



1987-2007

VOICES FOR PEACE

INSPIRATIONS FROM YMCA PEACE MEDALLION RECIPIENTS

We build strong kids,
strong families,
strong communities.



Plus de vie à la vie
des jeunes, des familles
et de la communauté.

YMCA



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YMCA WORLD PEACE WEEK

The YMCA works to cultivate a culture of peace. Each year, YMCAs and YMCA-YWCAs across Canada dedicate a full week in November to exploring peace from a personal, community and international perspective. The YMCA teaches children, youth and adults about the many dimensions of peace and promotes peace building activities both at home and abroad all year round.

THE YMCA IN CANADA

There are 47 YMCAs and 9 YMCA-YWCAs working in more than 250 Canadian communities as resourceful champions of building healthy kids, families and communities. With an emphasis on health in spirit, mind and body, the YMCA offers many diverse programs in areas such as fitness, health and recreation, child care, camping, immigrant settlement, employment and training, community development, and international programs. As a charity, the YMCA welcomes people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities and through financial assistance programs, remains accessible to all.

FORWARD

When you think about the future of your local and global community, how can people make a difference in working towards peace? That was the question posed to YMCA Peace Medallion recipients as we commemorate the 20th anniversary of this award. We asked them to synthesize a lifetime's journey of experience and learning into one brief message of wisdom. The individuals and groups in these pages have shared their reflections, insights, experience and learnings to help create Voices for Peace.

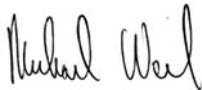
Each year, YMCAs and YMCA-YWCAs from coast to coast recognize those who, without any special resources, status, wealth or position, have demonstrated a commitment to peace through special contributions made within their community or overseas. The YMCA Peace Medallion, created two decades ago by a small group of volunteers and staff at the YMCA of Fredericton, is a way to honour dedicated peace builders and to inspire others. Since 1987, some 900 individuals and groups have received YMCA Peace Medallions during YMCA World Peace Week.

We thank and congratulate the project's contributors, YMCA Peace Medallion recipients and YMCAs for being passionate about promoting peace and harmony. And we celebrate the vision of the creators of the Peace Medallion from the YMCA of Fredericton for developing such a meaningful recognition initiative.

Voices for Peace is a resource for YMCAs, organizations, parents, teachers and anyone interested in creating a better world. The ideas in these pages can be used in many ways including discussions with children and youth, in displays, newsletters, speeches and more. We hope the ideas inspire you to join the journey of making peace a part of your daily life.



Patricia Pelton
Chair, Board of Directors,
YMCA Canada



Michael Weil
President and CEO,
YMCA Canada

PEACE STARTS WITH ME



Peace comes from the heart and is reflected in how we view ourselves, our family, our friends, neighbours, and colleagues. If we become more peaceful, we will radiate peace more readily.

“A human being is born into this world fully equipped not only to take care of him or herself, but also to contribute to enlarging the well being of the world as a whole.”

Muhammad Yunus, Bangladesh

2006 Noble Peace Prize for his efforts to create economic and social development from the ground up.

“We can have peace in the world if we each BE the peace that we want in ourselves, our home, our communities and our world. If you want peace, be peaceful.”

Michèle Lavin & Don Wilkinson – 1987

For their work on nuclear disarmament.

Presented by the YMCA of Owen Sound

“Working towards peace begins with broadening your own outlook towards life, the world, and the individuals around you – this can mean something as simple as communicating responsibly and respectfully with others, maintaining a positive attitude, or smiling at an unfamiliar face on the street. Peace begins with the belief that your own and others’ actions, however small, are worth it.”

Caitlin Ohama-Darcus – 2006

For raising funds to build and furnish a school in Kenya, and for promoting diversity and sustainability.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Vancouver

“Every time we prevent a child from being hurt, a bad word being said, extend a hand to someone in need, protect the environment, or speak out against injustice we set an example as humanitarians and peacemakers. This nurtures our own soul and builds an empathetic, critical thinking, and violence-free world.”

Sylvia Hawkins – 1992

For her global education work and promotion of humanitarianism in local schools on behalf of the Red Cross and other peace organizations.

Presented by the YMCA of Calgary

“Know that you can make a difference. Love life, be grateful, find your bliss and develop your talents. Search out purpose in life, honour great spiritual leaders and speak your own love and wisdom to others, especially children. Every good action counts, the ripples are gathered in God’s hands.”

