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World Citizen Annual Report

Empower the Community to Educate for a Just and Peaceful World

AUGUST 2016

FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016

Letter from the Executive Director

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

Each year when the Annual Report is written, I am reminded how grateful I am for the support and generosity that World Citizen receives from all of you. Your commitment to our mission, the Five Peace Actions, and program work is outstanding to say the least. Whatever your role or contribution might have been, it was important. Thank you!

A clear message that doesn't change, but is supported by you, is the need for kindness and respect. This could not be more important than at the present moment. It doesn't matter what year, or what is happening in the news, or what might be happening in your personal life: Kindness and Respect will always be needed.

As it always has been, the very core of our mission and work is based on the following **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

The **Five Peace Actions** support kindness and respect. These actions need to be the focus in our homes, at work, and when we play to prevent violence, hurt, and disrespect. World Citizen applauds all who commit to the **Five Peace Actions** as a way of life. World Citizen's two programs, **Peace Education and International Peace Sites**, embed these actions in the purpose and direction of the programs.

World Citizen offers **Peace Education** opportunities **Onsite and Online**. The **Onsite** sessions offers topics presented by skilled facilitators and speakers. These sessions also provide vast networking time for the participants. We invite schools, parents, places of worship, community leaders, representatives from businesses, or any other organization that desires kindness and respect to attend. The topics, dates, and registration for either the **Onsite or Online Peace Education** can be found on the World Citizen website. Please visit us at www.peacesites.org.

International Peace Sites, another World Citizen program, provides a focus for the ongoing commitment to the **Five Peace Actions**, which promote a kind and respectful

learning and working environment. If you would like more information on becoming a Peace Site or re-activating a Peace Site, please visit our website at www.peacesites.org.

The following quote from Zoe Weil's book, *Above All Be Kind*, sums up what needs to be done by us all:

"When we are kind and compassionate at home and with our friends and neighbors, our relationships are marked by great beauty, love, and trust, but when we also make humane choices in relation to others outside our circle of friends and family, we actually help to bring peace to our troubled world."

Zoe Weil will be our featured presenter at the Oct. 25, 2016 Onsite Peace Education Session. She will highlight her most recent book, *The World Will Become What We Teach*. For more information regarding this session, please visit our website: www.peacesites.org.

Thank you for your support and commitment to bring peace to 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 the World Citizen office
- » Donate online at 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 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 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; 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!

Online Peace Education Course: Integrating Peace Education

Turn your dreams and passions into actions. Join others who are learning to integrate peace into their unique situations through 5 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 the past year, the Online Peace Education Course has been an "On-Demand" format. This means participants can now begin the course when it suits his or her schedule. When someone requests to start, we can get them started within a week or two. Responses from previous participants are archived and accessible, so a group of people do not need to start on the same date. This flexibility also works better for us.

Six modules will be covered during this 12-week course, which amounts to approximately four hours of work per week. An option for two graduate credits is also available through Hamline University. For more information regarding the course, dates, and registration please visit www.peacesites.org/educators/peace-ed-online. All of the information you will need is there, including who to contact if you need help with anything.

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

It is always a difficult and daunting task to summarize a year of Peace Education into a few paragraphs! I struggle for the words that will accurately convey the importance of our work, the passion of the people that are our facilitators and presenters, and the relevance of the topics chosen that we hope will make an impact in our everyday lives, homes, schools, and communities.

On Oct. 20, 2015, we heard a meaningful and inspiring topic on "Social Justice and the Right of the Child" from Kristi Rudelius-Palmer and Fellows from the University of Minnesota's Human Rights Center. We were able to divide into groups led by the Fellows and examine the 54 Articles of the "UN Convention on the Rights of the Child," which was adopted on Nov. 20, 1989, and became legally binding in September 1990. Interestingly enough, while the UN convention on the Rights of the Child is the most widely ratified human rights document, the United States has yet to ratify this treaty! We studied and discussed the impact that the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, Malala Yousafzai and Kailash Satyarthi, and their true-to-life scenarios have had on Children's Rights. As a parent, grandparent, educator, student, or an advocate of children, I would strongly encourage you to obtain a copy of this document by contacting the Human Rights Resource Center at the University of Minnesota via www.hrusa.org.

