



PEACE PLAYERS

2020 IMPACT REPORT



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A LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Dear Friends,

2020 will be remembered by people all over the world as one of the most trying years in recent history. For our global PeacePlayers family, this was no different. Nonetheless, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen our PeacePlayers community and our incredible youth leaders demonstrate resilience in the face of adversity. The positive impact they have had on their communities has been life changing for many. By creating critical human connections and a collective sense of responsibility, PeacePlayers has helped youth and their families find support and comfort across conflict lines and even fostered a sense of global solidarity.

As an organization, the pandemic forced us to look beyond immediate challenges and recognize that deep, sweeping collaboration across our sites was necessary in order for us to survive, and even thrive. We worked as a global team to successfully transfer programs to the virtual sphere, and through this cooperation, we came to understand the full potential of our core values of “seeing people as people,” “inside out transformation” and “a culture of collaboration.” This helped accelerate the reconceptualization of our organizational structure, and we are stronger and more effective because of it.

Our work bridging seemingly intractable divides and addressing inequities in the Middle East, Northern Ireland, South Africa, Cyprus and the United States remains critical - even more so in light of the global pandemic, which has heightened inequity and conflict across the globe. Our world is divided, but our young leaders give us hope for the future. This hope has earned even greater meaning for us, thanks to the recently released groundbreaking randomized control trial study that confirmed what we have long recognized to be true: PeacePlayers’ young leaders become active and effective ambassadors in their communities, changing their societies every day and building sustainable peace.

As we reflect on the year past, we look to you, our partners, supporters and friends. We hope that you are proud of the role that you have played in uniting divided communities through the power of sport, and that you remain inspired to continue to engage in the hard work necessary to create real change. As we prepare to celebrate our 20th anniversary next year, we remain as inspired as ever to create a more peaceful and equitable world through sport.

Thank you for your belief and commitment to our goal of building a global youth movement. We stand as one in our humanity as part of a shared, global community that truly believes that **#PeaceStartsWithUs**.



A white, handwritten signature of Karen Doublet on a dark blue background.

KAREN DOUBILET
Global Executive Director



A white, handwritten signature of Brendan Tuohy on a dark blue background.

BRENDAN TUOHEY
Co-Founder and President



“ The best decision I’ve made in my life thus far. ”

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEACEPLAYERS FAMILY

FROM **SIZWE SETH BLOSE**, PEACEPLAYERS SOUTH AFRICA COACH AND PARTICIPANT SINCE 2015

On the 17th of February, 2015, I was approached by my older friend who had recently acquired his very first job and needed me to do what he called “a brother’s solid” for him. I agreed, but little did I know that it would change my life forever.

That friend’s name was Mthokozisi Shange and he had found employment at PeacePlayers South Africa. His task was to start a basketball team in the City area (Inner City) and he was super nervous. As experienced as he was at coaching basketball for my old team in my neighborhood, he had never coached participants of different ethnicities, and so he asked me to join the team and help him transition since I was “the perfect age for the team (15) and had a multiethnic background in playing team sports.”

To my surprise, I found family. I found sanction in both my peers and coaches. It was the only place in my life with where I didn’t feel excluded for my “oddness” (being viewed as “too white” for my black friends at school and “too black” for my white friends outside of school, in terms of my personality and dealing with transitioning from a private to a public school as well as coming from the suburb and now living in the township of Clermont due to life’s circumstances) but rather embraced for being different and taught to capitalize on my weaknesses and turn them into strengths. I was instilled with the PeacePlayers spirit that still runs through my veins till this day.

The same PeacePlayers family is what kept me alive, on my feet and out of trouble last year when I literally had the worst year of my life. The same family (both locally and internationally) that solidified my path and helped give me clarity as to what I plan on pursuing in the future. The same family that groomed me into being the coach and mentor I am and have been for the past two and a half years. The same family that stands with me when I face personal issues, regardless of the cost to them. The family I’m more than proud to call my own.

Today, I stand proud of the fact that: I have set foot into three countries (even though it was one trip) in 2017, which was a huge eye opener for me; I made dozens of friends overseas; I have a NQF Level 5 Facilitation certificate; I have a Sports Injuries first aid certificate; I know what it takes to impact change, and I am a pioneer of change in my community, as well as for the fact that I shamelessly and proudly voice my truth and am able to be heard.

I thank you for all you’ve done and are continuing to do for me. You have been a true blessing in my life.

Sincerely,
COACH SIZWE SETH BLOSE

Play Together. Live Together.



OUR **MISSION**

To unite divided communities through sport



OUR **VISION**

Individual and communal connections
creating a more peaceful world



PEACEPLAYERS...

