

TANENBAUM

2016 NEWSLETTER

TANENBAUM | CENTER FOR INTERRELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING • NOVEMBER 2016



Credit: Nicole Margarettan

OLYMPIC IMPACT

The children paraded onto the field at Boys and Girls High School in Brooklyn. “Here comes Greece!” The announcer shouted as students with golden leaves in their hair held up a banner and waved Greek flags. Under a blue sky, more than 1,100 students from across New York City had converged for a day of summer games and teamwork.

As stories of classroom bullying receive national attention, Tanenbaum responded with a six-part webinar series on our *World Olympics for All* curriculum, and educators reaching 80,000 students annually took part. Then, throughout the summer, even more kids became involved when educators from 23 NYC after-school programs used the curriculum as part of a partnership between Tanenbaum and the Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD).

Tanenbaum’s Deputy CEO, Rev. Mark Fowler, described how the *World Olympics for All Webinar Series* and curriculum help stop bullying. “*Educators are busy professionals. Our World Olympics program offers step-by-step strategies and resources they can use to create a fun and engaging classroom that meets learning standards and where children feel safe.*”

Rev. Fowler continued, “*Not only does World Olympics help kids learn that being different is normal, but it also promotes physical and socio-emotional health.*”

The students’ final Olympic games were a momentous affair, held in partnership with Nike’s Marathon Kids program and Up2Us Sports. After the parade of nations, students divided into groups to play a myriad of games – and you could see how kids had learned to practice respect and inclusion.

Inside the gymnasium, we spotted one girl standing apart, shyly watching a group playing with hula-hoops. Suddenly, her classmates began encouraging her to join in. We watched as she began to smile – and then she picked up a hula-hoop and joined the fun.

Do you teach or know an educator? The *World Olympics for All Webinar Series* is still available. And there are many students who need protection from bullying. Visit Tanenbaum.org to sign up for free today!

The Continuum of Peace



Dear Friends,

These are challenging times. Division is our new reality, and we're facing a pivotal moment in our world's history. But we have a choice: We can opt to pursue the *Continuum of Peace*. Or, we can get trapped in the continuum of hate.

Please pause and look at the *Continuum of Peace* below. From the center to the left, we see how peace can be achieved, step-by-step. But from the center to the right, is the continuum of hate. It starts with ignorance and disinformation, and that fuels stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination. These attitudes and behaviors can lead to bullying, harassment and violent hate crimes. From there, it's a treacherous road that leads to terrorism, war and genocide.

At Tanenbaum, we pursue peace by interrupting the trajectory of hate. Take one practical example: This summer, through our *World Olympics for All* program, we helped prevent the bullying of 1,100 New York City students. Or consider the impact of our *Peacemakers*. At our summer working retreat, they shared critical information about how they counter extremism in their countries—ideas and approaches that may help others across the globe.

