



2016-17 Annual Report

M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence

Dear Friend,

We are proud to share this report with you and celebrate another year of sustained growth, a balanced budget, and a growing reputation in the Rochester region, and beyond.

And yet events like those in Charlottesville, ecological disasters, and the ongoing challenge of uprooting white supremacy make us realize how much needs to be done, and how much we need each other.

In that spirit we deepened existing relations and built new ones, to do our best to enact Beloved Community, especially with young people. We know that what doesn't get transformed, gets transferred.

In this report our intention is to offer both qualitative and quantitative feedback on your investment in this vital effort. I feel privileged to once again offer thanks for your visionary support.

This comes with love from all of us,

Kit Miller
Director, M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence



Operating Budget for 2016-2017

REVENUE

Contributions.....	\$96,281.40
Grants.....	\$85,841.31
School Programming.....	\$250,908.12
University of Rochester Support.....	\$81,000.00
Community Training.....	\$13,722.04
Merchandise Sales.....	\$7,805.51
Other.....	\$2,491.00
TOTAL.....	\$538,049.38

EXPENSES

Personnel.....	\$420,951.02
Programs.....	\$35,690.71
House Operations.....	\$36,773.59
Office.....	\$16,042.82
Other.....	\$12,678.10
TOTAL.....	\$522,136.67

NET SURPLUS

.....	\$15,912.72
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School Year Programs K-12

Student Conflict Resolution Support

The Gandhi Institute staffed student conflict resolution spaces in four Rochester City School District (RCSD) schools, resolving 6,884 student conflicts through the use of restorative practices, and offered strategic support to teachers and administrators.



Statistics

- School 17 suspension rate has dropped by 35% from the previous school year
- 66% decrease in grade 7/8 Help Zone students visits for behavioral issues from 1st semester to 2nd semester
- 61% decrease in the number of days suspended at School 17
- Number of grade 9 Monroe students sent to Help Zone for behavioral issues dropped 92% between Sept. 2016 and June 2017



Daily Social Justice Class

For the third year, Gandhi staff taught social justice classes at Northwest College Preparatory School for middle school students. Topics included Violence in our communities, Understanding power, and Nonviolent communication. Year-end results showed a 40% increase in the average student's interest in trying "to better understand others by imagining how things look from their perspective."



Professional Development

We offered workshops to hundreds of teachers and staff in city and suburban schools. In partnership with RCSD we hosted a May 20 conference for over 300 Rochester educators and residents on restorative, trauma-informed, and culturally relevant practices.

Student Reflections

"The Help Zone taught me how to walk away from a conflict that will be the result of me getting hurt or me going away for a long time" -Giuseppe Gulino, grade 9, Monroe High School

"I wish this class was longer every day. I like that we get to speak our minds and talk about real issues." - grade 8 student, Northwest Jr. High School

"I used restorative practices with my little brother." -Lincoln, grade 7 student, School #19

Summer at Gandhi K-12



Freedom School

For the fourth year, we were privileged to participate in School 19's Freedom School program, a joyous and effective collaboration. Four and five-year-old children enjoyed "Peace in the Garden" every day, learning about peaceful ways to relate to creation. Middle-school-aged children learned about nonviolence through the lens of Martin Luther King Jr.'s framework with lots of hands-on activities.

"To the Extraordinary Employees at the MK Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence, I greatly appreciate your collaboration, insight, and empathy that your organization holistically demonstrated with us during this year's RCSD Freedom School Summer Literacy Program. There wasn't a day where our scholars weren't excited to be picked up to work in the Gandhi garden, and there wasn't a day your staff was tardy or remotely unprepared to engage our youth in constructive dialogue and activities. The open-door policy you have shown us year after year of partnership has been a true community organization partnership, and I feel like many community orgs can learn from your mode of operation. As community neighbors and neighbors in the work of social change, we greatly appreciate the opportunities you gave our students to learn about their neighborhood, learn about nutrition, learn about their peers, and learn about themselves. Thank you so much!" -Brandon White, RCSD Freedom School Summer Literacy Program 2017 Site Coordinator

Summer Youth Facilitation Institute (SYFI)

SYFI prepares students to be peace builders in local schools and community organizations. Selected high school students are given paid apprenticeships at the Institute, where they are trained in facilitation, conflict transformation, and social justice. This year, the Institute hosted three youth facilitators, two of whom returned from last summer.

