

# 2008 Appeal Letter

First and foremost, we at **Common Peace, Center for the Advancement of Nonviolence** want to say a sincere and heartfelt **“Thank You”** to each of you who has so graciously given of your time, talents, generous gifts of financial support, creative ideas, volunteer hours, good thoughts, and multi-faceted prayers throughout 2008. We continue to exist and grow because you believe in our work, and the power of peace and “nonviolence.” We are inspired to move forward because you, a committed group of individuals and organizations, stand with us, and believe in the vision of a world that honors the dignity and worth of every individual.

So many scenarios of violence have played out in our world communities this past year. At the same time, there has been an ever widening interest in, and response to, the unique and extraordinary possibility of **“nonviolence”** as a healing pro-active tool, activated by the hearts and minds of individuals such as you. One person at a time, one thought at a time, one day at a time - together we are a force more powerful than any appearing violence. We are the possibility of peace being made manifest in the world in ourselves, our children, and the world.

As 2008 draws to a close, we would like to share with you a few key accomplishments of our past year, give you a brief preview of our 2009 works in progress, and invite you to take a moment to identify what form your participation with us can and will take in the upcoming year.

There is no denying that these are hard times – on many levels. Our individual comfort is being compromised and brings in to question just how we can make a difference in these trying times. In regard to specific actions you may take, we invite you to consider the following:

## ***Adopt a School Program – Curriculum Gifting***

In 2008, Common Peace birthed its nine year project, a nonviolence curriculum entitled **64 Ways to Practice Nonviolence**. The curriculum is published by Pro-Ed, Inc., one of the foremost leaders in the educational publishing field. This powerful and effective teaching tool is a must have for all teachers, students, workshop facilitators, and educators – especially for those engaged in the fields of peace, nonviolence, and justice. This labor of love was born out of our 1997 **Season for Nonviolence**, our annual 64 day nonviolence campaign, honoring the 64 days between January 30<sup>th</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup>, the memorial dates of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. Please go to <http://www.nonviolenceworks.com/> to read about our nationwide **Season for Nonviolence**, now in preparation for its 12<sup>th</sup> season.

In an effort to effect change in our Los Angeles community and beyond as we step into 2009 - **and as an affordable alternative to end of year giving**, we are inviting individuals and organizations to purchase and donate a copy or copies of the **64 Ways** curriculum to a deserving school that cannot afford to purchase the curriculum on its own. We are in the process of identifying schools, first in the Los Angeles area, then in other areas of the country, who will be the recipients of these curricula. The price of the curriculum is **\$40**. Please consider purchasing one or more books for your own needs and use – and/or as a gift to a teacher, school, and its students - who otherwise would not have the opportunity of accessing this enriching and revitalizing information. The adjunct tool to the curriculum, our beautifully illustrated **64 Ways to Practice Nonviolence poster** (*double sided in Spanish and English*) which normally sells for **\$5.00** will be included in the gift to the school. Posters may be purchased for your individual use, and/or purchased as gifts for holiday and gift giving, or you may purchase the curriculum

and poster and instruct Common Peace to distribute to either a school that you designate, or a low income school that we identify. **Sample pages of the curriculum** can be viewed at <http://www.beloveforall.org/curriculum.html>. Purchases can be made online at <http://www.nonviolenceworks.com/snv/ed2000/guide.htm>

Since 2007 Common Peace has partnered with our committed and loving friends @ *Be-Love* -- <http://www.beloveforall.org/shop/>. Be-Love generously contributes 10% of all proceeds from the sale of their exquisitely crafted Fair Trade and Sweat Shop Free t-shirts to Common Peace for its nonviolence education projects. We are very excited about this partnership! Please visit Be-Love's website and support their work and business, and our continuing partnership.

**Race Relay** is a multi-media presentation using drama, music and video to discuss the experience and state of race relations today in America. It is a pilot project for California, to be replicated in cities across the U.S., and is designed to be part of an ongoing effort to further healthy race relations. Utilizing actors, recollections of actual personal incidents, and projected images from various films, **RACE RELAY** is an experiential piece in which the audience participates physically and emotionally. It is a performance that integrates entertainment, reality, humor, and frankness. Weaving together recollections of racial incidents within a dramatic story, and incorporating striking visual images, this multi-media production is designed to invite the audience to examine their feelings and attitudes about race in a non-threatening way. If interested in participating with the **Race Relay** project, or making a donation to the project, please **contact Denise Hamilton** @ (323) 931-9125 or go to <http://www.nonviolenceworks.com/> and click on the **Donate** button on the home page.

While our **Adopt a School Program**, and **Race Relay** project, allows you, the giver, to target your giving in a very specific way, and your purchase of the **Be-Love** t-shirts allows you to support our ongoing nonviolence education projects -- as in years past, your tax deductible donations are graciously accepted to finance 'any' of our projects, and to finance our staff and general operations. Every contribution, no matter what the size, is a building block to our success . . . and very much appreciated!

Thank you for taking time out from your busy holiday schedule to read our **Appeal Letter!** *We wish you a Peace Full Holiday Season and Peace Beyond Your Wildest Human Imaginings in the New Year!*

**In gratitude for all that you have given in heart, mind, and action in 2008!**

**The Staff & Board of Directors of**

**Common Peace, Center for the Advancement of Nonviolence**