



## PeaceMaker Minnesota 2022 Annual report

### Mission, Goals & Values

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.

PeaceMaker Minnesota's three-year strategic plan approved in 2022 prioritizes expanding the Peace Guide service to more schools and to increasing the hours that Guides work at schools. Our long-term goal is to help youth learn to be peacemakers in every school district in Minnesota.

The values driving our work are that people and relationships matter, and that peace is worth our commitment. Transparency and accountability shape our operations.

### Why This Work Matters Now

Multiple studies have "repeatedly found a strong link between prosocial behavior and academic achievement," and that "children with peer problems were more likely to have lower academic motivation as well as other school-related difficulties."<sup>1</sup>

Anti-social, abusive, peer problems impact nearly one out of five elementary and middle school youth. According to the 2022 Minnesota Department of Education's Minnesota Student Survey:<sup>2</sup>

- 23% of fifth and eighth graders report being bullied *every week*.<sup>3</sup>
- 9% of fifth grade students, 10% of eighth grade boys and 17% of eighth grade girls report not feeling safe at school.
- In the last thirty days:
  - 23% of fifth grade boys report being sent out of their classroom for discipline.
  - 22% of fifth grade boys reported that they pushed, shoved, slapped, hit or kicked someone when they weren't kidding around.
  - 17% of fifth grade boys and girls reported excluding someone, friends or other students, from activities.

The survey also shows a need to help youth develop positive relational skills. Between 5% and 7% of fifth grade students reported that they "not at all or rarely:"

- Build friendships with other people.

- Express feelings in a positive way.
- Resolve conflicts without anyone getting hurt.

For a healthy, safe school environment and community for all of us, these numbers need to change. Schools are meant for learning, not bullying. Intervening at a young age can change the trajectory of a person's life and prevent abuse that can hurt someone for decades.

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1. How Does Social Behavior Relate to Both Grades and Achievement Scores? by Jeffrey M. DeVries, Katharina Rathmann and Markus Gebhardt, published by Frontiers in Psychology, June 4, 2018 and retrieved on April 17, 2023 at <https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.00857/full>

2.

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/news/pressrel/2022/stsurvey122322.html#:~:text=The%202022%20survey%20sa,w%20the,lasting%20six%20months%20or%20more> retrieved April 26, 2024.

3. Every 1% of a grade level represents about 670 youth. This means that 14,740 fifth graders and 14,740 eighth graders report being put down, excluded, threatened or assaulted every week. (870,506 youth in grades K – 12 during the 2021 – 2022 school year, or about 66,962 per grade)

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### **Description of Each Major Program**

- **Peace Guides** – Part-time PeaceMaker employees work at elementary and K – 8 schools to help youth develop problem solving skills such as how to handle emotions, understand different perspectives, and think of multiple solutions. Guides provide emotional support and a listening ear to youth who need someone to talk to.
- **Books for Peacemakers** – Students in grades K – 3 read, discuss, and write about the importance of standing up for oneself and others, and how to talk through conflicts, respond to teasing, make friends and be a friend. Students are offered the chance to keep the book that they read.
- **Financial Assistance** - Schools are reimbursed for curriculum, training and supplies to support local school initiatives that help kids to treat each other with kindness.
- **Training Services** – Sessions to help 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.
- **Ambassadors for Respect** – Individuals with developmental disabilities deliver a 50-minute bullying prevention classroom presentation to fourth graders about the importance of including others, of using kind – Person First – language and of being an advocate for oneself and others.

## **Major Program Accomplishments**

**Peace Guides** - Increased the number elementary and K – 8 schools receiving Peace Guide services from four to six.

- o Each month Peace Guides at the four schools served during the 2021 – 2022 school year, conducted an estimated:
  - **675 check ins** with students (follow-up conversation about a follow-up on a skill, behavior, emotional challenge, etc. that student was working on)
  - **235 resourcing conversations** with students (offering suggestions for a challenge)
  - **128 conflict resolution conversations** with students.
- o Surveys of school staff employees at the four schools served during 2021 – 2022 show:
  - 100% agreed or strongly agreed that the Guides were caring adults in the lives of students.
  - 96% agreed or strongly agreed that the Guides helped students to be better friends.
  - 96% agreed or strongly agreed the Guides helped students resolve conflicts peacefully.

