

## PARTNER

The Vermont Peace Academy (VPA) will attend the Global Stakeholders Summit for the formation of the **National Peace Academy**, March 2-4. Dot Maver, an early supporter of VPA, is the Director of the National Peace Academy Project ([www.nationalpeaceacademy.us](http://www.nationalpeaceacademy.us)). Dot considers that VPA's work to form a statewide peace organization to be a model for other states.



## INSPIRATION

VPA congratulates students from **U32 middle school** who joined VPA at the U.N. this past September for International Day of Peace. The students made a poignant video of interviews they prompted on the streets of New York City, after the U.N. event. While exploring mid-town, they asked people of many cultures, ...

**“How can we create a world of peace?”.**

The majority of respondents candidly said,  
**we should talk openly with our neighbors and people we meet.**

## SUPPORT How your donation will support VPA efforts...

- \$100 Sponsor a student or chaperone to attend U.N. International Day of Peace.
- \$250 Sponsor a community member to attend the seminar Building Bridges of Learning and Cooperation.
- \$300 Train a “cultural consultant” to lead discussion in schools.
- \$320 One year of training for a school student to become a messenger of peace in their school.
- \$500 Train a teacher to integrate non-violent communication in their classroom.
- \$1,200 Sponsor Diversity Day at a Vermont school this spring.
- \$2,500 Host ten teachers for a training day to learn how to educate students in peace-building.
- \$3,000 Help fund the 2009 Peace Conference in Vermont.
- \$7,500 Sponsor a full year of training and assistance at a Vermont school, to create leadership and action for a safe and respectful school community.

Please use the enclosed donation slip to make your contribution today.

**We are grateful for your support and  
all you do to create a culture of peace.**

Visit [www.vermontpeaceacademy.org](http://www.vermontpeaceacademy.org)



Teach, Learn and Practice  
a Culture of Peace

THE VERMONT PEACE ACADEMY

WINTER 2008-09 NEWSLETTER AND APPEAL

## VISION

Dear Friend,

Imagine a world where every person feels respected and supported by their community. Where people appreciate and celebrate individual uniqueness and cultural diversity.

This is not a world absent of conflict. Differences would be brought to light, between family members, neighbors, towns and states. Fellow citizens would listen with care and empathy, committed to understanding each perspective. Collaboration built in trust would lead to creative solutions and agreement.

**The process of peace is one of embracing  
the joy and challenges of being human.  
This process requires vision and skill.**

The Vermont Peace Academy is the first statewide organization dedicated to peace education. We are a collective of educators and concerned citizens. We are peace activists who address the roots of injustice by studying and teaching the skills of peace.

Please support this work. Your gift is an investment in Vermont.

- **Civics:** Our educators teach student teams peace skills. These leaders work within their community to address conflict and disengagement.
- **Diversity:** We attract peoples of different nations and cultures to raise discussion within schools about their culture, the impact of prejudice and causes of conflict.
- **Collaboration:** We join individuals, organizations, and colleges engaged in the mission of peace. With these partners, we host a biannual Peace Conference that brings national peace leaders to our state.

Please give now. Together we can actively vision and nurture a culture of peace within Vermont. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Michiko Oishi  
Executive Director

Karin McNeill  
Co-Director

802.454.8315 ext.295 [www.vermontpeaceacademy.org](http://www.vermontpeaceacademy.org)

## DIVERSITY

The Vermont Peace Academy (VPA) brings educational programs about cultural diversity to schools in Vermont. Each spring, VPA assists student leaders to plan and host **Diversity Day** for the entire student body. During the day, students interview “cultural consultants”, who are representatives of various nations and Vermont cultures.

VPA encourages interested members from various cultural groups in Vermont to become “cultural consultants”. VPA is forming partnerships with the Association of Africans Living in Vermont and refugee organizations to invite their members into schools.



## COLLABORATE

VPA's **Center for Peace Studies** is planning our Fall 2009 Peace Conference which will link local action for peace with international perspectives. By forming a consortium of Vermont colleges to design and coordinate the conference, we are initiating long-term collaboration on the subject of peace education among Vermont's higher education institutions.

Victoria Chertok, who received a Master of Arts in Conflict Transformation from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, is our Peace Conference Coordinator.

If you'd like to help with the conference, please contact Victoria at [vcpeace@gmail.com](mailto:vcpeace@gmail.com)

## PRACTICE

VPA's **Peace Education Fund** supports small grants to Vermont individuals who are doing exemplary work in the field of peace education, in Vermont and internationally. The 2009 Fund guidelines will be issued January 30. Applications are due March 1. Please inquire with Karin McNeill at [vpa@goddard.edu](mailto:vpa@goddard.edu).



Photo by Sally Black, a dedicated founder of VPA.

## TEACH

VPA's **Center for Respectful Schools** runs full year residencies and workshops to train school teachers and students. They learn the skills of peace – non-violent communication, collaborative leadership, facilitation, inclusion of diversity, and conflict management. These organizers in turn guide their peers and school administrations to solve problems in order to stimulate a respectful school atmosphere.

So far this school year, VPA is partnering with fourteen schools in five supervisory unions. Planning is underway in one additional school district (+).

- Addison Central Supervisory Union (Bridport and Shoreham)
- Craftsbury Academy
- North Country Supervisory Union (Newport region)
- Winooski School District
- Grand Isle Supervisory Union
- Windham Southeast Supervisory Union (Brattleboro area) +



## YOUTH VOICE CREATES ACTION

VPA's residency in the **North Country Supervisory Union** is in its fourth year and is in many ways our model. Student participants, who began during their middle school years, entered high school this year. At the beginning of the school year, they self-initiated meetings with the high school principal and the school board. They noticed that cliques and bullying in the high school were preventing all students from feeling welcomed and engaged in learning. They insisted that the Safe Schools program (their local name for the Center for Respectful Schools residency) be brought to the high school. Now social ills in the school are being actively addressed by a growing network of students, parents and school staff.

## LEARN

March 20-21, CIPE-Vermont is hosting **Building Bridges of Learning and Cooperation** at VT College.

Contact Patty Roeding  
802-522-3736.

Visit [www.c-cp.org/CIPE.html](http://www.c-cp.org/CIPE.html)

VPA is partnering with the **Center for Health and Learning** to offer professional development workshops for school teachers in non-violent communication.

Contact Michiko Oishi  
802-454 8315 x344.