

YOUTH AND PEACE IN ACTION: ENGAGING 100,000 COMMUNITY PEACEBUILDERS

“Would you like more Peace?”

New Peace Education Initiative

By May Yoneyama O'Brien, District International Service Committee Co-chair

Two Rotary Peace Fellows, Ana Patel and Patricia Shafer, announced a new Peace education initiative, “Youth & Peace in Action (YPA): Engaging 100,000 Community Peacebuilders,” at the Rotary Zone 33/34 Leadership Summit on November 21, 2020. Ana opened the “IMPACT” Breakout by asking Rotarians, “Would you like more Peace?” The Peace Fellows outlined plans to create models for peace education, training, and mentoring for the new zone-wide education project to begin in 2021-22. Rotarians, clubs and districts will be provided “YPA” road maps and toolkits and will be offered many opportunities to participate in the new program.

RI Director Peter Kyle is leading this signature initiative, and, as former chair of the Rotary Peace Centers, has been involved in Rotary’s peacebuilding agenda for years. Inspired by the work of Rotary Peace

Fellows, Peter, Ana and Patricia together have designed a project that they believe could “harness the enormous potential . . . that Rotarians have to become community Peacebuilders.”

Peter pointed to the already existing peace education resources in Rotary

is composed of nine states, Washington, DC, most countries in the Caribbean, and three countries in South America.

Ana Patel described the motivation for the program:

“Rotary was created to take on bold and ambitious goals. Polio, hunger, and clean water are some of the many initiatives that the united work of thousands of Rotarians has resulted in global impacts and progress. And yet, all of these goals also require peace. They require peaceful communities where all people have the opportunity to reach their highest potential.

“Peacebuilding is the ultimate work of Rotary. From its history in establishing the United Nations to the expanding work of the Peace Centers, Rotary was established to further the work of peace through community and service, club by club, district by district, and zone by zone. In zones 33 and 34 we have an opportunity to develop a model for translating the Rotary

goal of peacebuilding into real action on the ground, a model, I believe, that will influence and inspire Rotarians across the world.

(continued on page 8)



Zones 33/34, including the Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center in North Carolina, the 144 Peace Fellows, and several Rotary Peace clubs and districts. The pilot project will begin in Zones 33/34, which