



# World Citizen Annual Report

Empower the Community to Educate for a Just and Peaceful World

AUGUST 2017

FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017

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## Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings World Citizen Board of Directors, staff, and friends:

World Citizen is very grateful for the support and generosity of all our donors and participants. We can never thank you enough. It is the continuation of your commitment to our mission, “**Empower the Community to Educate for a Just and Peaceful World,**” and the Five Peace Actions that make a difference in our world today. Whatever your role or contribution might have been, it was very important in helping towards these goals.

The message we continue to share and promote is the need for kindness and respect. The very core of World Citizen's mission and work is based on the **Five Peace Actions**:

- » **SEEK** peace within yourself and others
- » **REACH** out in service
- » **PROTECT** the environment
- » **RESPECT** diversity
- » **BE** a responsible citizen of the world

As stated by John C. Maxwell in his latest book, *Intentional Living*, “Action is the number one catalyst for change. Action changes lives. If you take action, it will change your life. And that change will begin changing others.” The **Five Peace Actions** are indeed a catalyst for change in our homes, at work, in schools, and at play.

World Citizen's two programs, **Peace Education** and **International Peace Sites**, embed these actions in the purpose and direction of the programs. **Peace Education** opportunities continue to be available **onsite** and **online**. We invite schools, parents, government officials, places of worship, community leaders, representatives from businesses, and individuals who are committed to kindness and respect, to attend and participate. The **International Peace Site Program** presents the op-

portunity to celebrate and share the message of the Five Peace Actions alive within their community. All of the information for both programs can be found on the World Citizen website. Please visit our website at [www.peacesites.org](http://www.peacesites.org) or the World Citizen Facebook page.

World Citizen continually reaches out to all of you to be part of a movement. A movement which involves a shared purpose of living out and promoting the Five Peace Actions. We may be able to change the way people think, believe and even live. As stated by Mahatma Gandhi, “**Be the change you want to see in the world.**”

Thank you for your support and commitment to bring peace within yourself, others, and the world.

— Kathy Millington,  
World Citizen Executive Director

## Donating to World Citizen is Easy with Options that Fit Individual Needs\*

Your gifts to World Citizen help fund our ongoing programs of Peace Education and International Peace Sites, which make a lasting difference in our communities. You, too, can join us in our mission as we seek to provide a peaceful future for our children. There are several giving opportunities available, including:

- » Mail in cash or check to World Citizen's **new address: P.O. Box 9296, St. Paul, MN 55109**
- » Donate online at [www.peacesites.org/donate](http://www.peacesites.org/donate)
- » Consider the following options to direct dollars to World Citizen, at no additional cost to you:
  - » **Thrivent Choice Dollars:** If you are a Thrivent Financial member, you can choose to designate your portion of Thrivent Choice Dollars to World Citizen. Thrivent will donate \$25 to \$2,500 a year to World Citizen on your behalf, depending on the amount of your investment. Visit [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice) to learn more about this option, or contact your financial representative.
  - » **AmazonSmile:** If you enjoy shopping online, consider signing up for AmazonSmile to easily support World Citizen as you shop. Visit [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) to start your shopping, and choose World Citizen as your charitable organization. AmazonSmile shows the same products at the same price as you would normally see on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com); the only difference is that 0.5 percent of the price of eligible purchases is donated to World Citizen on your behalf!
  - » **Employee Matching Gifts:** Does your employer match donations to charitable organizations? Many companies encourage their employees to participate in charitable giving to non-profits through payroll deductions, and will match your gift with a gift of their own. Please consider talking to your employer about the possibility of a matching gift to World Citizen.

\*For information on how to donate through Scholarships and Sponsorships, please see page 6 of this report.

World Citizen is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization so your gift is tax deductible.  
Thank you for your continued support!

# Peace Education Report

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## World Citizen Online Peace Education Course

Peace Education Online serves the purpose of supporting, encouraging and strengthening **Peace Educators world-wide**. Each person who registers can begin the course immediately. That means they will use the course to focus on their particular situation, both personally (their goals, interests, and passions) and their work situation (immediate needs, long-range goals, and buy-in from cohorts and administrators).