Fosters connections in divided communities

Builds skills in cooperation, inter-personal
relationship building, and conflict transformation

Empowers youth to be leaders in their communities
and advocates for peace around the world

Nurtures a sense of global belonging

...THROUGH **SPORT**

WHERE WE WORK

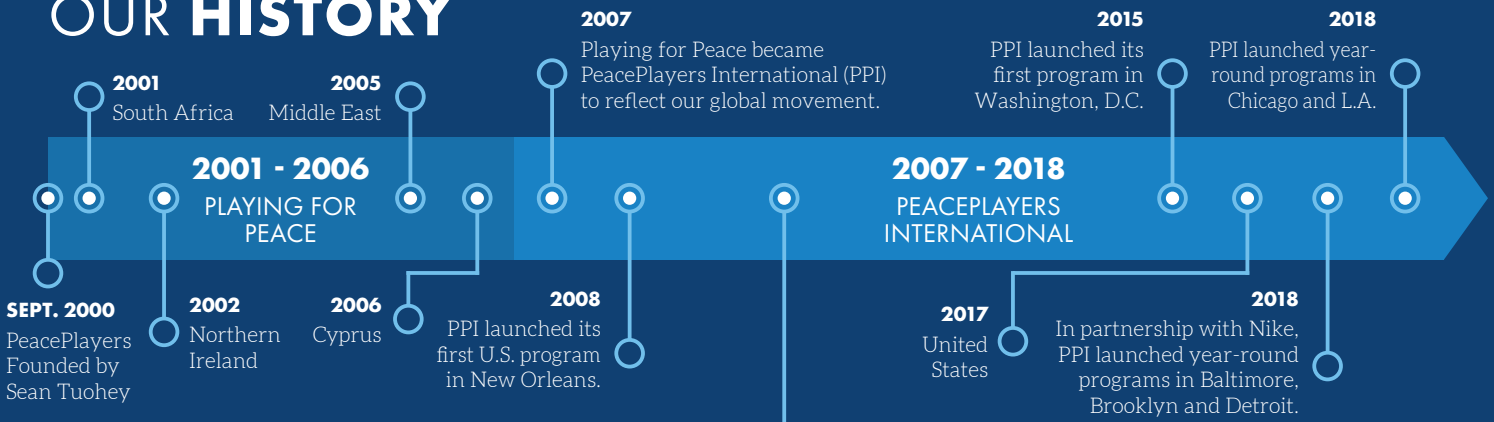
PeacePlayers operates in diverse conflict and post-conflict settings across the globe. Each site has a distinct history and culture, and while all programs adhere to our programmatic standards, each site is unique.



OUR GROWTH

- EARLY YEARS (Before 2016)
- EXPANSION TO US CITIES (2017)
- FUTURE US CITIES

OUR HISTORY



2011 - 2017

Sport and Peace Innovation Network (SPIN), our training and consulting initiative, has served organizations working in 15 countries spread over five continents, including:



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

30 November 2004

Rescuer of Humanity Award, Project Love

1 March 2005

Sportsmanship Day Award, Institute for International Sport

1 April 2006

Partner, Clinton Global Initiative

3 July 2007

Dave Cullen and Trevor Ringland: Arthur Ashe Courage Award, The ESPY Awards

18 February 2008

Brendan and Sean Tuohey: Laureus Sport for Good Award, Laureus World Academy

18 May 2008

\$1,000,000 Challenge Grant, The American Ireland Fund

7 June 2008

Island-Wide Cooperation Award, Cyprus Civil Society Organization Awards

16 June 2008

Presidential Visit, President George W. Bush

4 June 2010

Shortlist, Best Sport for Conflict Resolution Award, Beyond Sport

April 2011

PeacePlayers Receives Technology Donation and Acknowledgement in Honor of the Royal Wedding

28 October 2011

2011 NGO for Peace of the Year, Peace and Sport

3 May 2012

Shortlist, Best Sport for Conflict Resolution Award, Beyond Sport

4 September 2012

PPI Gets 4 Star Rating on Charity Navigator

1 May 2014

PPI's U18 Girls Win Israeli National League Championship for the Southern Division

19 May 2014

Vice President Joseph Biden Visits PPI - Cyprus

9 October 2014

PPI Plays at White House with National Security Advisor Susan Rice

7 March 2015

Heni Bizawi Speaks at Clinton Global Initiative University of Miami

5 October 2015

PPI Receives Charity Navigator 4-Star Rating for 4th Year in a Row

3 December 2015

US Secretary of State John Kerry Visits PeacePlayers in Cyprus

19 October 2016

Beyond Sport Summit & Awards, Sport for Conflict Resolution Award

14 November 2016

Reflections of Hope Award from The Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum

January 2017

Nike and PeacePlayers Launch Equality Campaign and National Partnership

13 September 2017

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Sports Award

3 June 2018

Institute of International Education (IIE) Victor J. Goldberg Prize for Peace in the Middle East

23 May 2018

Sports Business Journal Celebration of Service Award

25 September 2018

Kwazulu-Natal Recreation Body of the Year

Fall 2019

PeacePlayers U.S. Director of Programs & Partnerships, Sally Nnamani was Featured in Nike's Air Force 1 Campaign

24 January 2020

PeacePlayers - Northern Ireland Wins the Flax Trust Arts North Belfast Community Leadership Award - Sporting Group Making a Difference

21 June 2020

PeacePlayers United States Youth Leader Javonn Islar Awarded Billie Jean King Youth Leadership Award at 2020 ESPYS

November 2020

PeacePlayers United States is One of Four Organizations Awarded the Collective Impact Award for Reducing Racial Inequality Through Sport



COMMITTED TO **PROVING IMPACT**

A groundbreaking, 8-year Randomized Control Trial study (RCT) finds **PeacePlayers' Middle East program is transforming Arab and Jewish young people into agents for peace.**

The study, which was led by top researchers from New York University and the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB)*, found what we have long recognized: PeacePlayers' young leaders become active ambassadors for peace in their communities. As a result of sustained participation, they acquire the positive attitudes, personal resources and motivation needed to influence their peers.