Sheila Nabigon-Howlett – 1997

For her work with Kawartha Ploughshares, Kawartha World Issues Centre and Ten Days for Global Justice, and the Social Planning Council.

Presented by the YMCA of Peterborough

“We can create/build small communities of peace where all are welcomed, respected and valued in their unique selves, especially those most vulnerable and marginalized by society. As we discover and develop peace in ourselves and in small communities of love, peace is carried through a ripple effect from heart to heart beyond our community.”

Roslyn Macgregor – 2000

For her work at the “Mission communautaire du Mile-End,” which offers food, clothing, and social support to marginalized individuals in the Mile-End area of Montreal.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Montreal

“In the words of Gandhi, ‘You must be the change you wish to see in the world.’ It is through example that we bring about change. It is through others recognizing the value in our actions that they too will adopt our approach.”

John Morrison – 2006

For educating students at his school about human rights through a Culture of Peace Committee; an initiative that’s now thriving in schools throughout Ontario.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Toronto

“Bahá’ís believe that if individuals were to clear their hearts ‘...from every trace of hatred and rancor and enabled to engage in truthfulness, conciliation, uprightness and love toward the world of humanity...enmity and animosity may vanish from the human world and the universal peace be established!”

Owen Sound Bahá’í Community – 1991

For developing a greater understanding of international issues and promoting peace in the community.

Presented by the YMCA of Owen Sound

“If you desire to be a peacemaker, you must first achieve peace in your own life. Only then can you begin to make a difference. When a community’s basic needs are met, hope is achieved and healing takes place. By treating others as we want to be treated, the journey towards peace has begun.”

Don & Carole MacVicar – 2004

For using their non-denominational ministry to provide children and youth programs while also raising \$350,000 over 16 years to send children to camp.

Presented by the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington

“In the Western world, we are all about acquiring ‘things’ for our own personal benefit - much of which we do not need. The answer to this is to detach ourselves from our chattels in life. Once we no longer care about ‘stuff’ we can get past our own agendas and are free to really give without concern about the sacrifice.”

Elephant Thoughts – 2006

For working to provide education to children all over the world who would otherwise not be able to afford it.

Presented by the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka

“Peace begins with the individual. I believe that when one person reaches out beyond themselves to make a difference to someone else, it has the potential to reach much further. One kind action or word can be all that it takes to turn a life or situation in a completely new direction.”

Kristy Packwood – 2006

For her volunteer work with Partners for Poland and Roots of Empathy.
Presented by the YMCA of Calgary

“By working for peace, people create the best atmosphere for promoting the common good.”

Wilhelmina Christina Fredericks – 2006

For her preventative health and education work in Africa and Montreal, and for encouraging local community development.
Presented by the YMCA of Greater Montreal

“Become actively involved!”

Mukhtiar Singh – 2002

For his role in opening the doors of the Sikh temple in his local community.
Presented by the YMCA of Cambridge

“Every single thing we do in our lives makes a difference. Every smile, every decision to buy, to discard, to embrace has a ripple effect. If we pay attention to what we are doing and who it affects, then peace over the world will come as a result.”

Paul & Anne Burnham – 1999

For raising awareness about the role and life of small scale rural farmers in Canada and in developing countries.
Presented by YMCA of Northumberland

“Peace is an idea. If you doubt the power of the idea of peace, think of John Lennon, who asked millions of people to imagine, of Martin Luther King, who told millions he had a dream of peace with justice, or of Ghandi, who demonstrated the power of the passive resistance of millions. I believe the idea of peace is still our best, and perhaps our only hope for a future.”

Brigid Toole Grant – 2005

For her longtime support of peace issues both individually and through peace organizations.

Presented by the YMCA of Fredericton

“People have the opportunity to make a difference in the world by remembering ‘The Power of One.’ In many instances both small and great strides towards peace have been made by one person. If a great number of people thought this way the world would become more peaceful each day.”

Vickie Komar – 2005

For educating students, parents, teachers and the community about social issues facing families including the prevention of bullying and domestic violence.

Presented by the YMCA of Windsor-Essex County

“Peace is worth finding. It is a great goal to be achieved for our future. To be able to achieve peace on a wide scale, we have to first find it in ourselves. People can make a difference one person at a time, one day at a time.”

Ray Murphy – 2002

For his work in street proofing young kids.

Presented by the YMCA of Cambridge

INSPIRE CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Teaching children about the many ways they can contribute to peace, inspiring them to become responsible global citizens is vital for a peaceful future.

