



**International
Cities of Peace**

Sketchbook

Case Studies in Courage

From A to Z Around the Globe

The leaders of International Cities of Peace understand the needs of their communities and are finding creative, high-impact solutions to achieve safety, prosperity, and quality of life, the consensus values of peace.

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Ashland, Oregon, U.S.A.

Photo: The Ashland Culture of Peace Commission (ACPC), the first such government agency, was launched on International Day of Peace in 2015.

”The Culture of Peace is a set of values, attitudes, modes of behavior and ways of life that reject violence and prevent conflicts by tackling their root causes to solve problems through dialogue and negotiation among individuals, groups and nations (UN Resolution A/RES/52/13).

Ashland, Oregon put those words into action. “NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council and Mayor of Ashland strongly encourage residents to work toward development of a Culture of Peace community, and pledge to lend appropriate encouragement and support to that effort.” Inspired by a citizen-led group where alignment of values with the city government was recognized, the Ashland Culture of Peace Commission is now leading the world toward a collaborative approach to community peace building.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/ashland-oregon-u-s-a/>



Bamenda, Cameroon: City of Peace

Photo: Peacemaker Ngo Itsnalb and his colleagues dig wells and provide clean drinking water to the poor regions of Cameroon.

"We hold a vision of a world wherein individuals and communities are full of hope." Ngo is part of the Young Farmers Development Group, which is involved in an agricultural project in the at-risk Donga Mantung Division of Cameroon. The objectives of the projects are to:

1. Identify markets, producers, quantity, and quality of agricultural products available in Donga Mantung Division, NWR, Cameroon then provide quality produce
2. Educate and be educated on how various crops are being cultivated in sustainable environments and match production in Cameroon to best practices.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/bamenda-cameroon>



Bhaktapur, Nepal: City of Peace

Photo: Santosh Bidari and his colleagues are building schools in remote regions of Nepal.

A social activist and change-maker, Santosh's goal is to help construct 20 schools and engage 20,000 young people by 2030. "Educating our parents so they have a better understanding as to why it is so important their children stay in school and, also, involving parents so they know what their children are learning in our newly build school and programs."

The mission of People for Peace is to promote the transition to sustainable ways of living. They also promote a society founded on a shared ethical framework that includes respect and care for the community of life, ecological integrity, universal human rights, respect for diversity, economic justice, democracy and a culture of peace.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/lalitpur-nepal/>



Bujumbura, Burundi: City of Peace

Photo: The “Five Goats to Alleviate Poverty” business plan, at the urging of International Cities of Peace, provides a sustainable lifestyle for women victims of war.

Furaha Soleil works with 50 women who were raped during times of war. Then they and their families were stigmatized and ostracized. The Two Red Beads, The Global Family pilot program from International Cities of Peace provided city-to-city funding to help these women and their families. Provided were fees for their children’s schools, seeds for their gardens, medicine for their wounds, and lodging for their safety.

The group was asked to consider starting a business to achieve a sustainable lifestyle. They developed the “Five Goats to Alleviate Poverty” business plan. International Cities of Peace donors provided them with goats. Though they are still under constant threat, these women have smiles on their faces and are appreciative of the support for the education of their children.

http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/bujumbura_burundi/



Dubai, United Arab Emirates: City of Peace

Photo: In Washington D.C., Saif Mohammed Bin Helal Al Shehi, founder of Peace Without Limits, signs the Letter of Intent with ICP Executive Director J. Frederick Arment.

The mission of Peace Without Limits is to raise “a culture of Peace through implementing various programs and initiatives that deal against various humanity crimes, and promotes towards humanity freedom, Justice, and Peace developments. In all our endeavors.”

The Organization's Board of Trustees consists of an elite group of international and regional contributors in humanitarian work. The group emphasizes the importance to peace development and voluntarism in various countries around the world.

Peace through true sustainable development brings safety, prosperity, and a higher quality of life to all citizens of a community.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/dubai-U.A.E./>



Egg Harbor City, New Jersey, U.S.A.: City of Peace

Photo: Egg Harbor City recognized the Peace Pilgrim and her simple but profound message of peace, commissioned a statue of her, dedicated a park in her name, and made peace a part of the curriculum for students in the public schools.