The RCT study, which combined additional research methods as well, involved 800 Arab and Jewish participants, ages 8 to 16, from more than 20 communities throughout Israel. It is only the second such study to be performed on a sport and peacebuilding program. Importantly, the RCT method - which randomly divides participants into experimental and control groups - is the **only research method that is able to prove a cause and effect relationship between an activity and its intended outcome.**

**Dr. Cyrus Samii, Dr. Ruth Katharina Ditlmann, and Nejla Asimovic*

SPECIFIC KEY FINDINGS FROM THE STUDY INCLUDE:

BUILDING **CROSS-COMMUNITY FRIENDSHIPS**

The RCT found that, overall, Arab and Jewish participants at PeacePlayers develop meaningful cross-community friendships over time. Adding to this finding, supplementary PeacePlayers data indicated that more than 96% of long-time participants made a friend from the “other” group, compared to 20% of new participants. Prior research has found friendship formation to be among the most important conditions necessary to reduce prejudice and stereotypes.

REDUCING **PREJUDICES**

Youth participants also showed an increased willingness for contact with “the other,” which includes willingness to study in the same class, to visit each other’s homes, and to live in the same neighborhood. They were also more positive about the “other” and showed greater motivation to cooperate with them following participation. Fundamentally, this proves our core belief, that kids who play together can learn to live together.

ADVOCATING FOR **PEACE**

PeacePlayers participants engage in conflict mitigating behaviors such as sharing the perspective of “the other” and speaking up against hate speech among their peers. These findings illustrate how participants become active promoters of peace and cooperation in their communities, creating potential for a substantial ripple effect. We see this echoed in the words of Tamar:



“ I started to stand up for people, not just Arabs, but everyone. Be it because he is Arab, because of the color of his skin, or anything. I can’t stay quiet anymore. And it’s only because of PeacePlayers. ”

TAMAR GREENBAUM

14 years old | Israeli

DEVELOPING **LEADERS**

Overall, long-term and frequent participation led to stronger results. In addition to highlighting the need for sustained engagement, these findings signify the power of PeacePlayers’ Leadership Development Program. According to the researchers, PeacePlayers’ young leaders constitute a group of Jewish and Arab young leaders who have acquired the positive attitudes, confidence, resources and motivation to advocate for peace, and mitigate racism and prejudice in their societies.

“ PPI truly wants to understand the causal impact of its program on a wide range of ambitious outcomes, many more far-reaching than is typical in program evaluations. To participate in our research, PPI has to commit a substantial amount of resources. By doing so, PPI not only rigorously evaluates its own program but also provides a great service to the global research community on conflict resolution and peacebuilding. ”

RUTH KATHARINA DITLMANN, Ph.D

Berlin Social Science Center



THE PEACEPLAYERS FRIENDSHIP GAMES

CO-FOUNDED BY **ED AND PENELOPE PESKOWITZ**

After nearly 20 years successfully bridging divides and developing leaders in conflict regions around the world, PeacePlayers was thrilled to launch its first global initiative, the PeacePlayers Friendships Games. The program, generously co-founded by Ed and Penelope Peskowitz in 2019, connects and mobilizes PeacePlayers youth leaders from our five international sites around the globe for a joint program of basketball, leadership training and cultural exchange.

The Friendship Games includes year-round local activities and an annual global convening that brings together some 150 participants, ages 13-16, from the Middle East, South Africa, Northern Ireland, Cyprus and the United States as well as 100 additional international stakeholders.

This initiative marked a new stage in PeacePlayers' growth, enabling us to "ignite a global movement" of young leaders who are motivated and equipped to use the power of basketball to build a more peaceful and equitable world.

The program officially kicked off in the summer of 2019 with regional mini-games held at each PeacePlayers site.

For these games and continuing throughout the year, PeacePlayers coaches, staff and young leaders worked collaboratively to develop the curriculum, which focused on the learning themes: Resilience, Problem Solving and Effective Communication. Living into our organizational culture, each activity was developed to align with one of PeacePlayers' core values: Inside Out Transformation, Seeing People as People, and Culture of Collaboration.