“Today’s children are surely the central factor in the strategy for peace and survival.”

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

1965 Noble Peace Prize for promoting child nutrition, health and education at the international level.

“Engaging children in learning peacemaking skills is the best place to start working towards peace locally and globally. Whether at school or doing community activities – peace education is a community responsibility. Families, schools, community groups and politicians should be working together with resolve, for the benefit of all community members.”

Verlyn Rowett – 2003

For her work with the Young Peacemakers Club.

Presented by the YMCA of Cambridge

“I believe that education is a cornerstone in the peace building process as it lends to shaping the attitudes and skills of young people toward peaceful human relations. By teaching values of democracy, respect, tolerance, and empathy children are provided with the tools they need to foster peaceful relations at home, at school and around the world.”

Luz Bascuñán – 2006

For her pioneering initiatives in education and social justice in Latin American and Canadian communities.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Toronto

“Only people can make the difference. I believe that greater community investment in our children, in their physical and psychological health is the first step. Each of us as individuals can be models for morals and good values. Raising healthy human beings, free of prejudice and hatred can move us toward peace.”

Anna Jurak – 2003

For spearheading a Rotary Club Peace Monument and a program that designates and awards elementary schools committed to peace as Rotary Peace Schools.

Presented by the YMCA of Windsor-Essex County

“In working with my fellow high school students, motivation is key for a successful campaign. Students can accomplish a great deal when they are inspired. HAVEN believes that students need to be informed about local and global issues because we know that we can make a difference. Educating ourselves and others is the first crucial step.”

HAVEN – 2006

For educating, inspiring and providing opportunities for students to change the world.

Presented by the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington

“Peace is a way of life. In our daily school curriculum, we should focus on promoting tolerance, non-aggression, kindness and cooperation. We must involve students in activities that will help them realize that each of us can make a difference to those in great need – be it children in war-torn countries who cannot attend school, seniors in our community, or children with disabilities – and let us not forget caring for our planet.”

Arty Maravei – 1996

For developing a children’s rights-based approach and program called, “Hands Up” in collaboration with the YMCAs of Greater Montreal and Ecuador.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Montreal

“It takes many people working together to help those who have a problem with bullying, and those who have not yet learned to stand up for themselves. Let us continue to work as a community to solve problems and create an environment where bullying is unacceptable.”

Puppets for Peace Calgary – 2005

For their anti-bullying work with pre-school to Grade 6 students.

Presented by the YMCA of Calgary

“As a parent it is a difficult task but the careful nurturing and understanding, and the showing of love to our kids will eventually shape their future. Believing in our kids; the most powerful word is love. This allows children to blossom into beautiful human beings – creating a better future. As we diligently seek Peace the reward will be great only if we start with love.”

Jasmin Ashman – 2006

For raising awareness among youth of the need for non-violent solutions to conflict, violence and injustice.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Toronto

“To bring out the best in youth, we must make them reflect on the importance of respect and non-violence. We offer them many activities that promote collaboration with parents and school administrations.”

Association TROP-PEACE – 2006

For developing education materials that promote respect and non-violence in primary and secondary schools in Quebec, Ontario and the Maritimes.

*Presented by the YMCA of Greater Montreal *Translated from French*

“Teach our children and youth to respect everyone regardless of ethnic, faith or racial background, gender, persuasion, or any other ‘difference’ and to share this earth with all the creator’s gifts to us, with appreciation and gratitude. Facing our own prejudices frankly and honestly is also a great step towards eliminating them.”

Gehan Sabry – 2006

For proactively building peace in response to community injustices and drawing people together to work as a collective.

Presented by the YMCA of Kitchener-Waterloo

“Making a difference in the life of a child, especially one living in constrained circumstances, is the best way I know to change the future for the better. If you give a child opportunities to escape the poverty they are born into, anything is possible for him or her. That child could be the next Nobel Peace Prize Winner.”

Jim McCallum – 1999

For working to alleviate poverty in Honduras by recruiting local companies to provide shelter and education, and by building homes for women and children.

Presented by the YMCA of Peterborough

CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER



Unite in our common humanity by developing relationships of respect, understanding and compassion.

“In the course of history, there comes a time when humanity is called to shift to a new level of consciousness, to reach a higher moral ground. A time when we have to shed our fear and give hope to each other. That time is now.”

Wangari Muta Maathai, Kenya

2004 Noble Peace Prize for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace.

“I think we all make this harder than it has to be. If you have compassion in your heart and treat people with dignity and respect you have extended the hand of peace. Always try to meet people half way.”