Sharing our Space

The Institute hosted two sessions of a startup by young local activists called the Summer of Social Justice Camp. The camp attracted a diverse group of children from all over Rochester to explore topics like sustainability, race, gender, and identity in developmentally appropriate ways.

For the fourth year we hosted the eight-week Seedfolk Summer Youth Employment Program and the 12 youth who participated. Seedfolk youth enjoyed learning with and from the SYFI teens and Gandhi staff.

Summer Visitors

Groups of young people visited from a variety of places — from local schools like World of Inquiry and Allendale Columbia to regional visitors from Geneva to international visitors, like a special day with teens from Iraq. Our intention with every visit is to inspire with practical ideas and great modeling from staff, demonstrating the peaceful possibilities of principled nonviolence in everyday

Programs: New & Continuing

NEW: Youth Healing Hate



In 2016, the United States experienced a rise in hate crimes. Locally, individuals and communities have been targeted due to religion, sexuality, and ethnicity.

As a response, and to support a sense of agency among area youth, the Gandhi Institute funded eight innovative projects last January that utilized the arts, outreach, and creative educational techniques to promote nonviolence. Over 900 community members participated.

Program Examples:

- Peace Mural & Restorative Circle with Police Officers
- Painting Peace: A Day of Reflection and Discussion
- Art Shakedown

"The conversations that, students, teachers, and police officers were able to have with one another were open, honest, and kind hearted... When people from all walks of life come together they find things they have in common, relax, and forget about the stereotypes they once had."

NEW: Greenhouse

In partnership with Seedfolk City Farm and two University of Rochester professors and their students, a brand new 24'x24' greenhouse was constructed last fall and is now in use!



CONTINUING: Gandhi Service Fellows



For the seventh year, we offered intensive support to six undergraduate Gandhi Service Fellows to study nonviolence. Each fellow designed and implemented a service project to gain a better understanding of nonviolence as an internal, interpersonal, and structural approach to social change.

This year's projects included:

- UR Stars in Service: A campaign that seeks to allow University of Rochester service workers the opportunity to share their life stories and talents to the student body.
- Collection of winter clothing and foods for homeless shelters around Rochester and publishing interviews to dispel the stigma around homelessness.
- Exploring and documenting the relationship between the African-American community and the police in Rochester.

Community Outreach & Training

6,000 People, 136 Events

The Gandhi Institute offered a variety of learning experiences and workshops to faith communities, Rochester Americorps members, activist groups, and many others. These included:

- Let's Talk about Hate
- Conversations on Race
- Nonviolent Communication Classes and series
- Four Day Nonviolence Intensive

"I found the workshop on Saturday deeply inspiring and full of wisdom! I loved the process for community building also. To me, it seemed like everyone was very engaged. I am using the insights and tools from Saturday every day." -Rev. Dr. Pat Youngdahl, Pastor of Downtown Presbyterian Church & Co-Chair of Center for Spirituality, Arts, and Justice Center

We continued to host and organize for nationally and internationally recognized thought leaders in restorative justice, nonviolence, and social transformation, such as Dr. Christina Watlington, Dr. Malik Muhammed, and Dominic Barter.

Participant Reflections

"I learned practical and personal involvement and activities that are important to [implement] in ourselves and our thinking"

"When you [learn to] teach teachers, you are working with the future"

"It was wonderful to see different networks working on issues of trauma, anti-racism and culturally relevant curriculum, and restorative practices all together on Saturday. It felt very hopeful."



This Year in Photos



Clockwise from top left: Participants in our February Nonviolence Intensive; Carlos Sanchez performs at Gandhi Institute Benefit Concert; meet and greet at our 6th Annual Open House; Univeristy of Rochester students and Seedfolk youth work together to build our new greenhouse; board meeting selfie; Dominic Barter visits Rochester; Kit meets with Onondaga elder Freida Jacques; Hoody leads Peace in the Garden with Freedom School children.

Thank You!

The Gandhi Institute extends heartfelt gratitude to all individuals, organizations, and foundations that have made our work possible this fiscal year.