



PeaceMaker Minnesota 2021 Annual report

Mission, Goals & Vision

To help create a more peaceful world, the **mission of PeaceMaker Minnesota is to help schools be safer places, free from bullying and harassment, and help youth learn positive relational skills** like empathy, respect, and how to resolve conflicts peacefully. Our goal is to support more school employees, students, and others in building community and teaching kids positive relational skills. Our vision is for there to be kids in every community learning to be peacemakers to prevent abuse and violence in our schools, homes and neighborhoods.

Description of Each Major Program

PeaceMaker Minnesota has four services to engage and support school personnel, students and others in helping kids to develop healthy relational skills.

1. **Financial Assistance** reimburses schools for curriculum, training and supplies to support initiatives that help kids treat each other with kindness; and provides books to first, second and third graders to help them learn how to respond to teasing and make friends.
2. **Ambassadors for Respect** pays individuals 18 and older with developmental disabilities to deliver bullying prevention trainings to fourth graders about the importance of including others, of Person First Language, and of being an advocate for oneself and others.
3. **Training** helps school employees recognize, respond to and prevent bullying behavior. Trainings help students and school employees learn the conflict resolution skills of recognizing and managing emotions, reflective listening, and reframing escalating communication.
4. **Peace Guides** are PeaceMaker employees trained in conflict resolution and restorative justice who work at schools, typically 3 hours a day, 3 days a week over the lunch and recess periods to help kids improve their conflict resolution and relational skills, and to be a caring adult in their lives.

Major Program Accomplishments

Financial Assistance - More than **doubled the amount of financial assistance** supporting youth violence prevention efforts from last year. During 2021 PeaceMaker Minnesota provided \$40,630 in financial assistance to 24 schools to help them purchase curriculum, training and supplies.

In addition, at the end of last year and in early 2022 PeaceMaker Minnesota purchased books for 2,512 students at 24 schools. The books were *Make a Friend, Be a Friend*; and *Ease the Tease*. Both books are for students ages 6 – 9 and are published by Free Spirit Publishing. The books are “How To” books meant to help young children to develop healthy relational skills. Teachers have the students read the books, discuss the books and write statements about what they learned and can apply to their lives. The teachers then give the books to the students to keep.

School example: Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science in Eagan received \$1,500 of this funding. The school requested \$500 to purchase books for its library to support the curriculum (Second Step) that they are using to teach social skills and build community. In the fall of 2021, the school received an additional \$1,000 per their request for supplies to create "Safe Spaces" in all instructional areas so students have a place to self-regulate and apply calming/breathing strategies and those taught through residencies from the organization MoveMindfully. All of the students at the school benefitted from this funding. In a follow-up survey after receiving funding, the school reported that “The tools and training are an integral part of our promoting a calm and peaceful learning environment and aligned to the developing our students’ social and emotional learning skills.”

Ambassadors for Respect - **Doubled the number of Ambassadors for Respect trainings** for fourth graders by adapting the previously in-person trainings to videos and supporting teacher-led classroom discussions. Twenty-six trainings took place two years ago, 53 during the 2020 – 2021 school year. The number of fourth graders talking about the importance of including others, using kind – Person First – language, and about being an advocate for oneself and others nearly doubled, from 557 to 1,068 during the 2020 -2021 school year.

Training – **Training services restarted** following their suspension during the 2020 pandemic year. Five trainings took place for 38 people on how to recognize and intervene in bullying, reflective listening, reframing escalating communication, and expressing feelings.

Peace Guides - Increased the number of schools with a Peace Guide from one to four. Results from the 58 students surveyed at the end of the last school year show that students learned:

- To accept and take personal responsibility for their actions (86%)
- To be a better friend (78%)
- To resolve conflicts peacefully (74%).

All four Principals at the schools with Peace Guides requested that Guides return to their schools during the 2022 – 2023 school year. Here are some of the reasons why:

We like having a trained individual help out students with conflict resolution. It is also another person in the building who cares about kids and builds relationships with them. That is the most important thing we can do right now in schools.

The Peace Guide provides additional supervision during recess, positive connections with staff and students, and restorative skills to help students better understand their behavior.

Leah has provided teachers and other staff an additional resource to collaborate with on student conflict issues. Her additional time at Kaposia has been valuable as it takes a lot of time to resolve and restore student relationship issues.

The Peace Guide brings another caring adult into the lives of those students who need it. Data shows how important caring adults are in the lives of our students.

