

CREATING A PEACEFUL COMMUNITY IN THE CLASSROOM

FOR: TEACHERS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

This professional development workshop for teachers introduces the nonviolent philosophy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr as a way of teaching peace and justice while building community and good will in the classroom.

By integrating the use of songs, improvisational theatre exercises, stories and literature from the American Civil Rights Movement, students become empowered with the understanding that a nonviolence approach is a viable means with which to solve conflicts in all of it's forms.

Methods and materials used:

- Role-play, exercises with historical songs and stories from the Civil Rights Movement
- Collaborative writing and visual arts exercises that enhance empathy and the peace process
- Description of Martin Luther King's Six Principles and Steps of Nonviolence

WHO:

VICTORIA CHRISTGAU

Peace Educator -Founder/Executive Director
Connecticut Center for Nonviolence,
A Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute
Level II Certified in Kingian Nonviolence
Conflict Reconciliation

DEBBY DEGUIRE

Peace Educator - Veteran Montessori Teacher
Certified in Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation

FORMAT:

One full day or
Two to Four Hour workshops

WHY: In 2001 the National Center for Education statistics stated that students between the ages of 12 and 18 are victims to 2.5 million crimes of violence or theft at school each year. By the time children are between the ages of 8-12 they should have well-developed values such as empathy and caring. If these values do not develop, as they should, then antisocial behavior such as bullying and aggression will be evident by third grade. Therefore, early grade intervention and teaching is imperative. Nonviolence education provides the necessary support and ideals that help children develop a sense of morality, justice, honesty and kindness. It is not a "program" taught in isolation of all other aspects of the school day. Rather, nonviolence is a way of life; a manner by which all people can live in harmony with those around them.

Nonviolence teaches children to solve all conflicts, whether large or small, using nonviolent, peace keeping skills. Conflicts are solved, and are not repeated, because reconciliation is the goal.

*From Robin Wildman Nonviolence Education Manual for Teachers

FACULTY:

Victoria Christgau, Founder / Executive Director of the emerging Connecticut Center for Nonviolence, A Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute. A Teaching Artist with the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism, Arts Division. Founder of the 17th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commemoration of Litchfield County CT, certified in Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation, by Dr. Bernard LaFayette, former executive staff member for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Director of the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies, at the University of Rhode Island. Victoria works in numerous schools throughout the country leading Peace / Arts Residencies and conducting Kingian Nonviolence trainings with Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr. and others.

Debby DeGuire, Montessori Directress for over 20 years. Montessori's Education for Peace profoundly moved her to become certified and to teach. She incorporates the principles of not only Dr. Montessori but also Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi in her classroom. For over a decade she has collaborated with Peace Educator, Victoria Christgau in a variety of events and venues dedicated to teaching and celebrating peace and humanity. The children of Litchfield Montessori School in CT. have participated regularly in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Commemorative Events.

Debby delights in directing Shakespeare's plays with her students and has been following a ten-year tradition, celebrating Shakespeare's legacy.

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