Mavis Doucette – 2006

For her extraordinary volunteer work with the homeless and near-homeless populations in Fredericton.

Presented by the YMCA of Fredericton

“In working towards peace, we must begin by truly accepting that we are all the same. We all experience similar feelings of sadness, joy, fear and love. Once we realize our common humanity, it becomes our responsibility and our passion to be called to action.”

Lisa LeRoy – 2004

For founding “Youth in Action,” a local chapter of “Free the Children” and for raising awareness and support to build a well and a school addition in Sierra Leone.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Montreal

“Once you truly know someone, you relate to them, respect and care about them; you open the door to friendships – whether next door, or half a world away. It is much harder to close your door to a friend in need.”

Nita Flack – 2006

For her fund raising efforts to support the development of essential health, education and social infrastructure initiatives through the YMCA of Ethiopia.

Presented by YMCA of Prince George

“True peace is possible when ordinary people connect with each other ‘here’ and with people ‘over there’. Only by taking an interest in the fears and dreams of others can there be understanding. Governments fail because they lack motivation and vision. Individuals working in communities and networks will change the world.”

Robert Massoud – 2004

For creating constructive projects that bring individuals and communities together to encourage dialogue and better understand issues within the Middle East.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Toronto

“When settling a conflict, a mediator helps his peers accept their strengths and weaknesses. This mediation process prepares him to accept the reality that there are little differences between people, everyone loves and feels pain.”

Mediating Students from l'École Ludger-Duvernay – 2003

For using their conflict resolution and mediation skills to create a more peaceful school environment by resolving more than 400 conflicts at their school in one year.

*Presented by the YMCA of Greater Montreal *Translated from French*

“Greed and materialism are at the heart of much discontent. Central to our humanity is our connection to others and to the natural world. Let us seek peace by emphasizing not the worst, but the best of human qualities, such as kindness, courage and wisdom.”

Sally Hodges – 1999

For fostering multi-cultural perspectives and including youth in numerous local peace and educational initiatives.

Presented by the YMCA of Calgary

“I believe that each of us should join and support one or more voluntary groups working effectively for peace and justice. Here, one meets people dedicated to peaceful communities and a peaceful world.”

John Ganley – 2005

For his longstanding diverse volunteer work including establishing the Jamaica Self Help Organization for the Relief of Poverty in 1975.

Presented by the YMCA of Peterborough

“We will make a difference by treating one another and all people with dignity and respect, and value what we have in common. We will have greater peace by narrowing the growing gap between the rich and poor in our local area, nationally and globally.”

Theresa Nagle – 2006

For using education to speak out and act on local and global social justice issues.

Presented by the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington

“Peace is not the absence of war but rather a state of respect and tolerance between people. It suggests a fair society where each individual can satisfy his own basic needs. Any proponent of human rights works towards a culture of peace.”

Huberte Gautreau – 1995

For establishing health centres in African countries.

*Presented by the YMCA of Greater Moncton *Translated from French*

“The way that one person can make a difference is both simple yet difficult. We must start by respecting those around us (our family, friends and those different than us). By treating others with care, kindness and encouraging them to do likewise, we create a ripple effect of goodness, that radiates outward. This is how one person can change the world.”

Lewis Williams – 2004

For helping people find peaceful solutions to social injustices through workshops for youth, community leaders, and people in transition.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Toronto

“The pursuit of global peace is about putting the rest of the world first. It is about showing respect, honour and dignity to the people of our world, and dedicating yourself to extending a helping hand to all of mankind. It is about unconditional love for all beings in our world.”

Bryn Evering – 2006

For raising awareness and funds together with members of his school in support of local and international social and development issues.

Presented by the YMCA of Northumberland

“Peace is a process, not a goal; a way of being, not an end. Peace prevails when we treat each other – whether as individuals or as nations – with respect, civility and fairness. People pursue peace at all levels, in all directions, all the time. Why not join them?”

Judith Berlyn – 1997

For her activism in disarmament, peace, human rights and justice issues, which involved founding the ‘Westmount Initiative for Peace’ in 1985.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Montreal

BRIDGE OUR DIFFERENCES



Finding common ground can help to rebuild mutual respect across the deepest divides.

“My humanity is bound up in yours,
for we can only be human together.”

Desmond Tutu, South Africa

1984 Nobel Peace Prize for promoting peaceful means in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa.

“If all of us appreciate the colours and differences of human beings as we enjoy and appreciate different kinds of flowers, there will be peace in our world.”

