

2008 Peace Medal

Nominees Individuals



Marguerite Bilodeau, is a nurse, musician, writer and committed peace activist; a member of both the Raging Grannies and Mémés déchaînées, and is involved with Project Ploughshares, Échec à la guerre and Development and Peace. Marguerite has dedicated her creative talents and boundless energy to inspire us all to work for peace.



Anne Farrell has actively volunteered for peace internationally and locally. With RelayNet, she presented workshops on non-violence education in Africa, Haiti and Morocco. At UQAM, she formed a group of students dedicated to the promotion of non-violence on campus and organized the first Forum on Non-violent Education.



Pierre Jasmin is a music professor at UQAM and current President of Artists for Peace. He has been an active member of that group for 25 years. Artists for Peace promote peace "without weapons". They raise awareness nationally and internationally and have created links with other peace organizations in Quebec and Canada.



Andy Rosenhek, is a recent graduate from McGill University who has done extensive overseas volunteer work. Since 2007, he has raised over \$14,000 to help support a school and build an orphanage in Tanzania. He is presently working on the development of a website that aims to make international volunteerism more affordable and efficient.



Philippe Rochette, an optometrist by profession, started coming to the YMCA Hochelaga-Maisonneuve in 2004 to accompany a handicapped person in the pool and became involved with the after school homework program, helping children from 6 - 12 years old. He also volunteers his professional services to disadvantaged people unable to afford the services of an optometrist, in programs at local YMCA centers and at Montreal shelters for women, men and youth.



Sharon Steinberg is a long-time volunteer with a Montreal shelter for women and children. After the loss of her son through an act of violence, she started the Sharon Steinberg Project as her commitment to peace-building and violence prevention. This project recruits, trains, educates and creates networks of children, parents, young adults and communities to develop and enhance skills and responses that serve as alternatives to violence.

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Nominees Groups



Amis du monde, a community organization in Saint-Leonard, aims to prevent youth violence and to promote conflict resolution and cooperation among youth and the larger community. They involve youth from 9 - 15 years of age in discussion groups, debates and workshops on issues such as prejudice and help them find non-violent ways of resolving conflicts.



Artists for Peace, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary, is one of the oldest peace organizations in Canada. Made up of musicians, artists and writers who are peace activists, Artists for Peace has worked for disarmament, social justice and the end of conflict in Afghanistan, Darfur, Congo, Lebanon, Israel and Palestine. In 2007 they initiated a project "Citizens for a Department of Peace" to have peace become an official component of government.



The Greene Centre in Westmount is a not-for-profit community organization dedicated to providing quality recreational, social and cultural services to the community at large, regardless of gender, age, race, ethnic group, ability or socio-economic status. The Green Centre team has offered equitable access, support and unconditional welcome to the refugee families living in the YMCA's Residence. The activities at the Green Centre have had a strong and positive impact on these families and their children, and have helped them develop confidence in their ability to integrate into their new community of Montreal.



Comité Jeunes leaders de l'Ecole Marguerite-de-Lajemmerais, is a group of Secondary 4 girls who meet weekly to organize activities to raise awareness on issues such as peace, HIV/AIDS, poverty and the environment. They have participated in Youth Leadership workshops of Club 2/3, at the Hochelaga-Maisonneuve YMCA Leadership Camp and they wrote a declaration outlining the accomplishments of women and what remains to be realized.



GCC la violence is committed to crime prevention and the promotion of peaceful ways for youth and communities to live together. They give workshops for students in schools on dealing with different social problems and challenges that affect them. They help low-income housing residents develop social skills and peaceful ways of dealing with frustrations and anger, and they work with minority groups to promote integration and violence prevention in the community.



Justice Alternative du Suroît is a community organization in the Vaudreuil-Soulanges region. It works with youth 12 - 17 years old who are in the justice system, with victims of youth crime, and with groups that help youth fulfill their community work obligations. Conflict resolution workshops are offered for youth in schools and youth organizations as well as a mediation service for citizens in conflict and crime prevention kiosks for youth.

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Nouvelle vision des jeunes, was created to prevent youth violence, drug use and criminality in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. They provide educational support, sports activities, social events and outings for youth from different cultural and religious backgrounds. They encourage the involvement of parents and grandparents as a way to build bridges and to open communication between the generations.



Service d'aide et de liaison la Maisonnée has been helping immigrants integrate more easily into Quebec society and to develop their full potential as citizens since 1979. They offer special programs for second-generation youth of immigrant families in order to prevent delinquency and help them complete their education.



Teesri Duniya Theatre, founded in 1981, is a multicultural Theatre Company addressing important social issues in an unconventional way by highlighting the immigrant perspective. Through their socially-engaged plays, they raise important issues such as gender inequalities, refugee exploitation in Canadian sweatshops, and racial stereotyping.



Vision Chateauguay Newspaper is produced by a group of journalism students at Howard S. Billing High School in Chateauguay. Through their assignment to cover the Bouchard-Taylor Commission on Reasonable Accommodation, they embarked on a personal educational journey. They learned about cultural communities, tolerance, the importance of communication and the perceived threat of multi-culturalism. This assignment opened up discussions within their school and their newspaper was distributed throughout the Chateauguay and Kahnawake communities.



YAYA (Young Actors for Young Audiences), the youth wing of the Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre, produces plays by youth, about youth and for youth audiences, inspired by young people's search for meaning in contemporary times. YAYA puts a priority focus on reaching culturally-diverse audiences, inspiring adolescents to think globally and act locally regarding issues of racism and inter-ethnic hate.