

Meta Peace Team

Formerly Michigan Peace Team

MPT Web Site
metapeaceteam.org

Lansing and Detroit Offices

MPT LANSING
2722 E. Michigan Ave.
Suite 101
Lansing, MI 48912
517 484-3178

MPT DETROIT
1950 Trumbull
Detroit, MI 48216
313 204-6350
313 520-7465



THEME: The theme of this newsletter is **THE PRICE OF PEACEMAKING**. Here we focus on the benefits of giving time, energy, and money toward the good works of nonprofit organizations. From personal experience, we know that this theme can elicit unease and discomfort. Yet we are beginning to understand in new ways that the gifts of time, energy, and money breathes life into peace, justice, and sustainability movements. Moreover, these gifts are investments in the future of this beautiful planet and earth community. In this spirit we hope that you will enjoy reading this edition and be able to use the material presented in many and diverse ways for the betterment of people and the planet.



As we prepare this newsletter, we are keenly aware of the loss of a great friend, **Mary Pat Dewey, OP, born August 17, 1938 and died June 6, 2014**. With all the love in our hearts we dedicate this newsletter and our future MPT education efforts in Mary Pat's memory. Mary Pat was an extraordinary advocate of peace with justice and ecology. Also she cherished the vision and mission of MPT more than any of us; she was the first among us to recognize that the price of peacemaking is an essential element of our commitment and work; and she was a wonderful model of gracious giving and receiving. We miss her so very much!

Your MPT Newsletter Team

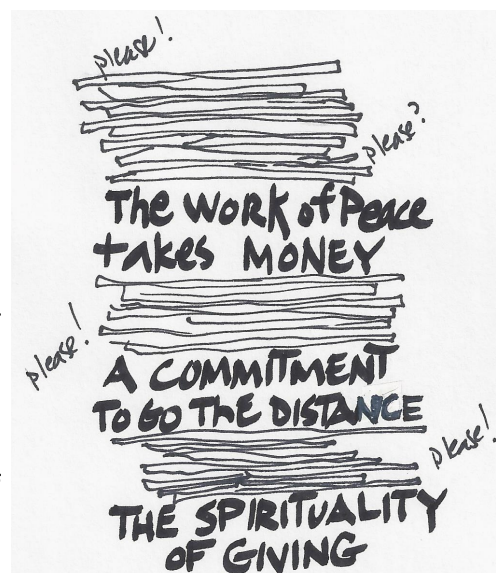
Sustainability: Going the Distance for Peace

By Kim Redigan

They arrive in the mail daily. Appeals - sometimes poignant, sometimes urgent, sometimes beautifully crafted - asking for funds for this worthy cause or that. Sometimes the need is so compelling that the checkbook opens immediately; more often, the letters get placed in a towering stack of similar requests that will later be organized according to need. Because of the sheer volume, most requests, ultimately, are not filled. Prayers may go out to all of these groups, movements, and causes, but usually the prayers are not accompanied by a return envelope.

So, what is it that would compel a person to give to this group and not others, or to invest in this project and not that one? What undergirds giving and why does it matter? Is there such a thing as a spirituality of giving that transcends donating out of guilt or self-interest? Why is MPT devoting an entire issue of its quarterly newsletter to the price of peacemaking?

On a practical level, the work of peace takes money, and as an organization that does not receive money from the



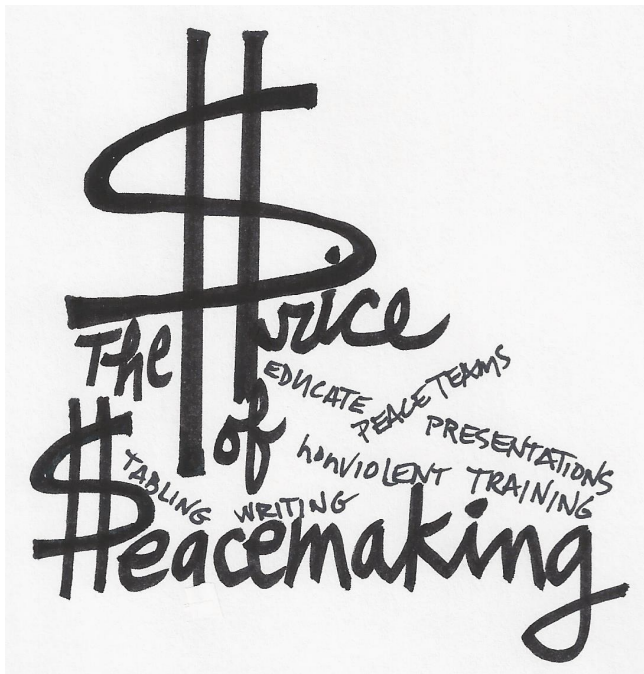
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Sustainability: continued

