



(Culture Promoters - Community Learning Center - Member of Cities of Peace Inc.™ USA)

Our aim is to make children feel safe in an environment that is often not safe through drawing of Mandalas for Peace and Mindfulness.

### **Activities**

I run workshops as a way to help children who have lost parents in conflict and crisis in Kenya, getting each one of them express their feelings through colors and painting in order to improve their mental health and wellbeing. Since the project started several years ago, I have implemented educational programs for peace at child-friendly level. There are currently 17 countries participating in these efforts. My art and education for peace program has been so successful in the areas of peace and international cooperation, and there are currently international cooperative art exchanges around the world.

### **How our international peace, culture/art program works:**

Started 11 years ago, as "Peace Circle Project" with Japan, Kenya and Argentina as partners, the Mandala Project was simply to bring echoes of Peace to the world.

During the 2008 Beijing Olympics, we created and exhibited Mandalas featuring the flags of 192 countries, each adorned with prayers for peace in multiple languages. We have shared the desire for peace with people from all walks of life from around the world.

Since 2021, we have held exhibitions in several other countries, and delivered over 4,000 Mandala Gift Cards with words that express peace, love and unity to the world. The UK, Ukraine, Russia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Nigeria, Turkey, Spain, South Africa have received their Mandalas, and we have received many positive responses from elsewhere.

In Kenya, most of the children have been directly affected by conflict and crisis. I have been taking them out under the trees and engaging them in education, art and cultural activities. It became the first peace school in Kenya, as is now being called "Classroom Without Walls"

The children read to each other the words on their Mandala cards, and wrote their own Mandalas, feeling the echoes of the words in their hearts. They wrote words such as, "Love and Peace to all."

Activities like these are a great way for children to grow up knowing the importance of peace. And it was making a difference in the lives of the adults too!

We have expressed our desire to participate in such activities more INTERNATIONALLY. Why don't we have an Internet Classroom for the Children? If only we could connect them with the rest of the world. This hope is spreading from each of the stories carried by the Mandala Gift Cards!



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