Along the way, it becomes clearer what they can do to promote peace in their environment by focusing on the Five Peace Actions:

- » SEEK peace within yourself and others
- » REACH out in service
- » PROTECT the environment
- » RESPECT diversity
- » BE a responsible citizen of the world

Recently, we had an educator sign up who winters in Bermuda. She, along with a friend, wanted to learn more about peace sites and how that concept can be used to build community and promote peace. Last winter they were meeting with people in Bermuda who were quite excited about the idea. Congratulations, to Lisa and Cheryl for 'spreading the word!'

*For more information on Peace Education Online, please visit our website at [www.peacesites.org](http://www.peacesites.org). Thank you!*

WORLD CITIZEN

It is always my privilege to report to all of you, the funders of our World Citizen programs, a summary of On-site Peace Education! With each session of Peace Education, I become more passionate for my work with World Citizen and the ongoing need for the message of our Mission and Five Peace Actions to be broadcast and shared in our homes, schools, and communities. Each day that I read the newspaper, listen to the news, and connect on social media, I am more committed to World Citizen and the need to continue our work with your support.

In our 2016-2017 Peace Education Sessions we had attendance of more than 100 participants. Our participants continue to be approximately 90 percent educators and administrators from school districts. We do continue to add participants from on-line schools, Montessori schools, church leaders, parents, grandparents, and community leaders.

On October 25, 2016, Zoe Weil from the Institute of Humane Education was our keynote speaker to approximately 50 Peace Education participants as we learned to become a generation of "solutionaries." A **solutionary** is a person who identifies inhumane, unsustainable, and exploitative systems and then develops solutions, both large and small, to replace them with those that are restorative, healthy, and just for all.

On November 3, 2016, we had the honor to co-sponsor Paul K. Chappell at St. Mary's University's "Missing Voices Conference; Equity in Education Summit." Paul K. Chappell is a West Point Graduate as well as an Iraq War veteran. Paul spoke to all attending this conference on human trauma, the need for peace literacy, and the myth that human beings are naturally violent. He invites us to wage peace, end war, and to understand the art

of living and what it means to be human. He travels the nation spreading a message of realistic hope, the need for peace literacy, the myth that human beings are naturally violent, and the possibility of ending war between nations.

Our final on-site session was on February 7, 2017, where we heard a profound message from Hanadi Chehabeddine as she shared her witness to her religious beliefs; she truly is a living example of how her faith teaches her to be a source of mercy. She taught us that Islam comes from the Arabic root word "SLM" meaning peace/submission, a Muslim is one who submits to God (regardless of ethnicity); Islam is a monotheistic religion; and Almsgiving of 2.5 percent of their accumulated wealth is required. We now know that there are 1.5 billion Muslims in the world (1 out of 4 people) and 150,000 Muslims in Minnesota, and similar stories are common in the Quran and the Christian Bible including Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, and Jesus and his disciples.

On this day, participants also heard from Jerad Green and Kate Towle as they led us through "Finding Your Place in the Talk about Race," and encouraged all in attendance to move from a safe place to a brave place. We discovered that race is not real; it is a man-made classification of human beings. There are no genetic differences between perceived races, yet racism is very real. We revisited the three universal elements of respect according to Paul K. Chappell: Listen, speak to the other person's highest potential, and practice what you preach! We were reminded that no one ever says, "You listen to me too much." We need to have moral authority, and we need to plug in where we fit in to shift minds and hearts!

A planning meeting was

held early last spring, and under the advisement of our gifted and talented facilitators, a theme of "Be a Bridge" has been chosen for our 2017-2018 Peace Education on-site sessions. We have space reserved at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Roseville on October 24, 2017, and February 6, 2018, and we promise to deliver passionate and relevant topics! (See dates below also).

Additionally, our Board of Directors has accepted a proposal to help fund speakers presenting on one (or more) of our **Five Peace Actions** to come into your schools (to be a part of Teacher Development, Parent Groups, or Student Body Education), churches, communities, and civic groups. Should you know of an organization that could benefit from this scholarship opportunity, please feel free to share the application with them (found inside this report), or e-mail me directly at [lonie.strand@peacesites.org](mailto:lonie.strand@peacesites.org).

