

November 1, 2010

Dear Friend of Project Peace East Bay:

Are we succeeding in our mission: to create partnerships between local churches and services that work together for just and sustainable communities in Berkeley, Oakland, and surrounding areas? I can cite impressive numbers, like the fact that **since our founding Project Peace has provided over 10,000 volunteer service hours to 22 East Bay social service providers**. But you may have noticed the tagline that's been appearing on our materials lately: **A Revolution of the Heart**. This is taken from a quote by Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement: *"The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us?"*

Revolutions of the heart are difficult to quantify. But here's a statement from a Project Peace volunteer, which indicates that revolutions of the heart do happen:

***"I believe that Project Peace has better connected me with my community at large. It has made me realize that the people I pass everyday in the streets are my neighbors, though they may not have homes. In today's world, it has become too easy to ignore the needs of the homeless and working poor. Project Peace and Friday Night Dinner have given me a tangible way to help. Surprisingly, I've enjoyed the opportunity to have conversations with the guests, just as much as the chance to help cook and serve them dinner. I've come to better understand their struggles and realize that they are not much different from me. I'm amazed at how doing something that seems so simple, like sharing a meal, can really bring our community closer together."*** –Volunteer at the monthly College Ave. Friday Night Dinner

2010 has the most challenging, exciting, and productive year of Project Peace East Bay's 4-year lifespan. Here's a brief rundown:

- **We're focusing narrower and deeper.** It's always tempting for a young organization to pile on many programs and partners. But we've learned from experience that quantity and quality are often at odds. Therefore, this year we're taking a new approach, scaling back our operations to focus on 8 strong community partnerships. Our diverse partners include: underserved schools, dinners for low-income and homeless individuals, a community housing development, and community-based organizations working in some of Oakland's toughest neighborhoods. Project Peace engages with these partners through quarterly Days of Peace and monthly service projects. Focusing our energies on these 8 partners allows us to offer a greater variety of services to the communities they serve – moving from mercy (addressing immediate, felt needs) to justice (addressing the underlying inequities that cause felt needs).
- **We've moved to a strategic location!** In Spring 2010, Project Peace moved to 2138 Cedar Street, in the heart of North Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto – a cultural hub. We share office space with Christ Church East Bay, which has enabled us to strengthen our programs at the church that was our founding partner.

- **We're standing firm in our original mission.** Project Peace was founded on the belief that churches should be in the vanguard of those doing mercy and justice in the community. Therefore, we focus our efforts on two things:
  - 1) Encouraging churches to confront the question: *Can we really love God if we're not loving our neighbor?* and inspiring them to action; and
  - 2) Providing concrete opportunities for churches to engage in the work of serving their community.
- **We've updated our website!** Same address ([www.projectpeaceeastbay.org](http://www.projectpeaceeastbay.org)), updated platform and content. Check it out!

Please consider supporting Project Peace's work in the coming year, whether by giving financially or by giving your time and enthusiasm. Even with a very modest operating budget, we continue to be challenged by the current financial climate. **You may make a tax-deductible donation to Project Peace using the enclosed envelope, or on our website at [www.projectpeaceeastbay.org](http://www.projectpeaceeastbay.org).** We also encourage you to visit our website for information on how to get more involved in the work of Project Peace.

We at Project Peace are closing this year (and this letter) with gratitude! We are thankful for the revolutions of the heart that we've been able to witness. We are thankful to you for your generous gifts of time, money, prayer, and encouragement. Above all, we are thankful to God, who laid the foundation for our mission when he told us to do justice, to love mercy, and to love our neighbors.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season,

*Faith Gong*

Faith Gong, *Executive Director*

### Scenes From the Past Year



*Clockwise from top left: A young member of East Oakland's Urban Church enjoys the bouncy house at an Easter BBQ thrown by Project Peace; PP volunteers lead craft tables at a community fair for Albany's UC Village; one of our youngest volunteers working in the Claremont Middle School garden in Oakland; PP Volunteers prepare and serve the College Avenue Friday Night Meal for the homeless and working poor.*