

Talking Peace

A Message from the Founder and CEO



2016 has been an incredible year for Peacebuilders!

Peacebuilders continues to have the charges against our youth withdrawn, thus ensuring that they will be able to apply for jobs and avoid the

never-ending cycle of poverty. This is very important since we know that poverty and criminalization go hand in hand, and Toronto has the highest rate of children living in poverty of any large city in Canada. We also continue to deliver the *Youth Lunch Program* at the youth court with the support of the *Law Society Foundation*.

Thousands of Volunteer Hours

In 2016, our staff and volunteers invested thousands of hours into our programs. Their contributions allowed us to successfully divert over 80 young people out of the justice system before trial, and to participate in countless circle conversations to delve deeply into the meaning of core values such as respect, honesty, courage, responsibility and empathy. They assisted young people to manage their conflicts and become productive members of society.

Public Awareness

Our staff and volunteers also reached out to thousands of others across the city with presentations, Peacebuilding Circle workshops and trainings at universities, colleges, schools and community organizations, as well as local crisis response interventions.

Peacebuilders was a visible participant at the *Youth Impact Summit at MaRS*, the annual *National Restorative Justice Symposium* held this past November in Halifax and the *Regent Park Parents Conference* put on by the *Zero Gun Violence Movement*.

Please help
Toronto's
young people.
Your support
will change their
lives!

Welcome to Peacebuilders International Elisha Muskat, Executive Director

I am delighted to announce that effective January 2017, Elisha Muskat will join Peacebuilders as Executive Director as I step into my new role as CEO.

Elisha is a social innovator and experienced non-profit executive. She is inspired by the possibility that we can make the world a kinder and more equitable place through new and scalable solutions. A natural networker and strategic thinker, Elisha is motivated to see the Peacebuilders mindset and methodology adopted broadly in Ontario, Canada and beyond.

Elisha was previously the Canadian Director of Ashoka, a global organization focused on finding and scaling the most game-changing social innovations. She is currently the *Co-Chair of CivicAction's Emerging Leaders Network (ELN)*, a network devoted to promoting collaborative civic leadership in the GTHA. She is a board member of *Building Up*, a social enterprise that trains individuals who face barriers to employment with training in environmental building retrofits.

Elisha regularly shares her knowledge of social entrepreneurship on stages, inside classrooms and in the pages of publications. Prior to joining Ashoka, Elisha worked primarily within youth development, building and running programs in Toronto, New York City and Syracuse. Elisha has an MBA from Schulich School of Business at York University and a BA in Psychology from McGill University.

When not working to change the world for the better, Elisha can be found riding her bike around town with her partner and two young kids. On behalf of everyone at Peacebuilders, we welcome Elisha and look forward to working with her in 2017!

Eva E. Marszewski, O.Ont., L.S.M.

Happy Holidays & Best Wishes for the New Year

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Amicus Curiae

With funding from the *Law Foundation of Ontario* for a *Public Interest Articling Fellow (PIAF)* and the *R. Howard Webster Foundation* towards a staff lawyer, Peacebuilders' unique role as *Amicus Curiae* in the courts and legal facilitator in the community is being enhanced, defined and recognized.

EJM Pilot

With support from the *Ontario Trillium Foundation*, Peacebuilders is also partnering with the *Toronto Police Service* and the *Toronto District School Board*, collaborating with the *City of Toronto Youth Equity Strategy (TYES)*, community and other government stakeholders, to develop a model for a robust, city-wide Extra Judicial Measures initiative to further reduce the criminalization of students.

Fundraising and Peace Partners

This crucial work would be impossible without the support of our donors, sponsors, and partners at our Annual Spring for Peace Gala. In addition, this year, Peacebuilders launched the *2016 Peace Partners Campaign* seeking 10 Peace Partners, each of whom will commit \$90,000 over the next three years (or \$30,000 annually). Five partnerships have already been established: *LiUNA Local 183*, *Power Workers Union* and an *Anonymous Partner*, who has taken three units. The impact of these partnerships is immeasurable.