The Peace Pilgrim, born Mildred Lisette Norman in Egg Harbor City (1908-1981), walked more than 25,000 miles across the United States and in parts of Canada and Mexico spreading her message to everyone she met. "This is the way of peace: Overcome evil with good, falsehood with truth and hatred with love."

The legacy of this American original is given new life with the Egg Harbor City initiative. The Peace Pilgrim taught the world that peace is possible when every man, woman and child finds peace within themselves.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/egg-harbor-city-new-jersey-u.s.a./>



Fizi, Democratic Republic of Congo: City of Peace

Photo: Mabwe Lucien is on the Board of Cities of Peace, Inc. Here he dedicates a well in preparation for building a school.

Over five million people have been killed in D.R. Congo during the war that continues to emerge in parts of the country. MLECI (in the language of Fizi, MLECI means "a sense of mother who raises her son with love and care. With the Glenn D. Paige Nonkilling School in Fizi, Lucien and his colleagues at MLECI lay out a practical vision for their community and do the work of sustainable peace:

- Evaluate and monitor the various seminars to organize peace in Fizi
- Build a monument of peace at Fizi next to Memorial of the massacres
- Build a School in Fizi where children will learn the price of non-violence and peace from an early age
- Consolidate all associations involved in peace to form a consortium for a strong and dynamic civil society influence.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/fizi-d-r-congo/>



Freetown, Sierra Leone: City of Peace

Photo: Andrew Benson Greene is Founder and CEO of B-Gifted foundation of Sierra Leone, which implements many programs for children and youth.

The mission at Freetown City of Peace is to foster lasting peace through education and creativity in Freetown and around the world. The group enables the people in Freetown to gain the gift of hope that reaches beyond limitations and inspires unlimited possibilities.

Andrew Greene has over 10 years experience in the non-profit sector, youth and technology and the issues of child soldiers and human rights of children in areas of conflict. He has traveled the world, from Beijing to Moscow, to Washington, to share his vision of using information technology amongst children and war-scarred youth.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/freetown-sierra-leone/>



Herat, Afghanistan: City of Peace

Photo: A testament of courage, Abdul Bari Zarifi is facilitating an extensive development program in the second largest city of Afghanistan that focus on children's welfare.

Abdul is director of the Afghanistan 3rd Generation for Human Rights (AGHRO) organization which is a national, non-profit, nonpolitical and non-governmental organization that seeks national and international help for development of Afghans in basic human rights need.

AGHRO's vision for this war-torn region is "to ensure that human rights and democracy are included with emphasize in Afghanistan's internal and external policies to make Afghanistan effectively protect and defend human rights and become a force for positive change in world."

The City of Heart and AGHRO are leading the way to a new, more peaceful Afghanistan.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/heart-afghanistan/>



Kaduna, Nigeria: City of Peace

Photo: Dennis Ekwere and his colleagues work in both Christian and Muslim communities to build a culture of peace beyond the historical divisions and intolerance.

Young People For Peace is working in one of the most needy areas of Africa. The beneficiaries of their work are refugees, orphans, and the many suffering from neglect. Their goals are lofty and much needed:

- **To reduce violence by educating and enlightening children and young people on the culture of tolerance, patience, and love**
- **Cater to abandoned and neglected single adolescent mothers who have dropped out of school due to unplanned pregnancy and then empower hem with useful skills**
- **Reunify citizens by focusing on Kaduna's rich cultural heritage in diversity and the goals of global peace.**

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/kaduna-nigeria/>



Kumara, New Zealand: City of Peace

Photo: A new Wellness Clinic has been opened as a result of the citizens of Kumara establishing their community as a City of Peace.

The Kumara community seeks to inspire mindful change for peace and to practically support those changes through education, art, science, meditation, health and much more in innovative ways, supporting a culture of peace.

The community's legacy of peace goes back to Te Whiti O Rongo Mai, the prophet, priest and revered chieftain of the New Zealand Taranaki Tribe. He was arrested in 1881 after protesting occupation of Maori land. He is considered a peacemaker because of his nonviolent resistance approach to slave labor and imprisonment of the Taranaki people.

This legacy gives rise to a strong peace building approach with opportunities to integrate conflict resolution and peace building skills.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/kumara-new-zealand/>



Nanjing, China: City of Peace

Photo: Nanjing University is the first university to conduct research of peace studies in China. It is the first Institute for Peace Studies among all universities in China.