Beyene Haile – 2003

For improving the lives of newcomers through counselling and involvement in a variety of support groups.

Presented by the YMCA of Windsor-Essex

“People will make a difference through efforts to understand each other’s beliefs and cultural backgrounds with cooperation, patience, passion and open mindedness. Achieving local and global peace needs strong voices paired with keen listeners. World peace is achievable when determined individuals come together as a single motivated unit with a common goal to overcome the obstacles to peace.”

Christopher Sanger – 2006

For his many community building efforts including fund raising, local and overseas volunteering, and inspiring others to be active peace makers.

Presented by the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington

“The ‘peacemaking’ efforts that I am involved with are small – not global. For me, peacemaking is about listening to things that are different, trying to understand them and accepting the possibility of some middle ground. Differences scare us and it is hard to make a space for it – a space that allows us to look at it from all sides. We must try.”

Jane Matheson – 2005

For her work with Wood’s Homes, helping children and families in turmoil.

Presented by the YMCA of Calgary

“The nations of the world can only achieve World Peace when everyone can forget their individual differences and remember that all people are born with a heart, and should love each other and help each other, especially those among us who are in need.”

Derek Mills – 2004

For years of community and volunteer involvement with a variety of non-profit organizations, including Legal Aid, minor hockey, and fund raising for flood relief.

Presented by the YMCA of Cambridge

“Wars, genocide, military spending, poverty, disease and an increasingly fragile globe cry out for us to become involved. Not until people of different cultures, religions and values, make the practice of peace their moral compass, will we succeed in building peace. We have to find new ways at home in order to be effective globally. People around the world must come together and through tireless work act on the ‘audacity of hope.’”

Evelyn Wittmann – 1994

For her work at Horizons of Friendship, an international development group that works with grassroots development organizations in Mexico and Central America.

Presented by the YMCA of Northumberland

“A person should principally regard him or herself as a member of the human race, rather than confining him/herself into the smaller and narrower circles of nationalistic, linguistic, ethnic or religious groups. This would eventually lead him/her to regard everyone else as his kith and kin and help bring peace.”

Vinasithamby Thurairajah – 2005

For his volunteer work in settlement support in the local Sri Lankan Tamil community.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Toronto

“Diplomatic and new alternatives for international and intra-national dispute settlement must be given ever higher priority over military solutions. Trust-building measures and verification of nuclear disarmament build a foundation for easing tensions. Citizens everywhere need to call upon their governments to implement such an approach.”

Project Ploughshares Calgary – 1987

For supporting education, research and advocacy programs that promote peaceful resolutions to political conflict.

Presented by the YMCA of Calgary

“By making a conscious decision to reach out to those who we have always viewed as the ‘other’ or even the enemy, we break barriers and begin to understand what has always been ‘strange’. Ask questions. Read. Learn. Get involved. Recognize that there is always more than one answer. By understanding and incorporating the different possibilities, we can truly accomplish so much!”

Ronit Yarosky – 2005

For co-founding the Montreal Dialogue Group, which builds dialogue, understanding and mutual respect between the Jewish and Palestinian communities in Montreal.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Montreal

“To promote peace we need to develop compassion and sensitivity to other cultures. Compassion is to put oneself in others’ shoes and to accept without judgment the way they choose to live or behave. Sensitivity is to appreciate our own values but respect others even if it appears to be at odds with our own.”

Mo Ali – 1987

For his commitment to health and wellness both at home and overseas as well as his international YMCA work.

Presented by the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington

BUILD COMMUNITIES OF COMPASSION

A genuine interest in others in your community builds respect, trust and understanding, forming a network of support and caring.

“If we understand each other we find it possible then to have an atmosphere of unity.”

John Raleigh Mott, USA

*1946 Noble Peace Prize for promoting peace and tolerance between nations through the establishment of worldwide youth organizations.
(Former President, World Alliance of YMCAs)*

“Peace begins in the family and in the neighbourhood. It is nurtured by truth-telling, fair play and mutual respect. It is fostered by compassion, sensitivity, good will and acts of kindness, both random and scheduled. Creating peaceful homes, schools, cities and faith communities are within our control. Lessons learned at the micro levels transitioned to the macro/global stage will go a long way to creating a world where peace is the norm and hostility the aberration.”

Richard Blaquiere – 1990

For promoting awareness of the Holocaust by raising funds to take local students, who expressed doubts about its occurrence, to Europe to visit concentration camps.