government or well-heeled foundations, MPT exists precariously, dependent upon grassroots donors and grants from activist groups and religious communities who themselves live hand-to-mouth.



As our friends know, the work of placing international and domestic peace teams, offering nonviolence trainings locally and around the country, educating through presentations, outreach tables, writing, and partnering with peace partners in Detroit and Flint, is time consuming and costly. While MPT insists on an ethos of stewardship rooted in frugality, its staff and volunteers spend an inordinate amount of time trying to raise money in order to keep the work going.

As MPT enters its third decade of empowered peacemaking, it is time to create a new model of sustainability that will allow MPT to grow its work far into the future – a future that is going to need all the creative peacemaking possible.

In a talk given to the Peace Council in New York City not too long ago, Joan Chittister outlined the difference between charity, which provides for the day, and spiritual philanthropy, which plans for the future.¹

In her talk, Sr. Joan makes four cogent points about the kind of philanthropic giving that is at the heart of sustainable peacemaking. According

to Sr. Joan, philanthropists are not millionaires or powerful in worldly terms (although they may be), but rather they are people who:

Imagine the possible and vision a world of peace – in other words, they are *visionaries of peace* who know the price of peacemaking and contribute.

Approach problems in unexpected and surprising ways – in other words, they are *artisans of peace* who find creative ways to cover the cost of the work.

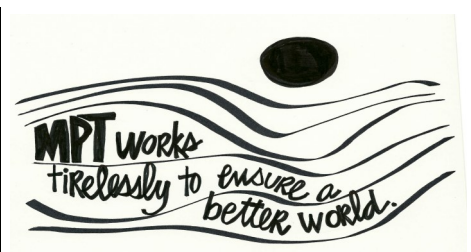
Discover the obvious and respond to what needs to be done to move the vision forward – in other words, they are *activists for peace* who are committed to the practical aspects of work for the long haul.

Act boldly, even rashly, on behalf of the vision – in other words, they are *risk takers for peace* who dare to dream and share their resources on behalf of a future that they are graced to imagine.

In short, they are people like you and me.

So, this is the invitation . . . To move a little more closely into the circle of MPT's work by sharing not only your time, but also your resources. To embrace the vision of MPT's as your own and to reflect on how you can be part of the team for the long haul, perhaps by becoming a monthly sustainer. To enter a little more fully into the dance of peacemaking with MPT by committing to go the distance for peace.

Chittister, Joan, OSB. *Philanthropy: The Ministry of Money* (International Committee for the Peace Council). September 26, 2005. <http://www.peacecouncil.org/News/Articles/The-Ministry-of-Money>



Imagine a World

By Annette Thomas

Imagine a world where people are taught at a young age to resolve their differences peacefully – to avoid confrontation and conflict through dialog – to learn the art of active listening and become empathetic and caring. Imagine in that world mediation and conflict resolution as part of school curricula, with everyone receiving instruction on how to resolve potentially violent situations peacefully. Imagine a world where the primary focus is world peace with endless peace organizations set up in order to encourage young people to pursue peace, rather than allow military recruiters to lure them into the armed forces, where peace is not a possibility.

Violence has always been glamorized in the media. Turn on the T.V. and you will be hard pressed to find a station that isn't showing programming involving guns, violence and death and we have accepted this as the norm. Peace groups receive little or no media coverage or recognition. They seem almost non-existent even though there are countless strong and productive groups around the world. Non-profit organizations, which are set up by ordinary citizens and run primarily by volunteers, receive most of their funding through donations.

