World Citizen was founded by Lynn Elling in 1982. It is a private, non-profit organization that focuses its activities on children and youth, following the wisdom of Mahatma Gandhi and Maria Montessori. The mission of World Citizen is to empower the community to educate for a just and peaceful world. In that spirit, World Citizen reaches thousands of young people through the Peace Education Program and the International Peace Site Program.

Empower the Community to Educate for a Just and Peaceful World

World Citizen
2145 Ford Parkway, Suite 300
St. Paul, MN 55116
Phone: 651-695-2587
Fax: 651-695-0254
E-mail: admin@peacesites.org

A big THANK YOU to the following schools who have participated in Peace Education sessions from 2003-2013:

Anoka
McKendry Elementary
Bell Apple
Greenfield Elementary
Highland Elementary
Cedar Park Elementary
Belle Plain
Belle Plain Junior High
Bluemound
Olmstead
Jefferson High School
Brookings Center
Evergreen Park
Elementary
Brookings Park
Sage Academy
Excel Academy
Centerville
Centerville Elementary
Church
St. Michael’s Lutheran Church

Community Individuals
Graduate Students from U.W. River Falls

Cottage Grove
Gary Cloud Elementary

Duluth
Nektionov Elementary

Eagan
Pineview Elementary
Glacier Hills Elementary

Eden Prairie
Prairie View Elementary
Forest Hills Elementary
Cedar Ridge Elementary

Edina
Edina Prairie High School
Edina Central Middle School
Eden Lake Elementary
Oak Point Elementary
Eagle Heights Spanish Immersion

Edina
Edina High School

Edina
Jefferson Elementary

Hopkins
Gateswood Elementary

Le Sueur
Park Elementary

Lino Lakes
Central Middle School

Maplewood
Harlenden Elementary
Carver Elementary

Minnepolis
Manny-Owen
South High School

Mound Grove
Northwest Elementary

Mounds View
Mounds View Elementary

Northfield
Northfield Central Elementary

River Falls, WI
University of Wisconsin

Roseville
Oakwood Elementary

South Saint Paul
Southview Elementary

St. Cloud
Corner for Service Learning

St. Paul
Four Seasons

St. Paul
Winona

Spring Lake Park
Diamond Park Elementary:
School of International Studies

Sbildon

St. Paul
University Magnet School

St. Paul

Sakota

Waconia

Woodbury

Yankton

World Citizen Mission:
Empower the Community to Educate for a Just and Peaceful World

The support and generosity of our donors provides opportunities that ultimately impact young people and adults positively. We are very grateful for that continued support. The results of many studies and research still supports how important it is for young people to feel cared about and safe in order to learn. We are very much aware of how important this is for adults as well. All humans need to know they are cared for and safe!

The daily news indicates the need for everyone to feel free from intimidation, abuse, and bullying; whether it be at home, at work, or in the community. We must continually be focused on kindness, respect, and safety in order to prevent violence, hurt, and disrespect.

The World Citizen programs continue to provide opportunities for young people and adults to practice positive communication skills, safe problem solving, and respectful living. Peace Education On-Site or Online provides participants time and resources to create a peaceful learning environment. The Online Course provides the opportunity for worldwide sharing. The impact of learning from someone in another state, country, or continent is truly an amazing experience. To find current information relating to either of these Peace Education opportunities, please visit our website at www.peacesites.org.

International Peace Sites provide a focus for the ongoing commitment to a peaceful learning and working environment. There are 200 Peace Sites in Minnesota and 450 worldwide. If you would like to know more about becoming a Peace Site or reactivating a Peace Site, please call us at 651-695-2587 or visit our website at www.peacesites.org.

In the book Choosing Civility by P.M. Forni, he writes, “Being civil means being constantly aware of others and weav- ing restraint, respect, and consideration into the very fabric of this awareness. Civility is a form of goodness; it is gracious goodness. But it is not just an attitude of benevolent and thoughtful relating to other individuals; it also entails an active interest in the well-being of our communities and even a concern for the health of the planet on which we live.”

Looking forward to 2013-2014 certainly creates excitement for the potential of World Citizen work. Our work is committed to focus on the FIVE PEACE ACTIONS of our organization:

» SEEK: peace within yourself and others
» REACH out in service
» PROTECT the environment
» PROMOTE intercultural understanding and celebrate diversity
» BE a responsible citizen of the world

The work of World Citizen must continue if we want a respectful and safe environment for all. We are all World Citizens who make a difference because of your support. Thank you!

— Kathy Millington, World Citizen Executive Director
Online Peace Education Course

You can now increase your peacemaking skills and communicate with others who are doing the same in the comfort of your own home.