The inaugural global convening, originally scheduled to take place in Israel during the summer of 2020, was ultimately held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The virtual convening took place over six weeks, and brought together youth leaders from around the globe for a series of activities that included leadership training, basketball challenges and "twinning sessions" between sites. Through these sessions, youth from across the globe developed friendships, honed leadership skills, and learned about each other's cultures. These connections have continued to flourish through the fall, as the global team works together to build content and plan for the next annual convening in the summer of 2021.

FRIENDSHIP GAMES

Youth leaders, ages 13-16, who have excelled in PeacePlayers programs around the world come together for an exciting roster of activities, including:

1 BASKETBALL COMPETITION

Join PeacePlayers youth on the basketball court for 3x3 and 5x5 basketball competition

2 LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING

Take part in leadership trainings with PeacePlayers youth

3 TEAM BUILDING/ CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Learn about a variety of cultures through food, dance, music, and more

PeacePlayers is ready to scale up its impact by igniting a movement of global peacebuilders to work together to build bridges, transform communities, and use sport to show that peace is possible!

Educational content for the Friendship Games focuses on three important life skills and core values that will serve youth on and off the basketball court:

LIFE SKILLS	 RESILIENCE	 PROBLEM SOLVING	 COMMUNICATION
CORE VALUES	 CULTURE OF COLLABORATION	 SEEING PEOPLE AS PEOPLE	 INSIDE OUT TRANSFORMATION





CYPRUS

In the small Mediterranean island of Cyprus, a UN Buffer Zone put into place after the 1974 inter-ethnic war still physically divides Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities. Established in 2006, PeacePlayers Cyprus is the only youth sports organization uniting Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot youth throughout the year. Thanks to PeacePlayers, youth from both sides of the island play, learn, and build meaningful friendships, replacing generations of mistrust with a future of peace and unity. PP-CY reaches 250 participants per year, and to date has transformed the lives of 4,000 young people from 15 communities on both sides of the island.





ÖZDE PILLI

16 YEARS OLD | 3 YEARS WITH PEACEPLAYERS

Before she joined PeacePlayers, Özde didn't give much thought to the strained relations between Turkish and Greek Cypriots. "I just relied on everyone else's opinions," she says. PeacePlayers helped Özde have her own experiences and form her own opinions about the deep divides that plague her country. "Now, I have been taking part in PeacePlayers events for three years, and every time I cross the border to play basketball with kids from the south, I have so much fun." Özde now has both Turkish and Greek Cypriot friends all over the island, something that has allowed her to understand other people's

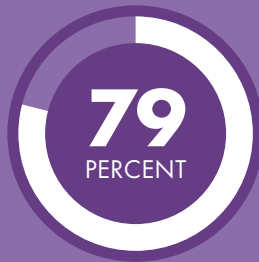
perspectives. "One of the most important things that I observed is that we are not different. We have fun in the same language, which creates a strong bond between us."

Özde's experiences in PeacePlayers inspired her to begin writing a novel chronicling the love story between a Greek Cypriot boy and a Turkish Cypriot girl. Though fiction, Özde's story challenges the taboo of cross-border relationships in Cyprus, and highlights the many challenges that face young people living in a divided society.

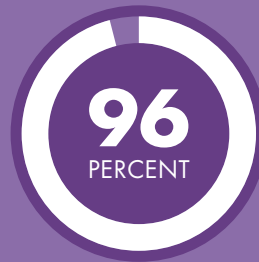
MIDDLE EAST

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most seminal conflicts of our time. Complex challenges tied to history, religion, land, national identity and sovereignty are at the heart of a century of violence and bloodshed. The resulting distrust, fear and hatred between Palestinians and Israelis has bred segregation, institutional prejudice and discrimination, as well as socioeconomic disparity.

Since 2005, PeacePlayers Middle East (PP-ME) has tackled these seemingly impossible circumstances, uniting thousands of Palestinian and Israeli young people throughout the country. PP-ME offers youth a safe space to challenge prevailing hostilities, build friendships across conflict lines, and serve as leaders and advocates for peace in their communities. In addition, as part of a strategy to empower girls and young women as athletes, leaders and peace builders, 75 percent of PeacePlayers Middle East participants are female.



of participants made a friend across conflict lines



of Leadership Development participants have great confidence in their ability to serve as leaders in their communities