Even those that do receive government funding receive just a fraction of what the military is allocated. U.N. Peacekeeping operations received \$7.83 billion last year, less than half of one percent of the military expenditures worldwide. In 2003, the United States was already spending an average of \$5 billion a month on the wars it had

waged on two innocent countries. The Pentagon has no budget and has never been audited, yet peace organizations, which are becoming more critical to our survival, struggle to stay afloat and rely on the generosity of warm-hearted individuals who envision a more peaceful future. Through our tax dollars we have been forced to support war. We can now voluntarily choose to support peace.

Meta Peace Team has been able to continue to do important work because of the generosity of so many but needs financial support to continue the good work it does. Sending peace teams to areas of conflict in faraway lands is costly but the work of MPT is effective and important. Peace comes at a price - it is not free. The members and volunteers of Meta Peace Team are grateful to those of you who continue to support this wonderful organization and who believe in their vision of a world free from conflict. Please support MPT in their pursuit of PEACE.



PEACE



Annette Thomas with peace camp children in Brazil

Benefits and Joys of Being Part of International Teams -- Through Giving!

By Nicole Rohrkemper and IP Committee Members

Your investment in International Peace Teams is critical to building the Shanti Sena ("peace army"). MPT members (including those who give financially) are each a part of the vision of a non-violent alternative, a standing corps of those ready to serve.



When you donate to International Teams, you're offering more than just money. **You're offering meaningful HOPE, ENCOURAGEMENT, and SUPPORT to someone making a huge commitment**, and preparing to put their bodies in harm's way to help prevent violence. Without your financial support, teamers can't make it into the field to do this work. Your financial support means less time teamers must spend worrying about funds and fundraising, and more time focused on preparing to serve.

There is joy and excitement, too, in being a part of the vision and building of an alternative to militarization and violence! Over the past few years, MPT visioning has included International Teams in new locations, responding to an increasing number of invitations, and continuing to send at least 3-5 teams (or more!) into the field every year. **We invite you to share the joy of meeting these goals!** We were in El Salvador earlier this year, and have at least two new teams on the

agenda for exploration (Honduras and Guatemala), and we are receiving invitations from Africa and Asia as well. We invite you to experience the excitement of new opportunities to serve.

Every team must have a source of funding separate from MPT's operating budget. This means each team engages in fundraising to cover the costs of their trip. Very few, if any, teamers can afford to pay their costs out-of-pocket – it is only possible for volunteers to join a Peace Team with the support of community members like you. Teams are funded directly through MPT members, special International Policy Committee and Teamers' fundraising campaigns, and the financial support of our teamers' communities.

The benefits of giving are many: **Read reports from teamers YOU sent into the field, feel the gratitude from not only the team – but the communities we serve in Palestine, Latin America, and more.** Your donations to teams made possible the 2013 Team Report Anthology, selected from the best writing from over 2000+ Team Reports. We've trained hundreds of teamers, and in the last 8 years alone deployed 27 Teams Internationally!

Many who love this work, but cannot go on a team due to family commitments, job, health, or other reasons, tell us they find it especially meaningful to support someone financially who can deploy on a Peace Team.

It costs approximately **\$20-\$30 a day to fund one team member's field expenses**, depending on the area where we are working. Training and support also generate significant costs, and airfare is often the single biggest expense. A one-month deployment to Palestine costs approximately \$3000 total (Latin America – approximately \$2000). Sample budgets (very simplified) are below. In addition, MPT subsidizes the cost of every team by raising funds to cover ongoing program expenses, partial scholarships (especially for key returning Anchor Teamers), program costs between teams, exploration prior to deployment, and more.

