

# **OUR YEAR IN REVIEW**

Over the last year, PeacePlayers has experienced some incredible highs by leaning into global collaboration, providing youth and coaches a way to stay connected, and yielding some successful global programs and campaigns, all while also facing many challenges as a result of the lasting effects of a global pandemic. Through it all, PeacePlayers' young leaders and staff have remained resilient.

In the face of COVID-19 shutdowns and ever-changing regulations, each site stayed nimble, adjusting to the ever-changing possibilities and needs of their youth. From a hybrid of Zoom and in-person 3-v-3 Jingle Ball tournament in Northern Ireland, in-person overnight camps in the Middle East, organizing food and mobile data vouchers for young people in South Africa, and Leadership Development Program bike rides in Brooklyn, our PeacePlayers team on the ground showed resilience in providing positive outlets for PeacePlayers' young people. We could not be more proud of the creativity of these teams that showed when the going gets tough, our bonds only grow stronger.



On the global virtual front, our youth movement continued to build momentum as we hosted the Virtual Friendship Games cultural twinning sessions, supported by Ed and Penelope Peskowitz. This year, we divided 100 youth leaders from PeacePlayers' five sites into four international teams -Truth, Justice, Mercy, and Peace - to encourage greater learning and sharing with each other. Once a month, each site had the opportunity to share a peek into their countries and cultures with PeacePlayers from around the world. From Youth Day in South Africa, which celebrated the potential of youth-led social change; learning how despite two different languages, the Cypriots' shared culture is expressed through language, to a Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration in the United States -- young leaders learned how they are united in their efforts to end conflict and inequity, and in their mission to create lasting change.

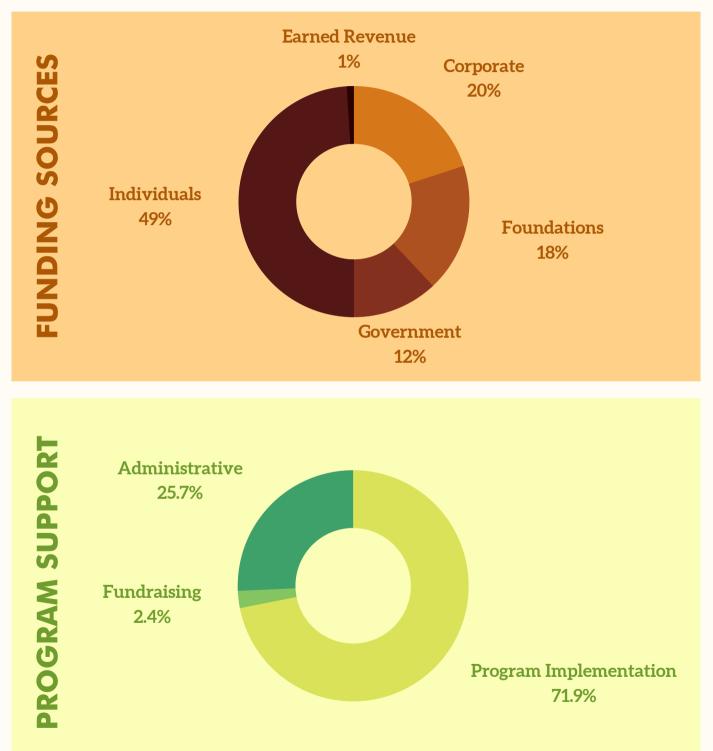
Young leaders also participated in the first-ever Pledge4Peace campaign, which took place in October 2020. This global campaign encouraged youth leaders from the Friendship Games to practice their free throws while demonstrating their connectedness in a time of isolation. One hundred youth from across PeacePlayers' five sites would shoot 100 free throws each over the course of a week, and with every bucket made, donations to PeacePlayers were gifted in their name. This campaign would not have been possible without the support of our global community.

Not only was it an exciting year for the young people, but our organization has continued to learn and build. With new staff hired, we are incredibly excited to provide even more opportunities that will build our local grassroots efforts into a global movement for good.

As we reflect, 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 in the years ahead.



# FINANCIALS \$5.5 M 2021 FISCAL BUDGET



# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

## \$100,000+ DONORS

John Vaske R.C. Buford and Family Brendan and Julie McAllister Sport Opportunity Life Foundation Edwin and Penelope Peskowitz Arn and Nancy Tellem Ted Arison Family Foundation Detroit Pistons

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# LOOKING AHEAD

By 2024, our global peace movement - launched 20 years ago with \$7,000 of funding – will require \$8+ million a year.

Critical investments are needed to continue to build selfsustaining sites and ensure we can maintain high-quality, proven peace building programming, sustain and deepen our impact, invest in 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

Develop a sustainable and independent PeacePlayers U.S. organization

Launch a Leadership Academy and invest in alumni

**Expand our global network through SPIN** 

## ...BUILD A GLOBAL YOUTH PEACE MOVEMENT.

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