Additionally at the October session we heard from the Scholars of YouThrive, who work as liaisons with adult leaders throughout the Twin Cities. YouThrive connects young leaders with Nobel Peace Prize Laureates to motivate them to become agents of peace in their communities. They spread the message to SHOW UP and pay attention to what matters to them; Know themselves and their power to SPEAK TRUTH courageously; CHANGE THEMSELVES as an example; and LEAD!, all while using their passion and power for a purpose.

On Feb. 2, 2016, we brought the timely and sensitive subject of the "Transgender Child" to more than 50 Peace Education participants. Roxanne Anderson, Associate Director of Trans Organizing for Outfront Minnesota, invited us to take a Gender Survey of six questions such as, "How do you know what gender you are?" and "When did you first become aware of your gender?" Roxanne also spoke to all of us on Trans-Ally Training Terminology. As an example, Gender Identity is "One's internal, deeply held sense of one's gender. For transgender people, their own internal gender identity does not match the sex they were assigned at birth. Most people have a gender identity of man or woman (or boy or girl). For some people, their gender identity does not fit neatly into one of those two choices. Gender identity is not visible to others."

When asked, "What learning will you take away from today that will impact your work with family/community/students?," one participant wrote, "That public and private buildings NEED and MUST adopt gender neutral bathrooms and be knowledgeable of community resources available. Also, terms change from generation to generation. Such as I invite you to learn Queer*, so keeping up on terminology is key." I strongly encourage you to visit Outfront Minnesota to learn more at www.outfrontmn.org. *(Queer: 1) An umbrella term sometimes used by LGBTQ people to refer to the entire LGBT community. 2) An alternative that some people use to "queer" the idea of the labels and categories such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, etc. Similar to the concept of genderqueer.)

So what events does Peace Education have on the schedule? Coming up on Oct. 25, 2016, World Citizen is proud to be hosting Zoe Weil as she presents: "The World Becomes What We Teach." At this session, participants will understand what it is to be a "Solutionary" as Zoe Weil

walks us through Humane Education.

On Nov. 3, 2016, World Citizen will co-sponsor with St. Mary's University to bring Paul K. Chappell to St. Mary's fourth "Missing Voices Conference" at the St. Mary's Twin Cities' campus. This conference will be open to youth, families, community leaders, educators, and administrators. Paul K. Chappell will tell his story of waging peace and trauma and healing strategies. To learn more, please visit www.paulkchappell.com.

Our tentative winter session is scheduled for Feb. 7, 2017, where we are planning to build on "What is a Solutionary?" with the question, "How does it connect with the Five Peace Actions of World Citizen?"

Please remember that you are always a welcomed guest at our Peace Education sessions! You may register online at www.peacesites.org by clicking on the Peace Education icon or e-mail me any time at lonnie.strand@peacesites.org.

— Lonnie Strand,
World Citizen Peace
Education Coordinator

Upcoming Peace Education Workshop Dates for 2016-17:

Oct. 25, 2016

Nov. 3, 2016

Feb. 7, 2017

Visit our website for more information:

www.peacesites.org/educators/workshops

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

International Peace Site Report

Congratulations to the following International Peace Sites for their commitment to educating for a just and peaceful world!

- * Re-dedication of Concordia International Language Village, Bemidji, MN (Aug. 2015)
- * Dedication of South View Middle School, Edina, MN (Aug. 2015)
- * Open Book/The Loft Literary Center, MN Center for Book Arts, and Milkweed Editions, Minneapolis, MN (Sept. 2015)



Lynn Elling and Larry Long perform at the Open Book Peace Site Dedication. They sang Lynn's very favorite song: "Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream" by John Denver.