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Benefits and Joys continued

Palestine 1 Person/1 Month

Living Expenses & IC Travel:	\$1000
Airfare:	\$1200
Training/Support/Etc.	\$500
Misc. & Emergencies	\$300
TOTAL	\$3000

(Additional: Travel for Training) (\$600)

(Program Costs – paid by MPT) (\$1000)

Latin America 1 Person/1 Month

\$800
\$500
\$500
\$200
\$2000

(Additional: Travel for Training) (\$600)

(Program Costs – paid by MPT) (\$800)



In addition, most teamers must travel to Michigan from all over the USA (and abroad!) to a central location together, to complete part of training and team-building in person

as a group. This takes place **at Step 2 (and Step 3) Nonviolence Skills Retreats**. Airfare to attend training averages about \$600 for training, variable based on where a teamer is from, and also must be covered by teamers.

Not only do your gifts to International Peace Teams support work in an area of critical violence abroad, you make a life-changing difference in the life of a team member. Your donations to International Teams support teamers from less-privileged backgrounds and communities with fewer financial resources, whose personal and community funds simply can't sup-



port a life-changing international mission. **Deployment on an MPT Team offers perspective on the global world around us, skills, and resume-building experience that make teamers more attractive in the job market and more valuable to their communities.**

Teamers go on to do other peace work in their lives, both as volunteers and professionally. Some of our teamers have gone on to positions with local and international peace or



community service organizations, continue to volunteer throughout their retirement, or travel on additional teams with MPT as valuable veteran or Anchor Team Members – **so an investment in an international team-**

er continues to pay off throughout that person's life, the lives of those they touch in the field, and those who read their reports.



About Giving Away

Bishop Ken Untener (1937-2004)

... as written in the Little Burgundy Book on Stewardship:

We are familiar with the phrase, "The Widow's Mite" from Luke's Gospel 21:1-4. In the context of the Jewish Temple at the time of Jesus, it had to do with donations to the Temple Treasury. At that time, the tiny copper coin was worth about a half a penny or about one-hundredth of a denarius, which was the average day's wage.

According to the Jewish traditions, the Temple had 13 shofar-chests, shaped like trumpets. They were inscribed with such titles as "New Shekel Dues", "Bird Offerings", and "Free Will Offerings". People put their money in the mouth of the trumpet-like receptacles, which were made of brass and made a lot of noise as money was dropped in.

The widow's mite would have made little or no noise.

Jesus noticed this woman in the Temple of Jerusalem.

Here's one way to understand what Jesus said about giving to others: At the end of time you'll have only the things that you gave away. Everything you kept, you will no longer be able to keep. Life is meant to be a process of giving and sharing. At the end of time, we will be happy about everything that we ever gave away.

The poor widow understood that.

Of course, I can't give everything away. I need clothes and a house and a car. I like to have more than the bare essentials. But those are the things that I will lose. I will reap a hundredfold of everything I gave away-my precious time to others who

needed to be heard; the money, gifts and possessions I gave away or shared with others; the love which I generously poured out even to people who did not love me.