LIA SHPEIGEL

12 YEARS OLD | 4 YEARS WITH PEACEPLAYERS

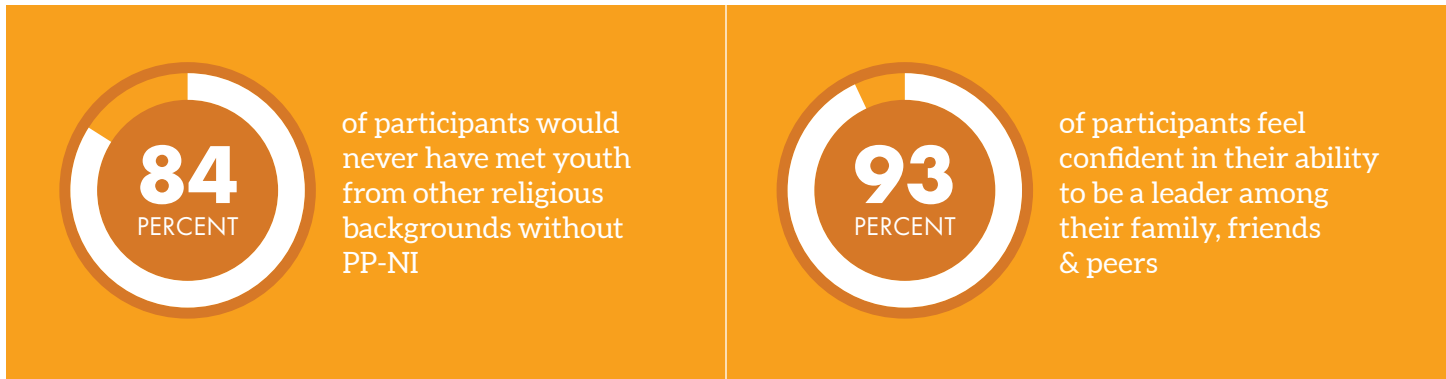
Lia Shpeigel, a Jewish girl from West Jerusalem, was recruited by PeacePlayers' head coach, Rebecca Ross. Lia accepted Rebecca's invitation to join the Jerusalem All-Stars, mixed Arab-Jewish teams that compete in the official Israeli basketball league, despite her fears of playing with Arabs. Over the course of the last four years, Lia's transformation has been inspiring. In fact, on January 31, 2020, 30 of Lia's Arab and

Jewish PeacePlayers teammates, coaches, and mentors celebrated with her as she was called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah. For her Arab teammates, this was the first time they took part in such a traditional Jewish coming of age ritual. Also, for many Jewish attendees, this was their first time interacting with Arabs. But for Lia, she was just excited to have her closest friends with her during this meaningful occasion.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The conflict between Protestants and Catholics in Northern Ireland (known as the 'Troubles') still overshadows relations between both communities, despite the existence of a decades-old peace agreement. Protestants and Catholics are divided in practically every facet of life, including the communities in which they live and the sports they play. In addition, 93% percent of Northern Ireland's youth attend segregated schools.

PeacePlayers Northern Ireland (PP-NI) was established in 2002 to provide a rare opportunity for Catholic and Protestant youth to form friendships and advocate for reconciliation and shared society. PP-NI helps 2,000 youth each year challenge religious divisions, prejudice, and racism through sport.





MARC WILMOT

18 YEARS OLD | PROGRAM ALUMNUS | 4 YEARS WITH PEACEPLAYERS

Marc joined PeacePlayers Northern Ireland's Champions for Peace youth leadership program in the summer of 2017. But Marc was no stranger to PeacePlayers, having participated in PeacePlayers' Twinning program through his primary school many years before. Three years ago, Marc was a shy kid with only Protestant friends. However, since participating in PeacePlayers, he has made many close friends from the other side. Despite being on different sides of the Protestant-Catholic divide, Marc and his friends trust and care for each other, and he feels like he's known them his whole life. He shares that "PeacePlayers has been a place where I go to make myself a better person."

Over the years, though, PeacePlayers became more than just a space to play basketball. Marc took advantage of every opportunity to participate and learn, from joining our Champions4Peace leadership program, becoming an assistant coach at the North

Belfast Interface League, and also going to every single summer camp. Marc's favorite time with PeacePlayers was the Lead4Peace trip to the Middle East in 2019, where he developed strong relationships with Palestinian and Israeli youth, which have lasted to this day.

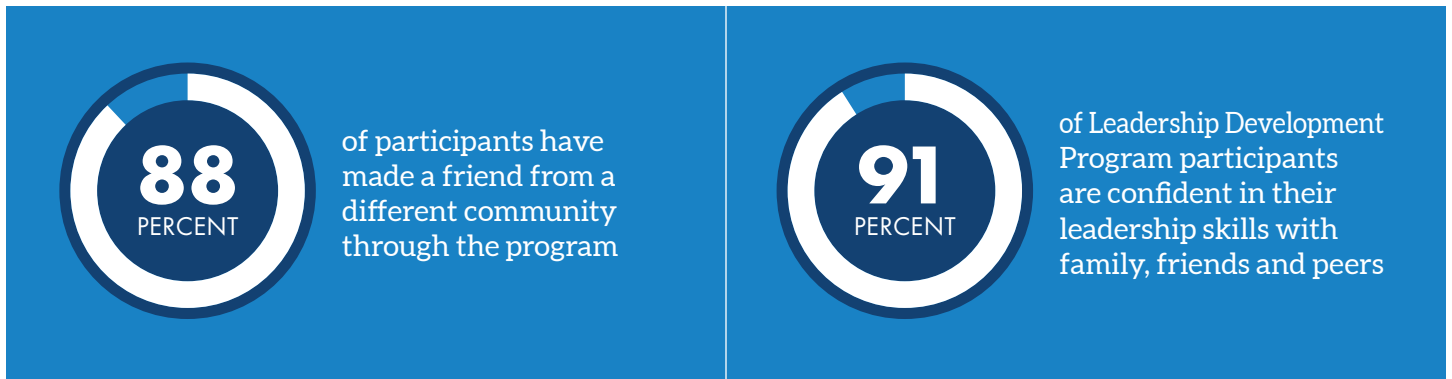
Through these experiences, Marc has become an inspirational young leader. Marc is now employed now by PeacePlayers as a sessional coach, passing on what he has learned to younger participants in Belfast's interface areas. Working locally with teammates from the "other side," Marc draws on his experiences collaborating with PeacePlayers from different backgrounds and traditions from the Middle East and around the world to be an agent for positive change. Marc is committed to making an impact off the court as well, using his personal social media accounts to champion a range of causes to make his community and the world a better place.