Peace Education is online! For 10 years World Citizen has successfully offered fall and spring Peace Education workshops. We still offer this option in addition to the online opportunity. We don’t promote a particular curriculum. Rather, we focus on bringing together and supporting peace educators (schools, churches, parents, and communities) to focus on how to weave the Five Peace Actions into existing practices as well as curriculum. An option for Graduate Credit is also available through Hamline University. For more information regarding the course, dates, and registration go to www.peacesites.org/educators/peace-ed

All of the information you will need is there, including who to contact if you need help with anything.

We hope you can join us in this exciting adventure and share the word with others who may be ready for this opportunity.

Peace Education took on a slightly different format in 2012-2013. Our facilitators met to brainstorm and share information of positive experiences and topics they have used or been exposed to relative to the Five Peace Actions of World Citizen. The facilitators then diplomatically chose the topics that seemed to have the most relevance to the Five Peace Actions as well as current issues and needs. After discussing topics to present, it was decided to focus on GLBT relevance in the classroom and “Flipping” curriculum, and invite guest speakers with expertise in the areas chosen for our fall sessions on October 23 and 24. Our morning segment was presented by Wayne Feller and the “Flipped Classroom,” which brings the students’ class work into the home through integrated technology, and homework into the classroom. As one attendee said, “We all need to be relevant to our students who are more and more digital.”

Our afternoon session focused on GLBT issues relative to the classroom. We were fortunate to have Lynn Mitchell from AMAZE as our guest presenter. Lynn is a public health nurse and believes “We are all in this together” with the understanding of the inclusion of all people to the health and well-being of all individuals. Our participants and our planet. AMAZE works to teach parents, educators, and other caring adults how to promote the understanding of differences, attitudes, language, and skills needed to work together across our differences. Learn more about the AMAZE organization at www.amaze.org. Lynn’s presentation was well received and the topic was very timely for educators addressing these issues in their classrooms.

Participants said, “I am ready to bring back what I learned about how to teach GLBT issues to elementary students. It is a civil rights issue” and “Very, very powerful, insightful, and challenging. Equity is a passion of mine as is culture, so I really appreciated the conversation and presentation.”

Our facilitators for the fall session showed the video, It’s Elementary: Talking About Gay Issues in School. As the title implies, this documentary is educational and aimed at helping parents learn to untangle fact from fiction concerning homosexual people. After watching the documentary, the participants moved to break-out sessions and small-group discussions to practice facilitating conversations with their students, learn how to make and keep schools safe for GLBT students and their families, and promote peace and understanding for GLBT students and their families.

Peace Education learned from the feedback of our fall session that we covered much information in one short day. However, we knew that the participants would have much to take back to their classrooms, homes, and communities! For example: “This has been one of the better sessions in a while. I am taking away NDF information. Thank you for guest presenters very relevant. Thank you for funding Peace Educators programs.”

Our winter sessions were held on January 29 and 30. Our featured guest speaker at these workshops was Cindi Claplatch of Prospectives, Inc. Cindi spoke on health literacy, which is based on the premise of innate health and resilience as an unlimited, ever-present, natural resource to all human beings. Our participants were highly energized and enlightened by her presentation and information. More information about Cindi and the services she offers through the Prospectives, Inc. can be found at www.cindiclaplatch.com.

Following Cindi’s presentation, our participants were led by our facilitators to do a Make-and-Take Snow globe. This is a visual that can be used in classrooms for students to see that until all of the static (represented by the glitter in the globe) around them settles, they cannot see clearly. It is important to let all of the static clear before making decisions, judgments, or actions.

At each Peace Education workshop, participants are given feedback forms with five questions to fill out for us. These forms provide the opportunity for us to learn about take-aways, ah-ha moments, and suggestions about the Peace Education sessions and the program as a whole. When asked how Peace Education sessions made an impact, one participant wrote, “It has empowered my teaching. There has been a wealth of ideas to help me create a peaceful environment in my classroom and school.”

We want to extend our appreciation for the hospitality and generosity of St. Michael’s Church in Roseville, MN. We are fortunate to have Rebecca Jahlke’s book store at each location and 70+ educators in 2012-2013 sharing our passion for Peace! We look to you for networking opportunities and potential speakers who are willing to make presentations or participate in any of our Peace Education Workshops. Watch our website for updated 2013-2014 dates, topics, and speakers.

We appreciate all you do to help us Empower the Community to Educate for a Just and Peaceful World.

Revenue

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*In-kind donations include donated office, supplies and services. Workshop space, retreat space, and Salesforce Data system.

