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PeaceJam Celebrates 10 Years with 10 Nobel Peace Prize Laureates

On September 16, 2006 The PeaceJam Foundation called the youth of the world to action. Over the next ten years participants will complete one billion acts of service globally. These peace inspired acts will focus on one or more of ten fundamental issues that lie at the root of suffering in our world. These key issues are outlined in PeaceJam's initiative, "A Global Call to Action with the Youth of the World."

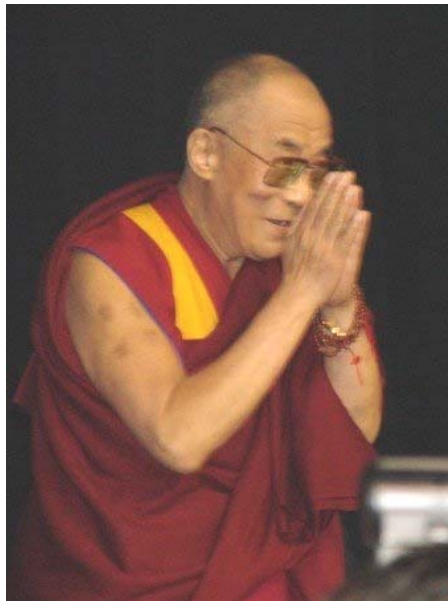
The ten key points of action include, unequal access to water and natural resources, racism and hate, the spread of global disease, extreme poverty, social justice and human rights, rights for women and children, and environmental degradation, among others. These billion acts of positive change are well underway as thousands of youth have already begun the first wave of Global Action Projects with the help of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates from around the world.

The Global Call to Action was a key element of PeaceJam's 10th Anniversary Celebration, which took place September 15-17, 2006 at The University of Denver. The conference hosted ten Noble Peace Prize Winners who worked directly with youth from over 30 countries. The Laureates included The Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Oscar Arias, José Ramos Horta, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Betty Williams, Mariead Corrigan McGuire, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, Jody Williams, and Shirin Ebadi. The collective mission of these great individuals was to inspire youth to realize their individual potential to create a peaceful world.

Youth and their PeaceJam club advisors began trickling in Friday morning to register. The Archbishop Desmond Tutu got the celebration of to a high energy start by dancing at the Kick-Off Concert featuring bands, Freak Street Project, Hot IQs, and Flobots, and The Go.

On Saturday participants met their mentors and the members of their family group (youth from all around the world placed in a group) at the first of five family group

sessions. Family groups came together to hear the keynote speech by The Dalai Lama. Shortly after Nobel Peace Laureates led youth in service projects.



The Dalai Lama Addressed Participants of Peace Jam's 10th Anniversary Celebration as the Key-note Speaker

Participants then assembled with 7,000 community members to see and hear all of the Laureates together on-stage for the Public Talk. Laureates gave messages of peace, frequently interrupted with bursts of applause. Each Laureate was met with a standing ovation at the start and close of their message. After a family group session to discuss this epic event the youth ended the day performing, dancing, and supporting one another at a combination Open Mic/DJ Dance Party.

The Final Day began with the Ceremony of Inspiration led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu who praised youth, "You come here and you say, 'I will make a difference. I care about poverty. I care about war.' And all of you are peacemakers. We are opposed to war. We stand for peace." During this ceremony, people took the stage to tell what affords them their stamina for peacemaking when they feel most de-

feated.

Youth then presented their Global Action Projects to a Nobel Peace Laureate where they also had the opportunity to get their picture taken with the Laureate and

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ARTICLES:	UPCOMING EVENTS:
PeaceJam Celebrates 10 Years ¹	♦ October 16-17, AmeriCorps State Service Conference
Haxtun Kindergarden 2	♦ October 28, Make a Difference Day
Adams State College attends PeaceJam Celebration 3	♦ December 8, Center for Education in Law and Democracy (CELD) Conference
West Middle School Works to Alleviate Hunger 4	♦ February 21-23, 2007, State Conference on Volunteerism and Service- Learning
	♦ March 28-31, 2007 National Service-Learning Conference

PeaceJam, con't.

their Family Group. The celebration came to a close with each Laureate calling the participants to act on one of the key issues outlined in the Global Call to Action. Each of them underlined a common theme: Don't let the scale of the world's problems overwhelm you; instead act locally to change things globally.

This message had a lasting impact.

Thousands of youth left after the closing ceremony feeling changed and inspired. Shannara Johnson, a student at Pueblo, Colorado's Keating Education Center stated, "At first you wonder what you're doing there, and then you realize it's people like us who will make the change in the world."

For more information on Peace-

Jam, its "Global Call to Action with the Youth of the World," or how to get involved call 303-455-2099 or visit www.peacejam.org.

*Johnson quote taken from Roper, Peter. "PeaceJam transcends borders," *The Pueblo Chieftain* 20 September 2006.

Article submitted by Shannon Styers, AmeriCorps*VISTA member, The PeaceJam Foundation

PeaceJam Staff and Volunteers with Nobel Peace Prize Laureates



Students celebrating with PeaceJam

Haxtun Kindergarten Students Get a *Taste* of Service-Learning

This year, the Haxtun kindergarten class, led by Mrs. Jeni Koch, experienced their first service-learning project. Mrs. Koch, who has taught kindergarten for the last 22 years, has used a lesson centered on the book *Stone Soup* for more years than even she could remember. This year, however, Mrs. Koch used the lesson as the introduction for a service-learning project.