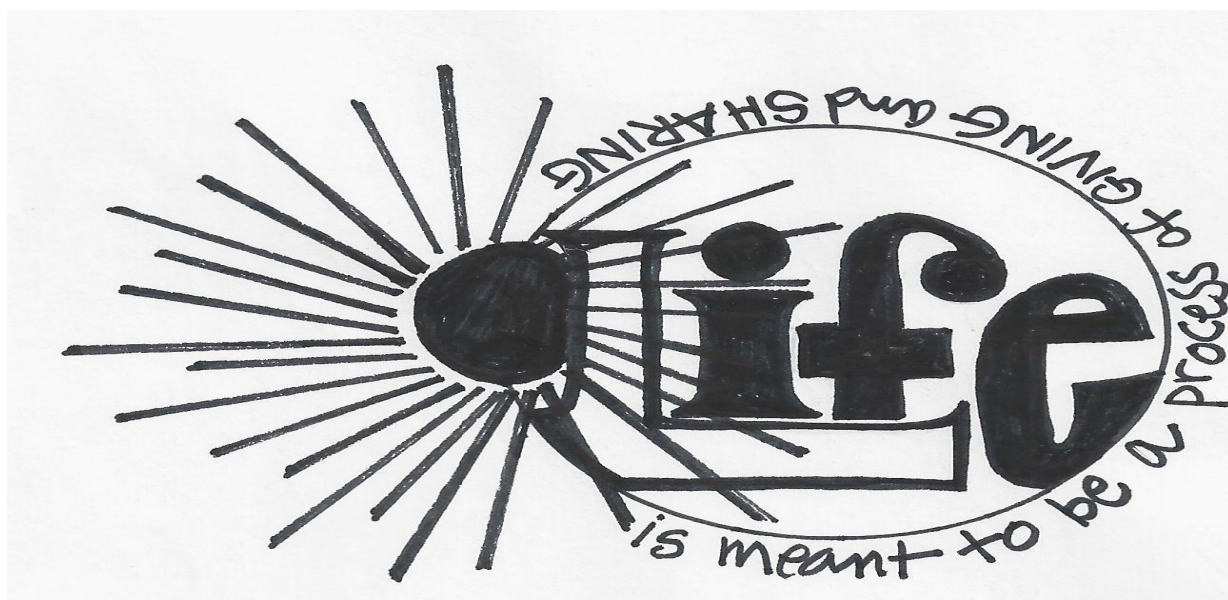


Jesus said that the way to fulfill yourself is to unfill yourself. When Peter told that the disciples had given up everything, the Lord said that they would inherit everything, a hundredfold. When Jesus talked about the Last Judgment, he portrayed the Father as interested in what we gave of ourselves and possessions to hungry people, to thirsty people, to lonely people, to strangers.

The message is clear. At the end of time, the person with the most toys probably won't win.

The poor widow understood that, too.

[Re-printed with permission]



Community Potential

Sue Sattler, IHM



The term “corporation” frequently evokes negative images of powerful, impersonal entities seeking to control our political and economic systems. Alternatively, the word may prompt a blank response. What have corporations to do with me or my life?

My experience has led me to a different response. In the early 1970’s law school classes exposed me to corporate law that was primarily limited to studying issues relating to for-profit corporations. This evoked no interest in me. Yet soon after law school and my admission to the Michigan State Bar I was invited to serve on a community mental health board that served my neighborhood. This service initiated my involvement with non-profit corporations. This has made all of the difference for me.

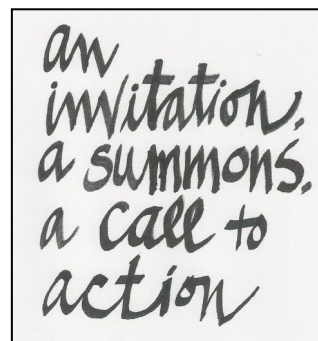
Following my initial board service 40 years ago I have frequently been invited to serve on community boards of directors – a role that continues to the present. Many of these organizations are in SW Detroit, my home neighborhood. These experiences served as an academy of life-long learning.

My board service has included organizations with a variety of missions, such as: assisting first generation high school students to access a college education, programs for the mentally ill, the homeless, girls and women at-risk of sexual ex-

ploitation, former prisoners returning to society, struggling mothers trying to build a healthy family life and at-risk youths exposed to the transformative power of participating in theater. Through this extensive and broad engagement I learned about life at its rough edges.

Yes, Detroit has some tough, sad, even unjust, situations. But living and working in Detroit introduced me to an extraordinary community of committed people. Their contribution of social capital helps compensate for the withdrawal of financial capital over these four decades. My board colleagues and I find inspiration and hope in seeing the potential of people in need and offering them support.

My board experience convinces me that each of us has time, talent and/or resources to contribute to non-profits which truly rely on the direct involvement of community members. We need to understand the mission of an organization and determine if and how this mission resonates with our own values and commitments. Then, blending our skill set with others, we can improve a particular non-profit’s well-being.



Then we will experience the broader meaning of the term “corporation.” It will no longer be limited to the sometimes pejorative understanding assigned to for-profit entities. Perhaps more of us will experience the joy of enhancing the mission of a community non-profit and, at the same time, inspire others to join with us in this endeavor. Our community is calling!

Giving and Receiving

By Elizabeth Walters, IHM

Giving is a part of living and life. As children we often heard variations of "Be generous. Share. Give of your time, skills, smiles, toys, anything." And in later life we sometimes hear, "What you wish to have for yourself, help others to have." For example, if you wish for a peaceful heart, home, and neighborhood give the gift of peace to someone else.