**Books for Peacemakers** - Twenty-seven schools participated in our Books for Peacemakers project. PeaceMaker Minnesota purchased the following books for students to read, discuss with their classroom teacher and write about what they learned. Students keep the books and may bring them home for parents to share with others.

- o **544 kindergartners** received *One*, a book about standing up for oneself and others, by Kathryn Otoshi.
- o **176 first graders** received *The Barnyard Buddies STOP for Peace*, a book about how to talk through conflicts, by Julie Peshorn.
- o **1,301 second graders** received *Make a Friend, Be a Friend*, a book about friendship skills by Eric Bran.
- o **1,367 third graders** received *Ease the Tease*, a book about how to overcome teasing by Judy Freedman and Mimi Black.

**Ambassadors For Respect** – Seventy-seven individuals with developmental disabilities served as Ambassadors and delivered **45 in-person and virtual Ambassadors for Respect trainings at nineteen schools to 978 students** during the 2021 – 2022 school year.

- o 94% of Ambassadors reported that they are better able to say what they want, and what is important to them.
- o 98% of students reported that they could list three ways to include others, 95% indicated that they learned how to use Person First Language, and 94% could list three ways to advocate for oneself and others.
- o 100% of teachers responded that they would like their class to receive an in-person Ambassadors for Respect training next year.

Financial Assistance - **Provided \$43,394 to 25 schools** to support their unique violence prevention initiatives.

Training Services - **Delivered two trainings for middle and high school students in St. Paul** about how to recognize and manage emotions and has delivered a five-session peer mediation training for a church youth group in North Minneapolis.

The Minnesota Chapter of the International Society for Performance Improvement (MnISPI ) eLearning Special Interest Group (SIG) is volunteering to turn our conflict resolution training material into an eLearning course for school employees. The course will be ready in the 2023.

The goal this year is to increase the number of youth and adults receiving conflict resolution and bullying prevention trainings from 38 last year to more than 50 this year.

Creating Community Resources - Created **five new endowment funds** to generate long-term funding to help youth in: Cambridge – Isanti, Eagan, Lakeville, Monticello and Moorhead.

## **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, 1B

#### **Austin:**

Nexus-Gerard, 2

#### **Bayport:**

Andersen Elementary, 1A, 1B

#### **Belle Plaine:**

Oak Crest Elementary, 1A

#### **Brooklyn Center:**

Progeny Academy, 1A, 1B, 4

St. Alphonsus Catholic Elem., 1A, 1B, 4

#### **Brooklyn Park:**

Athlos Leadership Academy, 1B

#### **Champlin:**

Modern Montessori, 1B

#### **Dayton:**

Dayton Elementary, 1B

#### **Eagan:**

Glacier Hills School of Arts & Science, 1A

#### **Golden Valley:**

Notre Ecole French Immersion, 1A, 4

**Hastings:**

McAuliffe Elementary, 1A  
Pinecrest Elementary, 1A

**Isanti:**

Isanti Intermediate / School For All Seasons,  
1A, 1B, 2  
Arts & Science Academy 1B

**Lake Park/Audubon:**

Lake Park Elementary, 1A  
Lake Park High School, 1A

**Maplewood:**

Harambee Elementary, 2  
Maplewood Middle School, 1A

**Minneapolis:**

Minneapolis Transition Plus 1A  
Sheridan Elementary, 2  
St. Helena Catholic School, 1A, 1B, 4

**Monticello:**

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

**Moorhead:**

S.G. Reinertsen Elementary, 1A

**Mounds View:**

Pinewood Elementary, 2

**New Brighton:**

Community Partners with Youth, 1B  
Pike Lake Kindergarten Center, 1B  
St. John the Baptist Catholic Elementary, 2

**North St. Paul:**

The Next Step Transition Program

**Oakdale:**

Oakdale Elementary, 1A  
Skyview Elementary, 1A  
Skyview Middle School, 1A

**Rush City:**

C.E. Jacobson Elementary

**Saint Paul:**

Achieve Language Academy, 1B  
Cherokee Elementary, 1B  
Community of Peace Academy, 1B  
Crossroads Elementary, 1B  
Focus Beyond, 5  
Global Arts Plus, 1A  
Groveland Park Elementary, 2  
Hazel Park Prep Academy, 1B  
Maxfield Elementary, 2  
Metro Deaf School, 1B  
Nokomis Montessori, 1A  
Prodeo Academy, 1B  
St. Paul City School, 1B  
St. Paul School of Northern Lights, 1B  
The Journey School, 1B