Expenses

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We hope you can join us in this exciting adventure and share the word with others who may be ready for this opportunity.

Peace Education Coordinator

— Lonnie Strand, Peace Education Coordinator
A major goal this past year was to work on marketing World Citizen opportunities available to anyone interested in promoting kindness and respect. A committee was formed to identify the need and purpose, a marketing committee functioned a Point-Point presentation to be used by board members and donors to communicate the word about the opportunities available through World Citizen.

RE-DEDICATION
One of the remedial problems I have seen with Peace Sites is that once created, they simply exist and are often not re-dedicated on a regular basis. Sometimes people forget that they are a Peace Site, the people who originated the idea in the first place move on, or in other ways the institutional memory disappears, and they lose the identity of what it means to be a Peace Site.

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» PEACE within yourself and others
» PEACE out in review
» PROTECT the environment
» PROMOTE inter-cultural understanding and celebrate diversity
» HE = responsible citizen of the world

There is no cookbook for Peace Sites, but they are the kind of place to keep the peace in the hearts and minds of children and adults wherever they appear. Consider the possibility of a Peace Site near you where you live. To learn more about Peace Sites, how to become one, and who to contact with questions, visit the World Citizen website at www.peacesites.org.

Congratulations to our New Peace Site:

Gandhi Mahal Restaurant
St. Paul, Minnesota

This ceramic birdhouse will be placed atop a completed Peace Pole where Washington High School becomes a Peace Site in fall 2013.

World Citizen Marketing Center
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Congratulations to our New Peace Site:

Reaching Peace with Children Learning Center
Montessori of the Marina
New Richmond, Minnesota
2012-2013 Leadership

Founder
Lynn Elling
Consultant
Jackie Sinykin

Executive Committee
Lowell Erdahl, Chair of the Board
Martha Roberts, President
Dick Smied, Vice President
Flora Tsukayama, Secretary
Brenda Wright, Treasurer

Board of Directors
Michael Bergman
Karen Johnson
Gene Link
Kevin McGee

Peace Education Facilitators
Linda Roland Blake
Anne Kahl
Kevin McGee

For biographies of our 2012-2013 Leadership Team, please visit: www.peacesites.org/about-us/leadership

Thank you to the Board of Directors.

World Citizen extends its gratitude to the following board members whose terms have been completed and have given significant service over a number of years. Thank you to Gene Link, Mark Ritchie, and Michael Bergman. Michael Bergman will continue to support World Citizen by serving on the Advisory Board as the Marketing Advisor. Mark Ritchie has also agreed to serve on the Advisory Board.

Kevin McGee has accepted a teaching position in India for two years. He will be on leave from the board during this time. We wish him a positive experience and know he will keep in touch. We will miss Kevin’s work on the board as well as a Peace Education Facilitator. Kevin was very instrumental in organizing the Online Peace Education Course. We will look forward to his return to both positions.

World Citizen Welcome

World Citizen is excited to welcome Ashley Wittig to the Board of Directors. Ashley joined the board July 2, having served as a World Citizen Intern this past year. She was very instrumental in helping us produce an updated, informative and attractive PowerPoint presentation to be used to spread the word about the work of our organization.

Ashley recently graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. She received a Bachelor’s Degree in Communications and Journalism. Ashley was very active in the Communications Club at UST, serving as President the past two years. She also was a member of the National Scholastic Honor Society and was on the Dean’s Honor List for eight consecutive semesters. Ashley worked as an Assistant Event Specialist with Hire A Host in Burnsville, MN.

A special note of thanks to our volunteers

Strategic Planning Retreat

On April 27, 2013 the World Citizen Board of Directors and staff met with Jackie Sinykin, professional facilitator for non-profit organizations. Jackie guides us through a meaningful day of activities that help us celebrate past accomplishments as well as set our goals for the upcoming year. She has worked with World Citizen for 10 years. Jackie knows our organization well and has continued to give us the leadership and guidance needed to keep our organization focused on our mission. Thank you, Jackie, for your continued commitment to World Citizen.

We will work from an Operating Plan, which was identified by board members and staff. The Operating Plan includes the following four major goals:

» Increase visibility and expand marketing for the programs and activities World Citizen offers.
» Increase the diversity of income streams.
» Reach greater numbers of people to participate in the Peace Education Program.
» Manage the work of World Citizen with skilled staff, interns and volunteers.

Each goal has a committee set to work on the actions with desired results listed for the 2013-2014 year. This annual event guides our decisions and keeps the board and staff focused as we proceed with the work of World Citizen.

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4-3- http://www.peacesites.org/about-us/leadership

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