

## **Community Garden for Peace Project**

### **A Peace Garden - a place of . . .**

- celebration
- cooperation
- encounter
- reconciliation
- quiet
- healing
- remembrance
- sustainability
- community building
- hope
- learning

### **Vision:**

Giving life to peace

**Peace gardens** are a great way of bringing communities together to plan, work and care for a common project for the enjoyment of all. They help us to think of what peace could mean, look like, feel like, when we start to consider the shape, color, types of plants, symbols, messages, spaces we want to create in our own Peace Garden. They help us to consider our immediate environment. It nurtures growth and healing. It invites people and nature to come together. It creates opportunities for learning how we can care for the earth and one another.

### **Why?**

- To offer a space of quiet where people can go when injured or to offer reconciliation to one another.
- To remember those who have suffered or died through violence.
- To create a place of celebration/commemoration of people in the community who have given meaning to unity, forgiveness or peacemaking.
- To make a 'teaching' space where peace is explored in nature and where symbols of peace can be created through sculptures, art, music, story-telling.
- To make a place where 'leaver' pupils create messages or symbols of their hopes for peace to leave younger pupils.
- To build cooperation between local institutions (schools, churches, mosques, etc.,) and neighborhood - involving the whole community.
- To create a sustainable space that needs to be cared for brings us into contact with the cycles of nature.
- To create a place where food can be grown and shared with the community

### **Where?**

- On the peace school site at Nkoilale village, Masai Mara Game Reserve in Kenya.

## **Getting Started - Checklist**

✓ Who is this project for?

All the adults and children in Maasai Mara Rift Valley in Kenya, City of Peace.

✓ Who will be involved in making it happen and who will benefit from it?

A working group of parents and teachers shall take on the responsibility for the project.

✓ What is the distinct “peace” message or theme that you want to communicate through this project?

Envisaging a world without violence is an essential step on the journey towards a more peaceful world - for adults and children alike.

✓ What space do you have and how do you plan to use it?

The planning and design of the garden is itself a work of art - art work as part of the project - images produced by the children shall include white doves (symbols of peace), rainbows (representing the covenant with creation), and the nuclear disarmament logo.

✓ How will you go about involving people in your school or community?

Through significant education, work and discussions.

✓ What skills/practical/material/financial resources do you have available, and what do you need to find?

The peace school already offers outdoor classes, we only need a large gazebo to provide a shaded area, to enhance educational opportunities for the children and teachers of the peace school, and a large garden with a water source to plant a better food forest.

✓ How will you fund the project?

Asking for help and goods in kind, suitable sponsorship and grants (USD. 1,000,000).

## **Justification**

Gandhi once said “If we want peace we must begin with our children”. So, we want to promote a peaceful, orderly and happy school community through a positive system of support.

## **The aims of the project are to**

- Foster a spirit of cooperation and a sense of community.
- Teach respect for person and property.
- Utilize children’s creativity and harness valuable energy and ideas.
- Impart a sense of discipline by following rules.
- Promote the ethos of helping and trusting one another.
- Provide an opportunity for children to consider their own behavior.

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