— Lonnie Strand,  
World Citizen Peace  
Education Coordinator

## Upcoming Peace Education Workshop Dates for 2017-18:

Oct. 24, 2017

Feb. 6, 2018

Visit our website for more  
information:

[www.peacesites.org/  
educators/workshops](http://www.peacesites.org/educators/workshops)

\*If sessions fill up,  
additional dates will be  
added to the calendar.

# International Peace Sites

**Congratulations to all the International Peace Sites who are either new to the program or re-dedicated their site this year!**

- » Re-dedication of Jefferson and Kennedy High Schools in Bloomington, MN and Diversity Day in May of 2016. (right)
- » The re-dedication of the Red Balloon was held in January 2017. This was done with a reading of *Sachiko* by Caren Stelson.



- » St. Michael's Lutheran Church Peace Site dedication ceremony was held September 18, 2016. (left)
- » The St. John's Episcopal Church Dedication was held in Mankato, MN on November 11, 2016
- » Hidden Valley Elementary School re-dedicated as a Peace Site in Savage, MN on January 20, 2017.
- » Bozeman Crossfit Gym, in Bozeman, MT

- » The re-dedication of Concordia International Language Village in Bemidji, MN, was held August 12, 2016.



- » Peaceful Valley Montessori Academy in Golden Valley, MN, dedicated on September 21, 2016 on the International Day of Peace. (right)
- » Lakes International Language Academy in Forest Lake, MN, held its dedication ceremony on July 25, 2016. (left)
- » The Gandhi Mahal Restaurant in Minneapolis, MN, re-dedicated as a Peace Site in April 2017.



- » Cimento, Guatemala became an International Peace Site in July 2017.
- » The 4200 Cedar building, which houses Veterans for Peace and Women Against Military Madness, became a Peace Site on August 27, 2017.

## Congratulations to these upcoming dedications!

- » This year Bloomington Civic Plaza is celebrating 10 years as a Peace Site on Monday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m. Following the re-dedication, the City Council will accept a Proclamation for the International Day of Peace. A plaque in the garden next to the Peace Pole that lists the Five Peace Actions will also be installed. (above)
- » Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center in Lanesboro, MN, will become a Peace Site soon as well! Join them on Friday, September 29 at 1:00 p.m. for the dedication ceremony! Welcome, Eagle Bluff Environmental Learning Center!



## Interested in Becoming an International Peace Site?

An International Peace Site can be a city, school, place of worship, business, park, home, or exhibit where people want to dedicate themselves to becoming a peaceful community.

Anyone connected to a Peace Site is committed to the **Five Peace Actions**:

- » Seek peace within yourself and others
  - » Reach out in service
  - » Protect the environment
  - » Respect diversity
- » Be a responsible citizen of the world

For further inquiries about becoming a Peace Site please visit [www.peacesites.org](http://www.peacesites.org).

## DID YOU KNOW?

Interesting facts about promoting peace worldwide



Over the fourteen years of Peace Education, families and communities have been positively impacted by what participants share and model.

Approximately 1,120 participants from various backgrounds have attended World Citizen Peace Education workshops since 2003.

With the potential of 200 contacts made by each participant, our positive message has had the opportunity to reach a minimum of 224,000 people.

The message of World Citizen through Peace Education and International Peace Sites is positive and relevant. Ask yourself, "How many organizations offer learning opportunities related to humane education, anti-bullying, transgender issues, social-emotional learning, Muslim and Islamic practices, and the impact of social media, etc.?"

If each person recruited just one more attendee for each Peace Education session our positive message could reach approximately another 16,000 per year.

World Citizen has more than 200 Peace Sites in Minnesota. We need a goal to grow to an additional 200 Peace Sites across the nation and worldwide.

Please join our efforts to increase our impact. We all need to be kind in order to feel respected and safe.

