



# PeaceBuilders® PeaceRelease

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## In This Issue

[Revitalizing PeaceBuilders  
Activity Ideas](#)

[PeaceBuilder in History:  
Martin Luther King, Jr.](#)

[Book Suggestions](#)

## Quick Links

[www.peacebuilders.com](http://www.peacebuilders.com)

[PeaceReleaseArchives](#)

[Check it Out!](#)

[PeaceBuilder of the Month](#)

[No Name-Calling Week](#)

## Dear Partners,

This is such an exciting time of year. We are all looking at a clean slate and endless opportunities to build peace and to empower young people to help create peaceful environments.

This year, what a difference we can make if we all commit to beginning the New Year with the same enthusiasm we had when we first began using PeaceBuilders. At your site, you might hold a site-wide New Year kick-off: an assembly, a parade, a peace campaign (see activity section below) or any other fun and meaningful PeaceBuilding event.

Yes, PeaceBuilders is a way of life. It is something we are, not something we merely think or talk about. But all treasured principles, attributes and behaviors must be nurtured or they will wither. It is our responsibility as adult PeaceBuilders and role-models to ensure that building peace is a daily occurrence and that everyone is involved. Everyone, young and old, must realize that their participation is vital if we want to create a lasting, peaceful environment.

Our enthusiasm will spill over and let our colleagues, our young associates, and our community members know that building peace is our mission, not just a temporary fad.

Happy New Year, PeaceBuilders!

**Revitalizing PeaceBuilders Activity Ideas:** These activities will help pump up the PeaceBuilders enthusiasm at your site.

### **Staff Activity**

***PraiseCircle:*** Break the staff into groups of about ten people and have each group form a circle. One person volunteers to go first by stepping into the middle of the circle and choosing someone to praise. After the praise is given, the praised person takes his/her turn in the middle and praises someone new. The only rule is that the person in the middle must choose someone who has not yet been praised. This ensures that everyone gives and receives praise. It also encourages us to find the good in people that we do not necessarily know well or work closely with, and therefore, it builds a sense of unity.

### **Classroom or Small Group Activities**

***Weekly PraiseCircle:*** At the beginning of the day on Monday or at the end of the day on Friday, hold a weekly PraiseCircle to give young people an opportunity to practice praising others (see the Staff Activity above.) \*Passing a ball of yarn from one person to another as a