SOUTH AFRICA

Almost 30 years after the end of Apartheid, a system of state-sponsored racial segregation instituted by the white minority, South Africa still feels its effects: Racial divides, tensions and inequities limit resources and opportunities for the majority of citizens, leading to resentment, anger and even violence. Inequity and lack of opportunities are also rooted in other challenges, such as gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy.

PeacePlayers South Africa (PP-SA) was established in 2001 to offer vital athletic, educational and social opportunities to South Africa's youth. PP-SA unites youth from diverse and divided communities, through sustained sports-based programming led by committed local coaches and grounded in leadership development and conflict transformation.



FINDING COMMON GROUND, **BAREFOOT**

A meaningful scene unfolded before a Peace League game in which a team of boys from Highbury Prep of Hillcrest (urban private school) visited Lamula Primary in Molweni (underserved rural area). During warm-ups, the boys from Highbury Prep saw some Lamula boys playing without shoes and asked their coach why they were barefoot. Their coach responded that it was because they could not afford shoes. As a result, the entire Highbury team instinctively took off their shoes and threw them to the sidelines, playing the rest of the game barefoot. None of them complained about pain; instead, they focused on how much fun they were having, just like the opposing team. In that moment, a group of 10-year-old boys showed everyone what genuine compassion, solidarity and common ground look like.



(l. to r.) Ejide, David, and Emmanuel in their school uniforms

EJIDE MUSOMBWA

18 YEARS OLD | 6 YEARS WITH PEACEPLAYERS

DAVID KABONGO

18 YEARS OLD | 5 YEARS WITH PEACEPLAYERS

EMMANUEL BENA KABUYA

19 YEARS OLD | 6 YEARS WITH PEACEPLAYERS

Atumisi, David and Emmanuel, three veteran PeacePlayers originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo, were selected for PP-SA's Academic Scholarship Program, which assists youth from underserved communities in securing scholarships to attend elite private schools. Through the program, Atumisi, David and Emmanuel received full scholarships to attend an elite, primarily white private school in Durban North (Northwood).

Because of their background, the boys were apprehensive at first. "I thought that I was never gonna fit in since everyone was so different from where I came from but instead I got to meet new people and started to socialize with people who I never imagined being friends or acquaintance with," says Atumisi.

Through their involvement in PeacePlayers, they gained the confidence, discipline, and commitment necessary to succeed at Northwood. Atumisi, David and Emmanuel, who are currently in the 11th grade, are now on course to receive full scholarships to a top South African University. At school, they serve as ambassadors for peace by advocating for values of shared society and equality at basketball games with competing private schools. Northwood also has one of the top private school basketball teams because of these young men. Additional private schools are now asking for PP-SA's assistance, not only to increase diversity in their schools, but also to compete at a high level like Northwood.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM PEACEPLAYERS UNITED STATES

THE STRUGGLE FOR **RACIAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE** IN THE UNITED STATES

Dear PeacePlayers Family,

The United States continues to be in crisis. We are a country that was created on, and continues to support, a systemic culture of racism. Because of that, we continue to witness and experience institutionalized violence against people of color every day.

The expression of both physical and non-physical violence that is deeply rooted in our country directly and disproportionately affects people of color in the United States. This violence destroys families, takes lives, limits opportunities, crushes dreams, incarcerates young people of color, provides poor education in communities of color...the list goes on and on. And it is completely devastating and unacceptable.

All of us have our own unique stories and experiences that brought us to PeacePlayers and drive us to do the work we do. Today, as a PeacePlayers family, we feel the pain, anger, frustration, fear and complete disgust that we and our colleagues carry. As a global organization, we all feel these things differently and must commit to dismantling the ways in which many benefit from the very systems that hurt our colleagues, friends and loved ones.

The young people we work with in five cities across the United States are all experiencing this in their own ways. We are committed to supporting them and know that, while it is hard to get up each day and experience what is happening in this country, it is also the very thing that makes us get up and get to work.

We are deeply committed to our young people, supporting them as they gain the tools to achieve their highest potential. They are ready to change this country and the world, and we will do everything in our power to ensure that the opportunities to do so exist in their future.

We stand with the athletes everywhere who have walked off the court or field in protest. As an organization dedicated to using sport to change the world...sometimes we need to sit out of the game to show the world what is most important.