Presented by the YMCA of Fredericton

“To promote understanding and peace in my community, I would organize ‘Neighborhood Day’ where everyone is invited to bring a snack to share and get a taste of each others’ culture. This gives people the opportunity to talk and exchange their point of view. I believe there are fewer conflicts when people get to know and talk to one another.”

Theddy Siyomvo – 2006

For using his own experience as a refugee to support refugee families staying at the Montreal YMCA Residence.

*Presented by the YMCA of Greater Montreal *Translated from French*

“By working together toward a common goal, the betterment of our individual lives and communities, the global community also reaps the benefits. A more engaged, active and joyful society inherently takes better care of the environment and is more conscious of the effect of their actions on the planet and all its inhabitants. Peace is a transcendent vision that helps us to rise above our current crisis and leads us toward more meaningful and engaged lives.”

The Arusha Centre – 1992

For raising young Calgarians’ awareness of peace and international development.

Presented by the YMCA of Calgary

“Peace does not create itself. Peace is nurtured by the support and action of community members and leaders, and requires a receptive environment to thrive. Regardless of age, gender or race, we can learn from each other’s unique perspectives and make peace our common goal. It is imperative that we proactively embrace opportunities to think, speak, live and thereby exhibit the art of peace.”

Angela Haynes – 2006

For pioneering a grassroots event that invited youth to use artistic expression to articulate solutions to the ongoing violence and conflict in their communities.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Toronto

“Peace is not a distant dream. Peace can be achieved through a commitment to breaking the cycle of hatred and violence and emphasizing the value of community. With each step we take to ensure physical, emotional and spiritual well-being, we support peace building efforts.”

Gloria Kovach – 2006

For her work as city counsellor to develop international programs including an overseas municipal partnership, an exchange program as well as Middle East peace initiatives.

Presented by the YMCA-YWCA of Guelph

“We make a difference by standing together, speaking the truth and asking the difficult questions. Silence is not an option.”

Cranes for Peace (Grey-Bruce) – 2003

For promoting peace as a resolution to problems in Iraq.

Presented by the YMCA of Owen Sound

“We can work towards peace by stopping fighting and encouraging others to stop fighting, by appreciating our current fortunes, sharing what we have with those less fortunate, encouraging systems which promote equity, and by working to create a legacy which we would be proud to pass on to future generations.”

Camille Dow Baker – 2005

For bringing water sanitation technologies to underdeveloped countries.

Presented by the YMCA of Calgary

“Life is short and precious and helping others to enjoy theirs is the objective of a volunteer. The volunteer at the soup kitchen is as much the hero as the disaster recovery team member...for each link is needed in a chain!”

Bill Grimmer – 1989

For his rescue work in earthquake ravaged Azerbaijan.

Presented by the YMCA of Greater Moncton

“People from all walks of life can work towards peace by following six simple rules drafted by Nobel Peace Prize Laureates:

1. Respect the life and dignity of each human being.
2. Reject violence in all forms: physical, sexual, psychological, economic and social.
3. Share with others your time and material resources.
4. Defend freedom of expression and cultural diversity.
5. Preserve the planet.
6. Contribute to the development of community.”

India Canada Society of Hamilton & Region – 2005

For promoting peace through an Annual Gandhi Peace Festival that includes a writing contest as well as fund raising for university peace lectures.

Presented by the YMCA of Hamilton/Burlington

YMCA PEACE BUILDING

The YMCA has a long tradition of actively promoting peace. Across Canada YMCAs and YMCA-YWCAs offer activities and educational programs to help children, youth and adults explore the many dimensions of peace and discover how they can play an active role.

As the world continues to become more interconnected, teaching children to be socially responsible, to actively pursue peace building and to appreciate cultural diversity is vital for a peaceful future. Parents and educators are encouraged to log on to www.ymca.ca to access English and French Activity Guides geared to helping children understand the many dimensions of peace.

The YMCA in Canada is very pleased to be celebrating 20 years of awarding the YMCA Peace Medallion to individuals and groups of peacemakers, who are role models for how any one of us can build peace and a stronger sense of community.

The YMCA's enduring mission of supporting the personal growth of people in spirit, mind and body, and fostering a sense of responsibility to each other and the global community continues to be fundamental to all YMCA programs and services.

YMCA Canada Peace Week resources were undertaken with financial support of the Government of Canada provided through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Aussi disponible en français
To download this booklet visit: www.ymca.ca

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YMCA

