

A CALL TO THE PEOPLE OF SAN ANTONIO

Join us to enable the circles of **peaceMAKERS** and **peaceRESOURCES** to grow and connect throughout our community.

Violence is a learned behavior, and so is nonviolence. Peace is only manifested from peaceful people. The **peaceCENTER** supports the learning of peace in our lives and the demonstration of peace within our community.

San Antonio peaceCENTER

developing, nurturing and connecting the ever-growing circles of peacemakers, initiatives and resources in a unifying approach to end violence in San Antonio & Bexar County,

partnering individuals and Organizations to work with all of the community through co-laboring efforts, dialogues, educational opportunities, workshops, advocacy, special events, and media events,

providing creative and nonviolent opportunities for people of all ages, races, faith traditions, economic levels to be actively involved in ending the plague of violence that effects every sector of our community,

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addressing all issues of violence from racism to gang violence, from violence in the workplace to violence in the home,

building community & relationships focused on a comprehensive and collective vision of God's peace in this time and place, and for future generations!

concepts - visions - **peaceCENTER** - people - together

After several years of growing out of many efforts throughout our city, **the peaceCENTER** provides opportunities for diverse individuals and organizations to interact and collaborate in new ways with others who are different from them through programs like the following:

peacePARTNERS...

over 1,000 (and growing) community members from every sector of the city, organizations and individuals, have committed to work for peace in our community. Initial visioning partners of the peaceCENTER include

Benedictine Resource Center, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Peacework Initiative, Wheat Ridge Ministries, Building a Better World, Catholic Archdiocese of San Antonio, Catholic Charities, Celebration Circle of San Antonio, Center for Spiritual Growth and the Contemplative Life, Grace Lutheran Church, Jewish Federation of San Antonio, Pleas McNeel & Associates, Mental Health Association in Greater San Antonio, M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, Dan Naranjo, P.E.A.C.E. Initiative, Mayor Howard Peak, SalsaNet, San Antonio Community of Churches, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District Violence Prevention Program, Sun Harvest Farms, Texas Alternatives to Violence Project, Rev. Phineas Washer, Former Mayor Nelson Wolff.

peaceSTUDIES...

opportunities to meet with others seeking peace and to do the interior work of peacemaking to learn the methods and ways of nonviolence, to listen to our world and envision how to carry peace outward.

Since January, 1997, a group has been meeting twice monthly to study historical peacemakers. Approximately 60 San Antonio peaceLEADERS are regular attendees.



peaceVIGILS...

where people gather together at sites of recent violence - in memory of lives lost, in support of family and neighbors, reclaiming the site in peace, and offering a light of hope throughout San Antonio.



Since the end of August, ten vigils have been held. These vigils have been an unexpected source of healing. For instance, after the domestic violence murder/suicide on the north side early in October, two car loads of family members coincidentally arrived to collect their murdered family member's belongings. In front of the building 63 strangers had gathered to pray for them and the community. They stayed for the vigil and expressed a deep gratitude for this expression of love and care for them. Both vigil keepers and family members left with a new sense of hope.



For further information
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peaceTALKS...

promote ongoing dialogues across cultural, racial, ethnic, religious, economic, gender and age boundaries to reach deeper into the roots of violence and create safe places where intentional listening opens hearts to transformation.

At a recent all-day conversation on leadership, participants as diverse as a school district superintendent, an attorney, a nurse, and chaplain from all parts of our city, discovered that they all shared the same dreams for our community and could speak openly about their struggles and their realities. The day provided the opportunity to develop real relationships across previously perceived boundaries.

peaceLABS...

encourage exploration and experimentation with specific concerns/issues of violence. Each lab partner leaves the lab with their own plan of action for peace.

In February, 55 high school students from across the city gathered at KLRN studios to search for peace solutions in our city. Outcomes are many, but just one is representative - a young woman, a former gang leader from Southside High School, is now working as an intern for the Express News because of her concern for the city.



The peaceCENTER exists to give form and provide support to the already existing efforts to bring our community together on a much deeper level. It serves to connect the kaleidoscope of existing peacemakers, financial and human resources, in a unified approach to ending violence in our San Antonio and Bexar County. The vision of the peaceCENTER is one that honors diversity, practices inclusion and values **each and every member** of our community.