The original lesson consisted of the students reading and discussing the book *Stone Soup* and the social consequences of a community pooling their resources to make and share soup, for not only townspeople, but also the strangers who were passing through.

This year, with the addition of the service-learning piece, the kindergarten class decided to sponsor a canned food drive at Haxtun Schools in conjunction to reading *Stone Soup*. The food drive was made into a contest, with the class bringing in the most food items being treated to an ice cream float party with the kindergarten class. Mrs. Koch allowed her students to explain the project to all of the classes in the school and put baskets in the classrooms for the food items. "They were so cute!" was the general response from female Haxtun High School students about the young students.

A two days each week, the kindergarten students went around the

school to collect the food items. They then returned to their classroom and counted how many items they received. They marked these items on a graph which was hung in the cafeteria that showed how many items each class had contributed. The items collected were sorted into categories such as fruit and vegetables. Mrs. Koch found that there were several students who in the beginning had a hard time grasping the fact that all cans were not the same and that the contents were different. By the end of the project they were able to look at the outside of the can and realize what the contents were.

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Adams State College Americorps*VISTA attends PeaceJam Celebration

AmeriCorps*VISTA Tye S. Boyer from the Community Partnerships office at Adams State College in Alamosa, Colorado, attended PeaceJam's 10th Anniversary Celebration entitled, "A Global Call to Action" as a Mentor from September 15th thru September 17th at the University of Denver campus.

The conference featured Nobel Peace Laureates including the Dalai Lama, the Archbishop Desmond, Tutu, Oscar Arias, Adolfo Pérez Esquivel and more.

As a mentor, Boyer worked with high school students ages 14-19 to facilitate small group discussions that the youth had throughout the celebration.

"Each of the many conference activities played a role in passing on the spirit, skills, and wisdom of a generation of peacemakers to another generation who will transform their local communities,

themselves, and the world," Boyer said.

PeaceJam is a world leader and advocate in the field of service-learning. A segment of the conference was devoted to service projects.

"All participants took part in letter writing activity aimed at addressing

ten fundamental issues that, as the laureates have attested, are at the root of much of the suffering in the world," Boyer said. "My group's service experience, in particular, was with the Archbishop Desmond Tutu."

"In truth, the world's largest gathering of Nobel Peace Prize Laureates was an unprecedented expression of unity for improving world affairs," Boyer said.

This Global Call to Action was not only for the participants of the conference, but for youth and educators worldwide, including the San Luis Valley.

"Each of us must know that we can create a better future for us all, if only we empower each other to do so," Boyer said.



PeaceJam Mentors Via Yang from Korea, AmeriCorps*VISTA Tye Boyer from the San Luis Valley and Andrej Marolt from Sweden.

Article submitted by Tiffany Boyer, AmeriCorps* VISTA member, Adams State College

Haxtun, con't.

While this was happening, they discussed how they were part of many communities including their own classroom, the school, and Haxtun community.

They talked about why it is important to help those in their communities and how we are all connected together. They discussed how gathering food in the school would impact those in the larger community of Haxtun and that you didn't always know who you were helping, but that you also receive help when you don't always know the source.

At the completion of the food

drive, the kindergartners took all of their categorized items and counted them by fives. They used this information to make graphs and learn math concepts. Mrs. Koch said that through this project, the students demonstrated an improvement in their math skills. They were able to improve their counting skills and were able to use and understand tick marks.

At the end of the project the students had collected 1,152 items for holiday food baskets. The contest ended up in a tie between the pre-school students and the high school seniors.

Those two groups along with the kindergarten students celebrated by enjoying root beer floats.

Mrs. Koch, who retired at the end of this school year, has given us a very good model demonstrating to other teachers one way in which to incorporate service-learning into a preexisting lesson plan. This was an excellent and successful project, which will hopefully be continued in the following years by Mrs. Koch's successor.

Article submitted by Paula Nall, AmeriCorps*VISTA member, Northeast Consortium



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West Middle School partners with Care and Share to alleviate hunger in Southern Colorado

West Middle School is concerned about hunger in Southern Colorado. This year, students will form a partnership with Care and Share Food Bank to make a difference in the quality of life for children and families in the region who are battling hunger. According to representatives at Care and Share, one in five children living in Southern Colorado is at risk of hunger.

Care and Share is a not-for-profit food bank based in Southern Colorado and is allied with America's Second Harvest national network of food banks. During the Fall season, Care and Share will host the Harvest of Love food drive, aiming to combat hunger and build "long-term food security." Heather Martin, a spokesperson for Care and Share food bank, emphasizes the importance of getting involved: "The problem of hunger impacts a child for his entire life. A child living with hunger is more likely to have health issues, problems in school, and live in poverty as an adult. Students who participate in the Harvest of Love Food Drive are taking action to help the community and their very own classmates."

Students at West Middle School are in the process of

developing a school-wide service-learning opportunity that will benefit the Harvest of Love food drive. This is a new endeavor for West, and they are up to the challenge. The school will work diligently from October 23rd through November 17th, implementing creative, student-designed service-learning opportunities.

Connie Graven, Social Studies teacher in West's talented and gifted "SAIL" program and school service-learning coordinator says, "West is excited about Harvest of Love being our first school-wide service-learning project. Many teachers have expressed interest in participating. I hope this will be the first of several school-wide service-learning projects." Students, meanwhile, are eager to learn more about hunger in Southern Colorado and to pass their knowledge on to others in the school and community.

For more information about Care and Share or the Harvest of Love please visit www.Careandshare.org

Article submitted by Emily Stuart, AmeriCorps*VISTA member, Colorado College Partnership on Civic Engagement