What we do is bigger than basketball. Thank you for standing with us.

#PeaceStartsWithMe

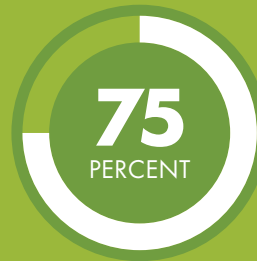


UNITED STATES



Systemic racism in America has engendered racial inequities and divisions in every facet of life: housing, education, health and involvement in the criminal justice system. Due to this inequity, children of color are denied opportunities to excel and thrive.

PeacePlayers United States (PP-US) uses basketball to create a movement of youth leaders who are coming together across racial divides to advocate together for a more equitable future. Launched in 2017 in partnership with Nike, PP-US is currently active in five cities across the country: Baltimore, Brooklyn, Los Angeles, Chicago and Detroit, and has reached 45 community partners and impacted 2,000 youth.



of Chicago youth indicate new confidence in their leadership skills after their first year with PeacePlayers



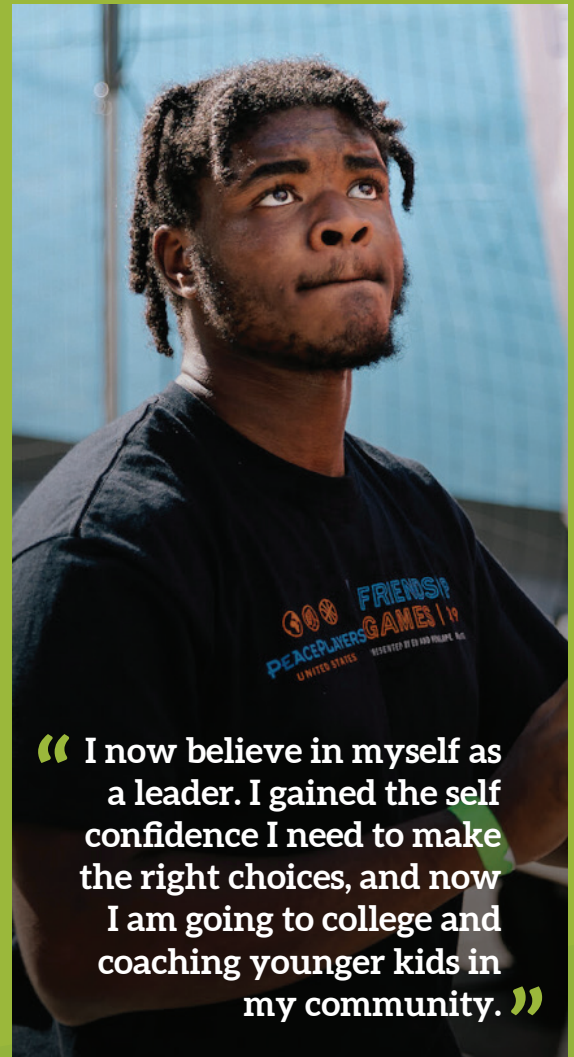
of youth participants in Brooklyn and Detroit were able to experience something they normally would not have because of PeacePlayers

JAVONN ISLAR

18 YEARS OLD | 2 YEARS WITH PEACEPLAYERS

Javonn Islar is a young Black man growing up in challenging circumstances. Javonn's neighborhood of Brownsville, Brooklyn, has the highest concentration of public housing in America, and faces tremendous poverty, violence and inequality. With the frequent shootings, Javonn found it difficult to navigate the dangers in his own backyard. His journey to find safety and comfort in the sport he loves led Javonn to PeacePlayers Brooklyn. Through PeacePlayers, he has built relationships with peers from across Brownsville. He led the way in welcoming new team members from rival housing developments, playing a pivotal role in helping them feel welcome. In a neighborhood where hanging out with someone from a rival housing development could put you in great danger, Javonn's leadership is incredibly brave.

Javonn's leadership in PeacePlayers most recently led him to be 1 of 7 recipients of this year's Billie Jean King Youth Leadership Award. The award recognizes high school and college-age youth who are using the power of sport to create true change for good. It is part of ESPN's Sports Humanitarian Awards, which celebrate and honor athletes, teams and members of the sports community who are using sport to make a positive difference in society. This award is a testament to Javonn's character and leadership, as he aspires to positively impact his community of Brownsville through his involvement in PeacePlayers.



“ I now believe in myself as a leader. I gained the self confidence I need to make the right choices, and now I am going to college and coaching younger kids in my community. ”



SPORT AND PEACE INNOVATION NETWORK (SPIN)

With nearly two decades of experience implementing high-impact sports for social change programs around the globe, PeacePlayers has developed impactful and proven methods for using sports as a tool for social change, to empower young people, and help communities overcome cycles of conflict and alienation.

With a seed investment from Laureus Sports for Good Foundation, PeacePlayers created the Sport and Peace Innovation Network (SPIN) in order to share the methods and resources it has developed using sports to bridge divides and cultivate leaders in diverse cultures and contexts around the world.