- * Forest Ridge Academy, Scherville, IN (Jan. 2016)
- * Shannah Montessori, School in Gloucester, MA (Feb. 2016)



World Citizen Board Members man the booth at the Re-dedication of Concordia Language Village in Bemidji, MN, Aug. 2015.

- * Miniapple International Montessori School (Mar. 2016) Minneapolis, MN; Roseville, MN; Oakdale, MN
- * Curtin University in Bently, West Australia (Apr. 2016)
- * Dweik Family Home in Moreland Hills, Ohio (Apr. 2016)
- * Re-dedication of Jefferson and Kennedy High Schools and Diversity Day, Bloomington, MN (May 2016)
- * Re-dedication of St. Joan of Arc Church, Minneapolis, MN (June 2016)
- * Lakes International Language Academy, Forest Lake, MN (July 2016)

- * Re-dedication of Concordia International Language Village, Bemidji, MN (Aug. 2016)
- * Peaceful Valley Montessori Academy, Golden Valley, MN (Sept. 2016)

Martha Roberts presents the Peace Site Plaque at the Lakes International Language Academy Dedication Ceremony held this past July.



Interested in Becoming an International Peace Site?



WCI Board Member Caren Stelson (right) stands with Lakes International Language Academy Communications Director Tracy Maurer. LILA became a Peace Site July 2016.

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 call us at 651-695-2587 or visit www.peacesites.org.

Lynn and Donna Elling Memorial Fund:

We Thank You for your Kind Words and Donations

On February 14, 2016, our founder, Lynn Elling, passed away. He continued to spread the word about World Citizen practically up to his dying day. He obviously touched many people.



The number of Peace Sites are a testament to his commitment and so are the number of donors who have responded because they knew of Lynn and Donna. The memorials for both Donna and Lynn will be combined to help us continue to spread the word about World Citizen as we empower the community to educate for a just and peaceful world.



Concordia Language Village Executive Director Christine Schulze and World Citizen President Martha Roberts in front of the tree planted in Lynn Elling's honor at Concordia Language Village in August.

2015-2016 Leadership

Founder

Lynn Elling

Board of Directors

Lowell Erdahl, Chair of the Board

Martha Roberts, President

Flora Tsukayama, Secretary

Cathy Manning, Treasurer

Karen Johnson

Cindy Piersdorf

Ashley Gilleland

Kevin McGee

Brenda Wright (on leave)

Peace Education Facilitators

Mary Glagavs

Mike Klein

Kevin McGee

Cindy Piersdorf

Rhonda Vopava Geyette

Brenda Wright (on leave)

Consultant

Jackie Sinykin

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

Amanda Eiss, Intern

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

World Citizen Comings and Goings

World Citizen extends its gratitude to Cindy Piersdorf for serving on the Board of Directors and as a Peace Education Facilitator this past year. Cindy contributed a great deal to the work of the Board and as a Facilitator. We miss her enthusiasm, work ethic, and the passion she had to making a Just and Peaceful World. We also extend our thanks to Mary Glagavs, who has always supported the World Citizen Peace Education Program and served as a Peace Education Facilitator for a brief time. We thank both Cindy and Mary for their time of service.

In turn we welcome and introduce two new people to the World Citizen Board of Directors. Marta Goldenman and Caren Stelson were nominated at the July Annual Meeting. They both bring many talents and interests to the World Citizen Board of Directors.

Marta Goldenman is an Associate Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Roseville, MN. Previously, she has had extensive experience working with Educational Preschool programs as a lead teacher and in Early Childhood Family Education. Marta has a BA degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Minnesota, Duluth. She is very committed to World Citizen activities and has been an active participant in our Peace Education Program for a number of years. Marta comes to our board with a vast number of skills and gifts as well as a passion for creating a Just and Peaceful World.