Many of us have come to believe that it is the energy behind the giving that really matters, so we try not to give grudgingly or with any expectation of return. Yet often it seems that giving and receiving are inseparable. Here's how Deepak Chopra presents it: The more you give, the more that is returned to you. If you freely and graciously give something you have, the Universe will find the best way to give back that energy to you in the form of something that you do not have. Significantly, what you receive is returned in multiples. Chopra, *The Law of Giving and Receiving*, <http://www.the-chopra.com>.

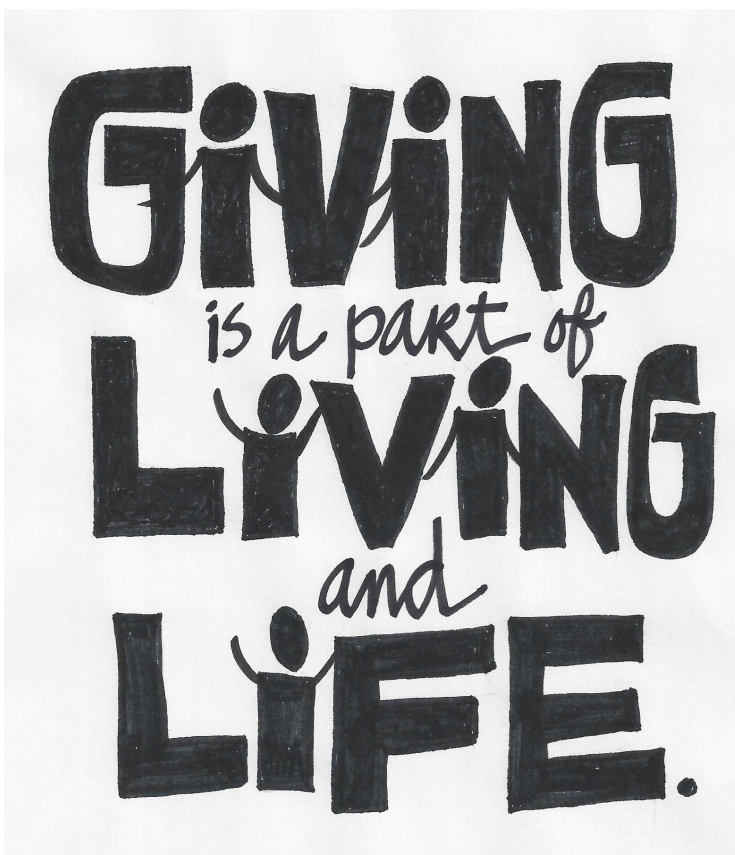
The Universe itself is a giving Universe. We are part of the Universe. Unless abnormal development distorts us, or greed overtakes us, we are meant to give and receive.

For many of us spirituality is an important part of our living and loving. Some of us believe that spirituality is about a sense of peace and purpose. It calls us to grow within while caring deeply about others. It's about relationships. It is an invitation to develop beliefs around the meaning of life and connection with others. It's about gracious giving and receiving.

Giving to Non Profit Organizations

With all the giving opportunities available, why might we chose to give our time, talent and money to a nonprofit organization? One of the most important reasons is that we believe that the or-

ganization is making a difference on the planet. Whether it is helping to plant trees in Haiti, assisting earthquake victims in Chile, stopping famine in Somalia, or providing education for youth in the USA...These and many more missions are the differences that truly count and the differences that lead us to give.



Meta Peace Team - Who We Are. What We Value. What We Do.

Meta Peace Team (MPT) is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising awareness and empowering people to engage in active nonviolence in situations of violence both at home and abroad. MPT's violence reduction work helps to create the space local groups need to do their human rights work and social justice work.

Our model of governance is collective and communal. MPT is non-hierarchical in structure and process. The community is dedicated to consensus decision-making, working in teams, social analysis, reflection on experience, action planning, and evaluation. We embrace active nonviolence. We deeply value the spirituality of nonviolence, the web of life, our interconnectedness, and the practices of centering, self care, and learning from our mistakes and missteps.