Geographic Locations & Schools Served

Key Code for Services

1A—Received PeaceMaker Minnesota financial assistance to purchase curriculum, supplies or training

1B—Received books for their students to read, discuss, write about, and keep

2—School where fourth graders received an Ambassadors for Respect training

3—School staff received training from PeaceMaker Minnesota

4—School where a PeaceMaker Minnesota Peace Guide is working

5—Transitional program or nonprofit that received support to deliver Ambassadors for Respect trainings

Arden Hills:

Valentine Hills Elementary, 2

Austin:

Pacelli Catholic School, 3

Belle Plaine:

Oak Crest Elementary, 1A

Blaine:

Centerview Elementary, 1A

Northpoint Elementary, 1A

Coon Rapids:

Mississippi Elementary, 3

Dayton:

Dayton Elementary, 1B

Eagan:

Glacier Hills School of Arts & Science, 1A

Fridley:

Woodcrest Spanish Immersion School, 1A

Hastings:

Kennedy Elementary, 1A

McAuliffe Elementary, 1A

Pinecrest Elementary, 1A

Riverside School at JSC, 1A

Isanti:

Isanti Intermediate / School For All Seasons,
1A, 1B, 2

Lakeland:

Afton-Lakeland Elementary, 1A, 3

Minneapolis:

Dowling Elementary, 2

Kenwood Elementary, 2

Lucy Laney Elementary, 2

St. Helena Catholic School, 2, 3, 4

Monticello:

Little Mountain Elementary, 1A, 1B, 2, 4

Monticello Middle School, 1

Pinewood Elementary, 1A, 2, 4

Moorhead:

S.G. Reinertsen Elementary, 1A, 2

Mounds View:

Pinewood Elementary, 2

New Brighton:

Community Partners with Youth, 1B

North Saint Paul:

Cowern Elementary, 1B

Next Step Transition Program, 5

Oakdale:

Castle Elementary, 1B, 2

Saint Paul:

Community of Peace Academy, 1A, 2, 3

Highland Catholic School, 1A, 1B, 2

Shoreview:

Career and Life Transition Program, 5

Emmet D. Williams Elementary, 1B

Turtle Lake Elementary, 2

Spring Lake Park:

Park Terrace Elementary, 1A

South St. Paul:

Kaposia Education Center, 1B, 4

St. Anthony Village:

St. Charles Catholic School, 1B, 2

St. Cloud:

Willow Lane Elementary, 2

Discovery Elementary, 2

InStep Transition Program, 5

Community Options 2 Transition Program,
1A

Vadnais Heights:

Merrick, Inc., 5

Vermillion:

St. John the Baptist Catholic School, 1A, 1B

White Bear Lake:

Otter Tail Elementary, 2

Willmar:

Focus Transition Program, 5

Woodbury:

Brookview Elementary, 1A

List of Board of Directors

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- Joy Thao- Director
Chief Financial Officer (Regulated Industries) & Shared Service Center Assistant Team Leader, CLA (CliftonLarsonAllen)
- PeaceMaker Minnesota Finance Committee
Bridget Castaneda, Peter LeNeau, Dan McNeil, John Nelson, Joy Thao

List of Key Paid Staff

- Dan McNeil- Executive Director
- Hayla Drake- Communications and Marketing Specialist

Balance Sheet & Financial Statement

See attachment

Functional Expense Allocation

- Total Expenses \$262,691
- Program service expenses \$198,130
- Fundraising \$49,529
- Management and General Expenses \$15,032

Total Cost for Each Major Program

PeaceMaker Minnesota provides schools with financial assistance, trainings, classroom presentations, and staffing to help more kids learn to be peacemakers. We report expenses for these programs all together on our MN Form 990 and the total for 2021 was \$198,130.

Contact information

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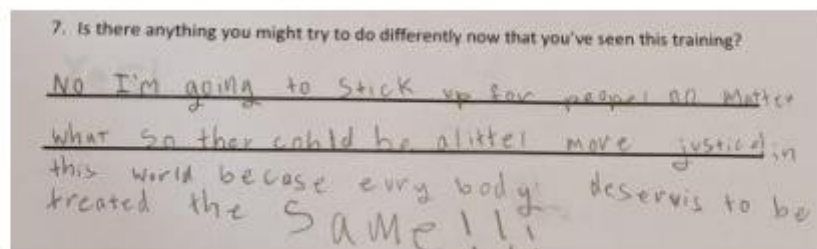
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Ambassadors



One response from a 4th grader trained by Ambassadors

