry's  
Beth Almore  
Bethany Serrano  
Betsy Brinson  
Beverley Jane  
Bob Alexander  
Bob Kline  
BodyZenSoul Hair Salon  
Bogey's Sports Park  
Bridget Camden  
Carey Burke Carpets  
Celia & Dick Elzay  
Celito Lindo  
Chandler's Men's Fine Clothing  
Charlene Brotman  
Chris Clarke  
Chuck Scalin  
Consignment Connection  
Corporate & Museum Frame  
Crossroads Coffee  
Cultural Arts Center of Glen Allen  
Dave Depp  
David Barden

David Camden  
Decatur's Garage  
Decorum  
Demitra Heckman  
Diana Westbrook  
Dots Back Inn  
Elaine Ogburn  
Embellish  
Emily Kimball  
Extreme Pizza  
Fin & Feather  
Firehouse Theatre  
FloraCulture  
Frances Kimmel  
Garden Place  
Garrie Rouse  
Grace Covenant Community Ministries  
Harrison Street Coffee Shop  
Holliday Barn Pet Motel  
Ice Cream Connection  
J. Emerson Cheese and Wine  
J. Hoefler Photography  
Jack Boles  
Janet Worsham  
Jean Washburn  
Jim Bennett  
Jim Koren  
Joan & Sam Williamson  
Jodi Teitelman  
Joel Moses  
Joe's Inn  
John & Nancy Gallini  
John Accordino  
John Bryan  
John McCutcheon  
Joni Terry and Debra Fleisher  
Jude Scholtzaur  
Kara Kenning  
Karen Britton, CMT  
Kathryn Aiken Studio  
Kathy Yost Benham  
Kitchen 64 Restaurant  
La Difference  
Legends Hair Spa & Salon  
Libby Reid  
Lily Just Simon  
Liz Rupp  
Lois Angeletti  
Lori Guthrie  
Lori Speagle, MA RYT  
Maldini's Pizza  
Marianne McKee

Maris Wyatt  
Martha Dick  
Mary Ann Harty  
Mary Jane Gerow  
Mary Munton  
Mercury String Shop  
Mike Schlosser  
Millie's Restaurant  
Mim Scalin  
Mindy Loiselle  
Modlin Center for the Arts  
Moonshadow Designs  
Mrs. Marshall's Carytown Café  
Narnia Children's Books  
Nassen Ghariban  
Nicola Flora Flowers & Gifts  
Nirmal Bajekal  
Noah Scalin  
Noni Ledford  
Nora Pozzi  
Northside Grill  
Odile Creations  
Once Upon a Vine  
O'Tooles  
Padow's Ham & Deli  
PAO Works  
Paradise Diner  
Paul Fleisher  
Paula Powdermaker  
Peak Experiences  
Phil Wilayto  
Phyllis Entin  
Plan 9 Music  
Positive Vibe Cafe  
Ralph & Sally Sell  
Randy Graham  
Reliable Office Supply  
Richmond Kickers Soccer  
Richmond Renegades  
Richmond Segway  
Richmond Symphony  
Riva O'Sullivan  
Riverside Outfitters  
Ron Alpern  
Roshan Quarterman.  
Science Museum of Virginia  
Steven Glass  
Stir Crazy  
Straw & Feathers  
Susan Svendsen  
Tastebuds American Bistro  
Taylor Hogan Inc.

## 2008 Contributors continued

Theatre IV - Barksdale  
Theresa Coats  
VCU - Renolds Chamber Music  
VCU Athletic Dept.  
Virginia Historical Society  
Weezie's Kitchen  
Wendy Northup  
Westhampton Cleaners  
World of Mirth  
Zeus Cafe & Gallery  
Zorba's Pizza

### Individual Contributors

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