**Shoreview:**

Career Life and Transition Program

**South St. Paul:**

Kaposia Education Center, 1A, 1B, 4  
Lincoln Center Elementary, 1B

**St. Anthony Village:**

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School, 2  
Wilshire Park Elementary, 2

**St. Cloud:**

Discovery Elementary, 2  
Stride Academy, 1B

**Vadnais Heights:**

Merrick, Inc., 5

**Vermillion:**

St. John the Baptist Catholic School, 1A

**West St. Paul:**

Community of Saints, 1A, 1B

**White Bear Lake:**

Lakeaires Elementary, 2  
Lincoln Elementary, 2

**Willmar:**

Kennedy Elementary, 2  
Focus House, 5

**Woodbury:**

Brookview Elementary, 1A, 1B

**State of Maine:**

Otisfield Community School, 2 (virtual)

### **List of Board of Directors**

- Gwen Gmeinder – Secretary - Retired Government Relations Associate, University of Minnesota Extension
- John Laliberte – Chairperson - Retired Principal, Kaposia Education Center, South St. Paul Public Schools
- Joy Thao – Treasurer - Financial Management Solution Architect for Government and Education, Workday
- Brandon Reichel- Director - AVP Business Development Officer, Commercial Banking, Minnwest Bank
- Kari A. Rogers- Director - Technical Publications Specialist, Prime Design - A Safe Fleet Brand
- Pamela Schmid- Director - Freelance Writer & Editor, Self Employed
- PeaceMaker Minnesota Finance Committee
- Bridget Castaneda, Dan McNeil, John Nelson, Joy Thao

### **List of Key Paid Staff**

Dan McNeil- Executive Director

Hayla Drake- Program Manager, Peace Guide Services

### **Balance Sheet & Financial Statements**

See attachment

### **Functional Expense Allocation**

Total expenses \$288,640

Program services expenses \$243,954

Fundraising expenses \$35,267

Management and General Expenses \$9,419

### **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 2022 was \$243,954.

**Contact information**

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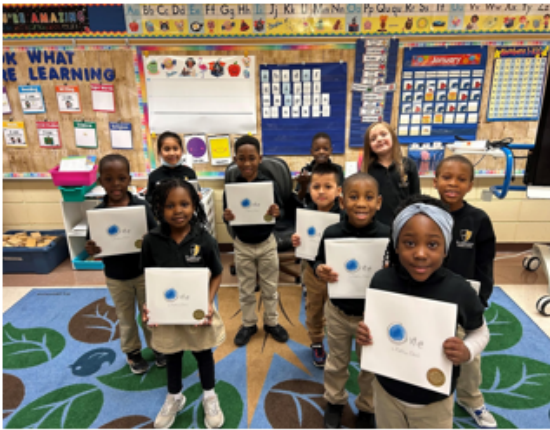
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[www.linkedin.com/company/peace-maker-foundation](http://www.linkedin.com/company/peace-maker-foundation)

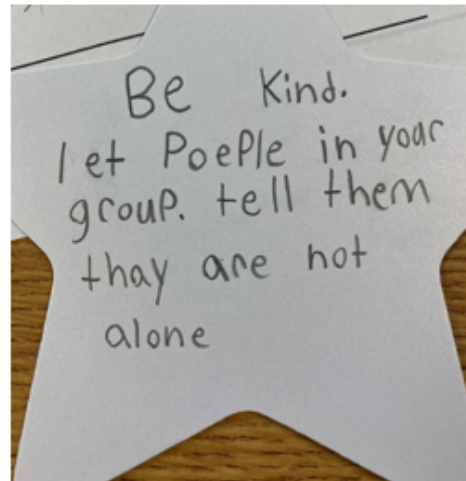
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Ambassadors for Respect Training in a 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom



Kindergarten class reading *One* about standing up for oneself and others



Student commitment after an Ambassadors for Respect training





Books for Peacemakers with 1<sup>st</sup>  
Graders at St. Alphonsus