Caren Stelson is an author and freelance writer who has developed integrated language arts instructional materials, as well as written a large number of articles, stories, and books. She is the founder and Lead Workshop Teacher for Pen-in-Hand Writing Workshops. Caren has designed software and has been an Associate Editor for Houghton Mifflin Company. She was also an Elementary Classroom Teacher and Reading specialist. Caren received her BA and MA from the University of Pennsylvania and has worked at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN, and the Hiroshima City University in Hiroshima, Japan. Caren truly embraces the meaning of the words, "World Citizen." She looks forward to working for World Citizen's hopes and ideals to empower communities to educate for a just and peaceful world.

Welcome, Marta and Caren, to the World Citizen Board of Directors!



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

2 Strategic Planning Retreat

On Apr. 30, 2016, 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 13 years. She is key to knowing our organization and the importance of our work. Jackie is as committed to our Mission and Five Peace Actions as any board member. She has been so instrumental in moving our organization forward in a productive and meaningful way.

Jackie keeps us in line with our mission, helps us celebrate the past, and leads us into the future. Thank you, Jackie, for your leadership and guidance each year. This year after evaluating our year's successes and unfinished business, we set out to identify the Priority Areas of Focus for 2016-17. Each focus listed is predicated on telling the world about World Citizen!

- ∞ Recruit 3 new board members by July 14, 2016, the World Citizen Annual Meeting (We have already added 2!)
- ∞ Create and implement a plan to promote International Peace Sites to establish a network to share information and promote the Five Peace Actions
- ∞ Continue to expand Peace Education
- ∞ Work to diversify revenue streams

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

World Citizen

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E-mail: admin@peacesites.org

**Visit 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 do-

nating 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.

An additional gracious thank you to everyone who donated to the Lynn and Donna Elling Memorial Fund. Your contributions for this special fund will also go

toward our World Citizen programs.

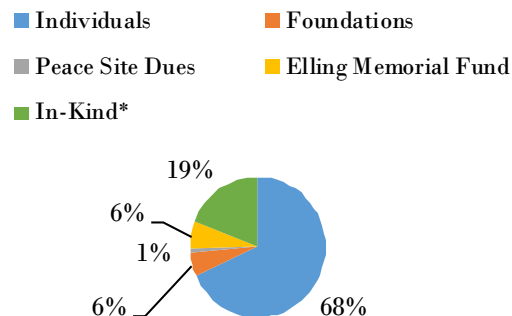
You are of tremendous help to World Citizen when you share information about our programs with connections you might encounter. Please continue visiting the website at www.peacesites.org to stay updated with events, dates, opportunities, and new ways to donate online. We appreciate all you do to help us **Empower the Community to Educate for a Just and Peaceful World.**

Revenue

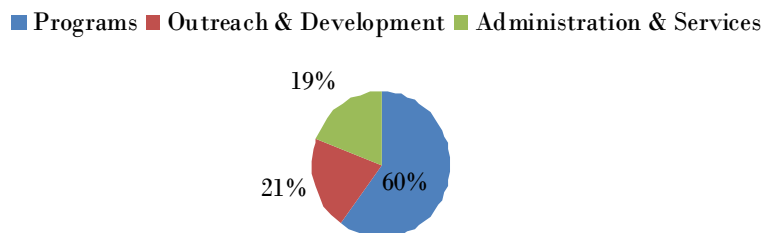
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|--|--------------------|
| Individuals | \$50,296.97 |
| Foundations | \$4,050.00 |
| Peace Site Dues | \$540.00 |
| Lynn and Donna Elling Memorial Fund | \$4,730.00 |
| In-Kind* | \$14,000.00 |
| Total | \$73,616.97 |

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

Revenue 2015-2016



Cash Expenditures 2015-2016



Expenses

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Programs | \$28,573.75 |
| Outreach & Development | \$9,966.97 |
| Administration & Services | \$9,101.95 |
| Total | \$47,642.67 |

P A G E 6

We are so grateful for this assistance.
Thank you to all who provide such services at no cost
or a reduced cost for World Citizen.