Meta Peace Team is a 501 c3 tax exempt nonprofit organization. We do not receive any funding from the government. Our work is totally dependent on donations and supported by committed contributors.

Our vision, mission, and history focuses on making a difference where it counts and on the gift of peace mentioned above:

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Giving and Receiving continued

Our Mission:

MPT pursues peace through active nonviolence in places of conflict.

Our History:

MPT was started in 1993 in response to the growing need for unarmed civilian peacemakers in the United States and abroad. Since then, MPT has introduced the spirituality of nonviolence and active nonviolence to tens of thousands of people; trained thousands of people in the skills of nonviolent third party intervention; and prepared - sent hundreds of domestic peace teams to zones of violence and war. Over the years MPT international peace teams served in Bosnia, Haiti, the First Nation in Canada, Chiapas Mexico, Iraq, Gaza, the Sinai Peninsula, Cairo Egypt, Juarez Mexico, Panama, the West Bank, Honduras, El Salvador, and in

many of zones of violence in the United States. In addition, since opening its doors, MPT has forged strong partnerships with local communities, and peace, justice, and sustainability groups.

Conclusion

If you want to support an organization that truly makes a difference both at home and abroad and/or if you want to give the gift of peace, MPT is an organization that meets these criteria! We would be grateful for your support.



Some Recent Domestic Peace Teams

At a Michigan Moms Demand Gun Sense Rally, May 14, 2014



Peace Team in the presence of Open Carry counter protesters

Peace Team watchful during the line-up to the Capitol



At the Take Back the Night March and Rally, April 15, 2014



Meta Peace Team: Neighbor to Neighbor Efforts

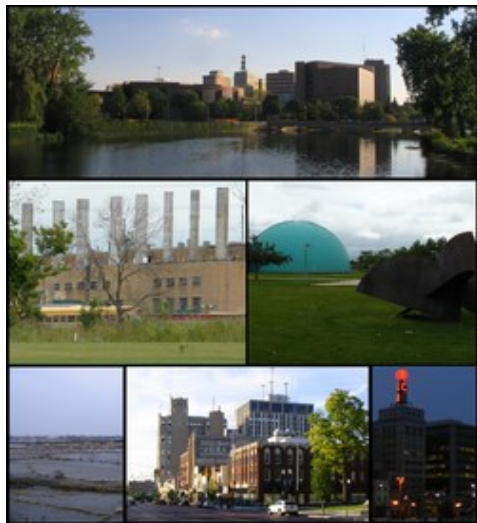
Update From Your MPT Neighbor to Neighbor Teams



During June 2014 Meta Peace Team launched the second phase of our partnership with neighborhoods in two Michigan urban centers: Southwest Detroit and Flint. In Southwest Detroit, we visited homes, participated in local groups/meetings, met with representatives from six parishes, sponsored three outreach tables at large and well attended neighborhood gatherings, and organized two events: a We Care Deeply Reflection session on June 7 and a Children's Peace Camp on June 16.

Our efforts are entitled MPT's *Neighbor to Neighbor We Build Peace*. This work in Southwest Detroit and the City of Flint is grounded in deep listening to voices committed to peaceful neighborhoods. In this spirit MPT is partnering with existing grassroots groups working for a safe, peaceful, and sustainable community. The gifts that MPT has to share include:

- Nonviolence trainings that offer practical skills in violence reduction and de-escalation
- Peace teams in situations of potential violence
- Education opportunities on a variety of topics including the spirituality of nonviolence and the power of nonviolence
- Resources in English and Spanish on active nonviolence for study groups.



In Flint, MPT is partnering with neighborhoods and local grassroots leaders to respond to the challenges of violence there.

Background:

In November 2012 local groups in Southwest Detroit and in the City of Flint invited Meta Peace Team to come to Detroit and Flint to partner with them in reducing violence and building more peaceable neighborhoods and communities. After initial meetings with these groups MPT opened an office in Southwest Detroit and established a regular presence in Flint. Then we began to participate in many meetings – listening to residents and growing in understanding.



PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

MPT's 2014 FALL SIGNATURE EVENT

Theme:

Active Nonviolence: Growing from the Grassroots to the Global

Featuring

Medea Benjamin



Co-founder of CODEPINK and Global Exchange, Author & Activist

Emcee: Siham Jaafar

With Awards and Honorees:

2014 Rachel Corrie Peace Award to CODE PINK

**2014 Edward Said Scholar Activists Awards to
Dr. Brenda Bryant and Rev. Bill Wylie-Kellermann**

Sunday, October 26, 2014

4:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Price: \$50 per person; \$500 table of ten; \$35 student

Proceeds to support Meta Peace Team's vision, mission, and active nonviolence international and domestic programs. Your contribution is tax-deductible.

Byblos Banquets

7258 Chase Rd, Dearborn, MI 48126

3 pm Banquet Hall Opens, Meet Medea

This will be an amazing Peace Gathering! The presentations will be spectacular. The Mediterranean meal will be delicious and super healthy. The entertainment and camaraderie will be beyond expectations!



MPT LANSING
2722 E. Michigan Ave., Suite 101
Lansing, MI 48912
517 484-3178
metapeaceteam@gmail.com

MPT DETROIT
1950 Trumbull
Detroit, MI 48216
313 204-6350 or 313 520 7465
metapeaceteam.detroit@gmail.com

Our Vision:

We seek a just world grounded in nonviolence and respect for the sacred interconnectedness of all life.

Our Mission:

MPT pursues peace through active nonviolence in places of conflict..

Our Goals:

- Recruiting, training, and placing Peace Teams both domestically and internationally;
- Educating the public to the vision and practice of nonviolence, particularly as it relates to nonviolent conflict intervention;
- Cooperating, supporting, and participating with local peace and justice groups, particularly as it relates to our Mission; and,
- Providing training in active nonviolence designed for the specific needs of the participants.

Meta Peace Team Web Site: metapeaceteam.org

International Peace Team Blogs:

<http://MPTinPalestine.Blogspot.com>

<http://MPTinJuarez.Blogspot.com>

MPT Newsletters, 2008-2014 are available online

Go to the MPT Website and click on Newsletters

2014 MPT Newsletter Team

Nancy Ayotte, IHM

Barbara Nolin

Kim Redigan

Annette Thomas

Elizabeth Walters, IHM

Newsletter Artwork

Nancy Ayotte creates all the artwork for MPT newsletters. Her creations are a pure gift to MPT and our readers. This gift is yours to freely use in other peace work.

MPT Core Members

Jon Roy Castillo

Jasiu Malinowski

Peter Dougherty

Elizabeth Walters. IHM

Mary Ann Ford, IHM

Sheri Wander

Mary Hanna

Nicole Rohrkemper

Weekly MPT Volunteers

Margaret Beahan

Anna Malavisi

Mark Zussman

Barbara Kinsey

Lourdes Nearon

Mary Ann Ford, IHM

Kim Redigan

Thank you and an Opportunity to Give

Dear Friends of MPT,

Most important we write to say, "THANK YOU!" Whether you have been donating hard earned dollars in support the vision and mission of MPT, or contributing time and energy in support of MPT projects, or both, your gifts are greatly needed and deeply appreciated.

We believe you and others give to MPT because you value the work MPT does and you want to get involved in changing this beautiful but broken world. Our day to day volunteer work with MPT convinces us that your gifts of dollars, time, and energy are sound investments in the work you support and want to see happen.

Presently, MPT is in special need of donations. If you are able make a monetary donation, please ...

Make your check payable to Meta Peace Team & send to:

Meta Peace Team
 2722 East Michigan Ave., Suite 101
 Lansing, MI 48192

OR

Go to the MPT Website and click on "Donate"

It is a great honor for us to be able to prepare the MPT Newsletter and make it available to you.. We do hope you enjoy this edition!

Your grateful MPT Newsletter Team: Annette, Barbara, Elizabeth, Kim, and Nancy

If you would like to earmark your gift in support a particular MPT effort or project please make note regarding this when you make your contribution.