## 2016-2017 Leadership

### Board of Directors

Lowell Erdahl, Chair of the Board  
 Martha Roberts, President  
 Flora Tsukayama, Secretary  
 Cathy Manning, Treasurer  
 Karen Johnson  
 Ashley Gilleland  
 Marta Goldenman  
 Kevin McGee  
 Caren Stelson  
 Brenda Wright (on leave)

### Staff

Kathy Millington, Executive Director  
 Lonnie Strand, Peace Education Coordinator  
 Jill Mason, Administrative Assistant  
 Dan Thiede, Communications Consultant  
 Laura Seidel, Newsletter Editor/Designer  
 Raymond Arias, Financial Reports  
 Valerie Temp, Payroll

**Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the work of World Citizen. Your service is valued!**

### Peace Education Facilitators

Kevin McGee  
 Katherine Utter  
 Rhonda Vopava Geyette  
 Maddie Wagner  
 Brenda Wright (on leave)

### Consultant

Jackie Sinykin

### Founder

Lynn Elling

## 2 Strategic Planning Retreat

On April 29, 2017, the World Citizen Board of Directors and Staff met with Jackie Sinykin, professional facilitator for non-profit organizations. Jackie has worked with World Citizen for 14 years! Jackie's knowledge of World Citizen and our work has been a "gift" to our organization more than you can imagine. Her commitment to our mission and the Five Peace Actions has been the guiding key in assisting the board and staff in setting priorities for the upcoming year. The retreat is a full day of cooperative work by board members and staff. We started by evaluating the year's successes and unfinished business. As the day progressed we identified the priority areas of focus for the upcoming year. Following are the areas identified for 2017-18:

- » Strengthen the infrastructure of World Citizen through increased board diversity, personal commitment strategies, making room for new leadership, and establishing collaborative partnerships that meet the needs of World Citizen.
- » Establish and implement a plan to create Peace Sites, strengthen the bond between Peace Sites and Peace Education, and design a Peace Site network using Facebook and other social media as a means of sharing information.
- » Build new ways to provide Peace Education to reach greater numbers of diverse people. Working with entire school communities and community groups will be an addition to the onsite and online opportunities.
- » Increase fund raising efforts by exploring ways to use professional expertise to diversify funding and utilize a variety of strategies to increase revenue.

The purpose of the Annual Retreat is to keep our work focused on our mission by being productive and purposeful. We are thankful for the many donors and participants each year who support our work. The World Citizen Board of Directors and Staff are definitely up to the challenge of meeting the priorities identified for 2017-18.

## World Citizen Well Wishes

World Citizen extends its gratitude to Ashley Gilleland for her four years of serving on the Board of Directors. Ashley was very instrumental in guiding us with setting up scholarships and sponsorships. She was a key participant in preparing the appeal materials each year. We will miss her input and expertise as a board member, however we are grateful that she is willing to be a consultant and advisor to particularly our fundraising efforts. Thank you, Ashley!

The Board of Directors also extends gratitude to Brenda Wright. Over the years, Brenda has served as a Board of Director, Treasurer, Peace Education participant, and Peace Education Facilitator for a number of years. She has been on leave for her past two-year term. We thank her for her service and wish Brenda and her family well.

## Joining Forces for Peace

Award winning author and World Citizen Board member, Caren Stelson, has invited World Citizen to partner with her to turn Sachiko's words into actions as she shares the story of her new book, *Sachiko: A Nagasaki Bomb Survivor's Story*. Caren has received numerous awards and rave reviews for her book.

As Sachiko shared her story, particularly with young people, she would always leave them with the following questions to ponder: "What is peace?" & "What kind of person should I be?" Then she advised them to "keep pursuing answers to these questions." Caren Stelson chose **World Citizen's Five Peace Actions** as a way to carry on Sachiko's quest to promote peace:

- » **Seek** peace within yourself and others
- » **Reach Out** in service
- » **Protect** the environment
- » **Respect** diversity
- » **Be** a responsible citizen of the world

*For more information on Caren and her award winning book and how to purchase it, please visit [www.carenstelson.com](http://www.carenstelson.com).*



World Citizen was founded by Lynn Elling in 1972 in response to witnessing war and destruction while serving in WWII as a naval officer. Lynn passed away February 14, 2016, at the age of 94, but his mission for our organization is still as strong as ever, carried out by the hundreds of people who support our cause. We are 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. A tremendous thank you to everyone who has worked to ensure World Citizen stays true to its mission, and will continue to preserve it.