**SERVICES
INCLUDE**



**CURRICULUM
DEVELOPMENT**



**PROGRAM
DESIGN**



**MONITORING
& EVALUATION**



SPIN IN FOCUS

RWANDA

Funded by Comic Relief (UK), PeacePlayers started a two-year partnership with the local Rwandan basketball non-profit Ubumwe Sports Initiative (USI) in February 2018. PeacePlayers has worked hand-in-hand with USI to scale their low-cost, volunteer-led initiatives for youth basketball and peacebuilding into eight highly populated districts in Rwanda. Over the past year, PeacePlayers and Ubumwe have led a series of national, regional and city level coaches' trainings in which hundreds of basketball coaches in Rwanda gained tools for positive youth coaching and PeacePlayers' peacebuilding curriculum. They also created sustainable peacebuilding and basketball programming that engaged over 1,500 youth and 100 coaches, inspiring them to learn, share and grow with people from different backgrounds.



Igiraneza Aimer is a 12-year-old boy born in the Gicumbi district in Rwanda's Northern Province. He is one of four children who were sent by the pastor of the local parish to participate in the USI Camp in Gicumbi. After learning about the planned USI activities and the values that are taught to children through basketball, the pastor thought it was a valuable opportunity for these children, who had dropped out of school, and were currently begging on the streets. After the camp, we asked Aimer why

he dropped out of school. He shared that he did not see parental love. He dropped out of school and left his home as a result, but attending USI camp and seeing the love he received and getting to socialize with other children encouraged him to return home and get back in school. He decided to teach his parents about conflict resolution and how they can come together to work for their family to get out of poverty. Aimer is now one of the best performers in school and one of our most committed participants.

SPIN IN FOCUS

OKLAHOMA CITY

In 2018, PeacePlayers entered into a partnership with Sam Presti, the General Manager of the Oklahoma City Thunder, to build the capacity of the Oklahoma City Police Athletic League (OKC PAL). The program focused on strengthening the program design and implementation of the Police League through targeted technical assistance. Priority areas identified for the partnership included monitoring and evaluation capacity, and Coach and Officer Training Strategy. PeacePlayers worked directly with OKC PAL leadership to develop a schedule of offerings and engagements over a 24-month period that would focus on training key staff and volunteers to implement best practices in both areas over the long term.



“ Our relationship with PeacePlayers International began at what was then considered the peak performance of our program. Our athletics program had made some tremendous strides from 2015-2017 and our perception was that we were hitting the marks we’d intended to hit. While our programs were reaching an incredible amount of student-athletes and schools, our time spent with PPI helped us take a step back and realize we’d missed the objective of true police engagement across all programs. We knew we had pockets of high-quality, valuable engagement between the community and our officers, but that engagement was not happening in enough places. Because of our relationship with PPI, we realized we had to take a step back towards the foundation of what we were trying to build to ensure police were engaged at every level. While our findings may appear to be a step in the wrong direction, the reality is they helped us see what could have been a significant flaw in our program model, had we gone forward without addressing it. ”

PETER EVANS

Executive Director, OKC Police Athletic League



BUILDING A **GLOBAL YOUTH PEACE MOVEMENT**

Launched 20 years ago with just \$7,000 of funding, our global peace movement has since grown into a multi-million dollar endeavor reaching thousands of young people every year. By 2024, sustaining and expanding our movement will require \$8+ million a year.

Critical investments are needed to continue to build self-sufficient sites and ensure we can maintain high-quality, proven peace building programming, sustain and deepen our impact, invest and support our alumni and reach new communities.

Together, we can empower young people to be the leaders our world needs today.

OVER THE NEXT **THREE YEARS** WE WILL...

Build a connected and impactful global movement, by providing long-term engagement, leadership training, professional development and a globally collaborative atmosphere.

Develop a sustainable and independent PeacePlayers U.S. organization dedicated to cultivating a diverse youth movement pushing for greater equity and governed by members of the communities in which we work.

Launch a Leadership Academy and invest in alumni, so that PeacePlayers youth will go on to become leading actors in the fight for peace and equity in each of their communities.

Expand our global network through the Sport and Peace Innovation Network (SPIN), expanding impact to additional countries and communities while boosting PeacePlayers' sustainability by generating earned income.

...BUILD A
**GLOBAL YOUTH
PEACE MOVEMENT.**



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SISTEMI DI CANTIERI
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FOODPLAYERS
CFFUS

SPACE PLAYERS
CFFUS

“ Going back to the speech by Nelson Mandela at the inaugural Laureus World Sports Awards, one thing that is core to our work at Laureus is the power of sport to break down barriers – and PeacePlayers does that as well as anyone. ”

ADAM FRASER

Chief Executive, Laureus Sports for Good Global

“ At Nike, we believe in the power of sport to unite and inspire people to take action in their communities. PeacePlayers brings this belief to life every day, by empowering young adults to bridge divides and embody positive change as emerging leaders. ”

MATT GESCHKE

Senior Director of Social & Community Impact, Nike

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