Professor Liu Cheng, the leading figure of peace studies in China, is the director of the institute. The Institute promotes cooperation between famous scholars and teaching staffs of universities and other institutions from China, the Asian-Pacific and other regions of the world.

The Memorial Hall of the Victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders is also a major peace institution in the city. The Institute focuses on research in the history of the Nanjing Massacre, the history of the Japanese invasion, the history of the Anti-Japanese War, and the history of Sino-Japanese relations as well as overall peace studies. This legacy of the Massacre is not well known in the West but through the global ICP network, the truth of its cultural trauma will help all in understanding the way forward to peace.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/nanjing-china/>



Nateete, Uganda: City of Peace

Photo: Ali Tebandeke awarded certificates to outstanding police officers and clergyman of the Nateete community. As a leader of ICP, he was asked by authorities in Kampala, the capital, to make suggestions on safety issues.

Peace leader Ali Tebandeke is working with police officials in Uganda to find new ways to increase a safe environment in Nateete. By his association with International Cities of Peace, Tebandeke was asked by the Police Chief in the capital Kampala to recommend innovative ways for a community policing program.

Through the ICP Global Family Program, the Police Chief of Ashland, Oregon in the U.S.A., Tighe O'Meara, volunteered to provide mentoring and expertise to support Tebandeke's effort to bring new ideas and technologies to Ugandan cities. This partnership has great potential not only to increase Ashland's impact on the world but also to effect positive change in Uganda in terms of safety and security.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/nateete-uganda/>



Nicosia, Cyprus: City of Peace

Photo: The Nicosia, Cyprus City of Peace Committee consists of the Association for Historical Dialogue and Research (AHDR) and POST Research Institute. Cyprus is a divided country and this initiative is finding common ground through the unifying principles of peacemaking.

The group's vision is to contribute towards achieving an alternative sustainable future, which comprises an egalitarian Cypriot society, that recognizes the dignity of every living being. The group is working to combine peace efforts to achieve an educational system that prepares children and youth to live in a multi-cultural, multi-lingual, multi-faith society in Cyprus.

Loizos Loukaidis holds a BA in Primary Education from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece and an MA in Peace Education from the UN mandated University for Peace where he specifically sought to examine the viewing of History Teaching as a vehicle for promoting a Culture of Peace. His efforts are directed toward the healing of a legacy of war and division.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/nicosia-cyprus/>



Rockford, Illinois, U.S.A.: City of Peace

Photo: One of the many Cities of Peace that was initiated by the local Rotary Club, the Rock River Valley Peace Coalition is a grassroots organization comprised of community members and other civic organizations.

The Rotary Club of Rockford celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2016. The club has a long history of being involved in local, national, and international service projects. According to Rockford Rotary President Nancy Kalchbrenner and Elise Cadigan, past governor of Rotary District 6420n:

Rotary clubs across the globe are finding the city of peace platform expands membership in their club and enlivens community building. First, it gives focus to current and new initiatives with the goal of establishing their city as an International City of Peace. Secondly, it expands the club's reach into non-traditional sectors and engagement with government, thereby increasing membership and community profile.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/rockford-illinois-u.s.a./>



Zihuatanejo, Mexico: City of Peace

Photo: The entire City commemorated the recertification of City of Peace status with a community-wide celebration, including marches, workshops, and speeches for peace.

The town of Zihuatanejo is in the Guerrero State of Mexico where citizens have many challenges to ensure safety and prosperity for their children. The town established a tradition -- to recertify their city of peace status -- yet with a changing political situation, there has been changes in leadership. The citizens of Zihuatanejo are working their way through the twists and turns of politics but keeping the hope of peace alive.

The Zihuatanejo Peace Pole Monument is located in Olof Palme Peace Park along the beautiful beachfront. Wendy Carbajal is Directora del Comité de Paz en Zihuatanejo, Ciudadana del Mundo. The citizens of Zihuatanejo are working hard for a better future and one that puts government and grassroots peace-building resources to work for the benefit of current and future generations.

<http://www.internationalcitiesofpeace.org/cities-listing/zihuatanejo-mexico/>

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