Thank You

As we move into 2017, I am delighted to be a part of Peacebuilders' exceptional team in support of our dream: that Peacebuilding skills and values form the foundation for civil and democratic societies. I want to thank you for a remarkable 2016 and take this opportunity to wish you the very best for an enlightened, safe and respectful new year.

Eva E. Marszewski, O.Ont., L.S.M.

Our Vision

Youth realizing their full potential and building safe and peaceful communities.

Our Mission

To increase the capacity of youth, schools, communities and the justice system to communicate and to manage conflict through Peacebuilding dialogues.



In Memory and Appreciation of Martin Teplitsky

Martin Teplitsky (Marty) graduated from the *Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto* in 1964, was a law professor, a founding partner of *Teplitsky Colson LLP*, and became one of Canada's most respected mediator-arbitrators. While he was a life force among legal colleagues, his legacy is much broader. He believed in helping those less fortunate. Marty founded the *Lawyers Feed the Hungry Program* at Osgoode Hall. Today, the program continues to serve meals, three days a week, with dignity and care to over 1000 people. He extended this program to establish the *Peacebuilders' Lunch Program* at the 311 Jarvis Court House in partnership with the *Law Society Foundation*. Thanks to Marty, we offer lunch to hungry young people and continue Marty's legacy of helping those less fortunate.

Marty's compassion, wisdom, and generosity will be dearly missed by all.

Peacebuilders at Eastdale Collegiate Institute

On December 6, 2016, in memory of the *École Polytechnique Montreal* massacre, Peacebuilders was honoured to attend the *Eastdale Collegiate Institute* school assembly. We joined the commemorative white ribbon ceremony which remembered the 28 women who were shot and the 14 women who died. Peacebuilders' volunteers and staff partnered with Eastdale staff to facilitate *Peacebuilding Circles* to empower members of the school community to work to end violence against women.

Erica Lalonde, Manager Restorative Schools & Communities Programs



Photo above from left to right: back—Carl Chu, Joseph Makari, Phillip Chuck, John Becker, Tobin McPherson, Debby Poljanowski. front: Jody Dunn, Eliana Parades, Pat Gouinlock, Erica Lalonde, Emma Silverthorne, Zoe Paliare and Kim Sebag

A Thank you from our Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau:

"I thank you for your commitment to the most vulnerable in our community - youth are the foundation of Canada's future and because of Peacebuilders, Canada's future is stronger, happier and more ambitious."



EJM Update

A three year grant from the *Ontario Trillium Foundation* will enable Peacebuilders, in collaboration with community partners and a youth advisory council, to establish and roll out the *The Extrajudicial Measures ("EJM") Pilot Project* framework for pre-charge diversion with the *Toronto District School Board* and *Toronto Police Service*. The initial collaborative phase of this project is well underway, and we look forward to developing an effective framework with our project partners in 2017!

Zoe Paliare, Legal Consultant & Manager EJM Pilot Project



Peacebuilders at the Ontario Court of Justice

Restorative Youth Circles (RYC)

Update for the RYC Justice Program

This year has been quite eventful for the courthouse as over 85 youth completed our *Restorative Youth Circles Program*! In addition to participating in our weekly *Leaders of Tomorrow (LOT)* group sessions, our youth continue to participate in individual circles. This program could not run without committed volunteers. We have focused on networking with various community organizations in order to further support the youth that we are working with in our circles. Connecting our youth to external services such as employment, academics, housing, arts, sports and other youth friendly services has been instrumental in ensuring we can provide holistic support to every young person that enters into our program. We look forward to 2017 when we will expand our *LOT Circles* to two new locations in the downtown core, at *Ryerson University* and the *(MLSE) Launchpad*.

Jody Dunn, Manager Justice Program



Volunteering at Peacebuilders

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"I volunteer to ensure that each young person has access to justice and can learn from their mistakes in a supportive setting and gear themselves up to a successful path to adulthood."

Youth Circles Volunteer

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Save the Date!

Spring for Peace
Thursday May 25, 2017

Don't miss
Peacebuilders'
14th annual fundraising
gala!

To Donate to Peacebuilders please visit:

<http://peacebuilders.ca/donate/>
or contact Carl Chu at
cchu@peacebuilders.ca

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