### World Citizen Mission:

**Empower the Community to Educate for a Just and Peaceful World**

**\*We have a new address!\***

**World Citizen  
 P.O. Box 9296  
 St. Paul, MN 55109**

Fax: 651-695-0254

E-mail: [admin@peacesites.org](mailto:admin@peacesites.org)

**Visit [www.peacesites.org](http://www.peacesites.org)  
 or find us on Facebook!**



# Financial Report

World Citizen continues to be very grateful to the many donors who keep our work alive and active. The response to the annual appeal, Give MN and Thrivent Financial opportunities, online donations, and newsletter contributions are all significant in keeping our operating plan moving forward. We encourage donors to consider World Citizen as a legacy and/or endowment possibility.

Please contact us if you wish to pursue this generous way of donating to World Citizen.

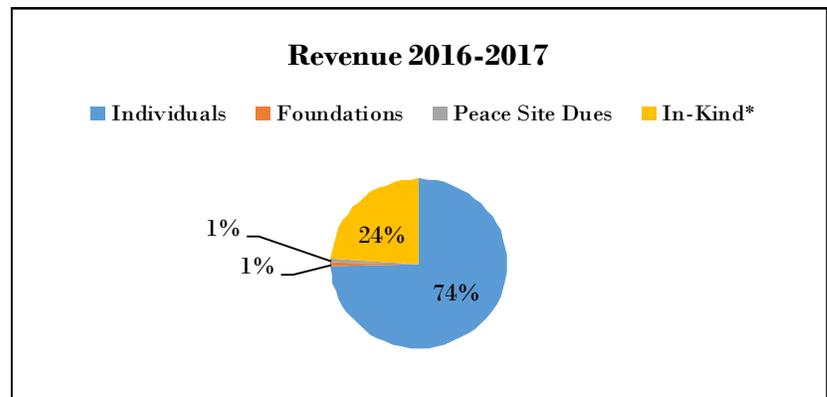
This upcoming year we will continue offering additional ways to support World Citizen, such as AmazonSmile; sponsorship and scholarship opportunities; and encouraging you to talk with your employer about the possibility of a matching gift.

You are of tremendous help to World Citizen when you share

information about our programs with connections you might encounter. Please continue visiting the World Citizen website at [www.peacesites.org](http://www.peacesites.org) and our Facebook page to stay updated with events, dates, opportunities, and new ways to donate online. We appreciate all you do to help us **Empower the Community to Educate for a Just and Peaceful World.**

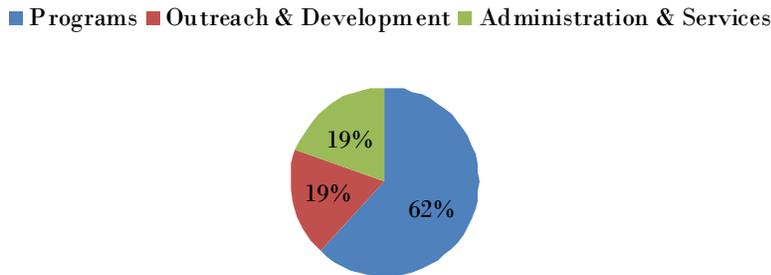
## Revenue

<b>Individuals</b>	<b>\$43,217.20</b>
<b>Foundations</b>	<b>\$484.48</b>
<b>Peace Site Dues</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>
<b>In-Kind*</b>	<b>\$14,000.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$58,101.68</b>



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

## Cash Expenditures 2016-2017



## Expenses

<b>Programs</b>	<b>\$29,490.38</b>
<b>Outreach &amp; Development</b>	<b>\$8,889.80</b>
<b>Administration &amp; Services</b>	<b>\$9,231.42</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$47,611.60</b>