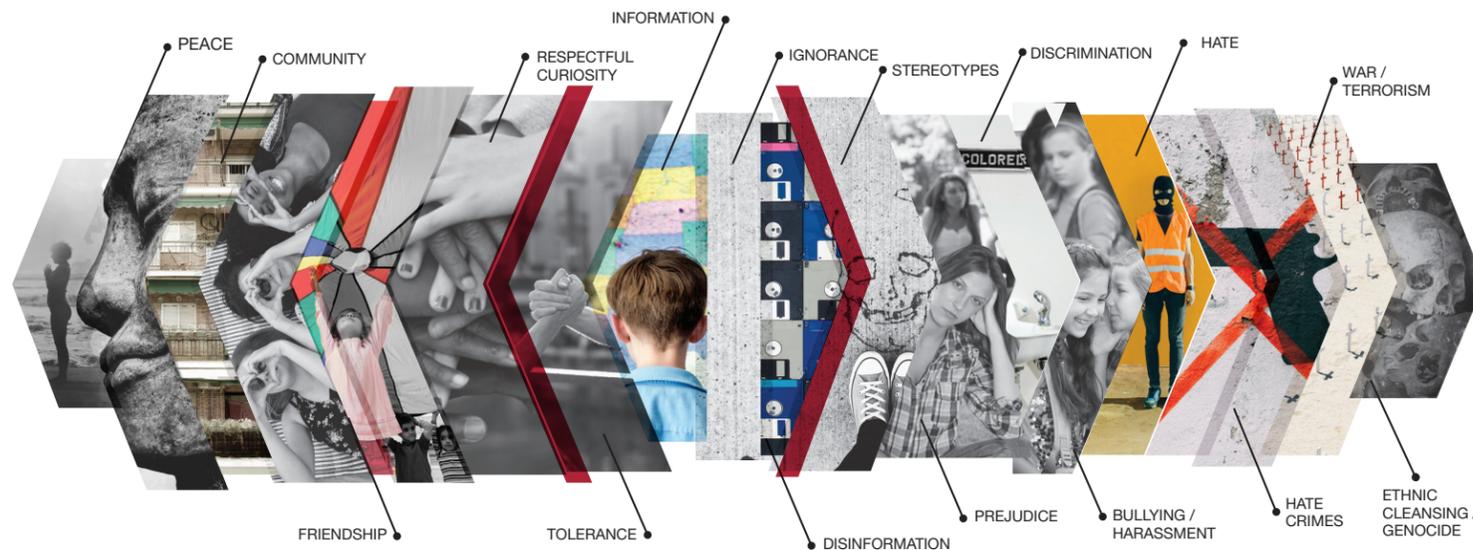
Together, we can stop the division by working toward the *Continuum of Peace*. We can move beyond mere tolerance—toward friendship, community ... and peace.

As Tanenbaum approaches our 25th anniversary, I'm proud of all we're accomplishing together, and excited about what we'll achieve in the years ahead.

Yours,

Joyce S. Dubensky
Tanenbaum CEO

THE CONTINUUM OF PEACE



Peacemakers Share Strategies for Peace

“ We at Tanenbaum help one another.... So, we are not just *Peacemakers in Action* coming for a retreat. We come and strategize with Tanenbaum and take it back [to our countries], and together we are supporting each other in their work. In their villages, in their cities and in their countries.”

“Ending Religious Wars Peacefully”, The Brian Lehrer Show
Peacemaker Pastor James Wuye | Nigeria

That is how our Nigerian *Peacemaker* Pastor James Wuye described his work with Tanenbaum during a radio interview with renowned broadcast journalist (and Tanenbaum 2015 Media Bridge Builder honoree) Brian Lehrer. With his fellow *Peacemaker* from Bosnia, Friar Ivo Markovic, Pastor James described how the *Peacemakers* draw from their faith and create grassroots initiatives to address conflicts around the world—like Pastor James and his partner, Imam Muhammad Ashafa's program for helping kidnapping survivors of Boko Haram heal from trauma.

The interview was just one of the exciting activities for our *Peacemakers*, when Tanenbaum convened them for an eight-day *Peacemakers Network Working Retreat*. Each Retreat has its own unique focus and this one focused on gender and extremism, as *Peacemakers* shared strategies and ideas for including women and combating violent extremists.

In addition, we co-hosted two panels at the United Nations headquarters on alternative approaches to combating extremism and relationship building for peace. The room was packed with diplomats, peace-building practitioners, academics and interested members of civil society who came to hear Tanenbaum and our *Peacemakers* share their strategies and stories.

As always, the week was special, as the opportunity to be together with the *Peacemakers* occurs only once every few years. We were excited to have 18 of our 26 *Peacemakers* with us, and to know they will apply new strategies they learned to their work in global conflict and post-conflict zones (including Syria, Colombia, South Africa, the Philippines and Israel).

Today, we so often feel helpless, and hopeless, as random acts of terror, hatred and exclusion occur in the U.S. and across the world. Tanenbaum *Peacemakers* remind us there is reason for hope.



Tanenbaum *Peacemakers in Action* with Tanenbaum CEO Joyce S. Dubensky and Chair of the Board, Justin Foa.

“ It is a blessing, really a blessing to have so many people with different experiences and to listen to what they have done in war situations. That is very inspiring.”

– **Peacemaker Friar Ivo Markovic | Bosnia**

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Photo: Tanenbaum Peacemaker in Action Sakena Yacoobi with student | Afghan Institute of Learning



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