ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018

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DLAYforDEACE



When we meet with Play for Peace clubs around the world, the joy and pride we feel is overwhelming. With a team of over 3,000 people spanning more than 40 countries, every day we work as champions for a more peaceful world. It is the consistency of practice and our decades-long commitment that distinguishes Play for Peace from other organizations. We help hundreds of communities in conflict to create and nurture compassion, friendship, and meaningful collaboration.

THE REALITY TODAY

One in six children lives in war zones today and new zones of conflict emerge every year¹. What's more, 22.5 million people worldwide are seeking safety across international borders and half of them are children. Thousands of these children take flight without the protection of parents or other family members.

Statistics show that promoting peace in areas at risk for violent conflict is both ethically sound and economically viable—for every \$1 invested in peace building, there is a potential \$16 reduction in the cost of armed conflict². The answer? Peace education and training in communities and regions experiencing conflict. Time and again we see the Play for Peace experience helping people create environments where joy and unity thrive. Communities shift from feelings of disconnection and fear to those of inspiration, collaboration, and trust. And most importantly, new leaders for peace are born.

A YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This year we have witnessed remarkable global reach, demonstrating the power of our partnerships and networks. Of particular note are these efforts:

- Our "Why We Play" campaign, which focused on transforming communities that currently face xenophobia and violence into places of inclusion and trust
- The initiation of regional coordinators on multiple continents to oversee and support members, clubs, and communities; organize global exchanges and events; and collaborate with other Play for Peace partners

- Multiple ways for supporters to help fund our work, including "Amplifiers," to support us continuously throughout the year; "Mobilizers," to stimulate fundraising campaigns; and "Investors," who are committed long term to our future work.
- Extraordinary examples of growth into new countries, including the Netherlands, Costa Rica, and Italy

LOOKING AHEAD

Twenty years ago, we never could have imagined that the call for peace and compassion would resonate as it does today. In the following stories, you will see the power of our work and how our relationships continue to travel to new communities across the globe. We join hands with our partners around the world in commitment to this critical work and are grateful to the many people who make our efforts possible.



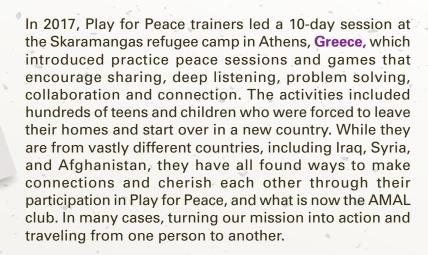
Save the Children

² 2017 Global Peace Index



Play for Peace is more than a program or handbook of activities. It is a long-term process, not a one-time project. Guided by the Play for Peace mission and core values of cooperation, inclusion, caring, and fun, community members do more than participate in the Play for Peace process—the process becomes a part of who they are. These stories illustrate the lasting impact Play for Peace has had around the globe, expanding to new regions and creating peacemakers who are spreading our mission and creating laughter, compassion, and peace in their communities.

A Source of Anspiration



Leaps and Bounds

Rayan Salam is one of the young people at Skaramangas who had to flee his home. When he was only 16, he and his family traveled from his hometown in Iraq to Turkey and then to the coast of Greece. They had planned to apply for asylum in Germany, but at the time, the country had stopped accepting refugees. Consequently, Rayan spent three months in Skaramangas, where he was introduced to Play for Peace. The program inspired him so much that he became a trainer.

After a year and a half in Greece, Rayan and his family were granted asylum in the **Netherlands** and in 2017 went to live in a refugee camp in Musselkanaal. There, Rayan received support from Roel Knijnenburg of the National Refugee Organization in the Netherlands. The two organized a Play for Peace session at the camp, where over 60 children joined to play. Encouraged by their success, the Play for Peace program was implemented as a regular activity, with sessions running twice a week.

One aspect of Play for Peace that Roel finds so valuable is that the cooperative play sessions are carried out by youth leaders who live in the refugee camp. They intimately understand the experiences of the children there and are passionate about passing along what they've learned from Play for Peace.



Crossing Oceans

In 2017, when mentors Fernando Bonilla and Diego Madrigal volunteered at the Skaramangas refugee camp in Greece, they learned how cooperative play is a powerful tool for reducing violence in communities affected by conflict. They immediately sensed the impact Play for Peace would have in La Carpio, a community of more than 35,000 people outside of San José, **Costa Rica**. The population there—mainly Nicaraguan immigrants—is plagued by unemployment, crime, and drug use.

Upon their return from Greece, Fernando and Diego started a Play for Peace club at a local community center that offers a safe space for education and extracurricular activities, such as music, arts, and sports. Regular practice peace sessions there focus on nonviolent communication and reach 20 to 30 children every weekend.



Joining Hands

Meet Olimpia Theodoli, the founder of Crete for Life*, an organization in **Crete** that runs an annual month-long summer camp for Belarusian children whose families were affected by the Chernobyl tragedy. Olimpia, who was present when the AMAL club was born, was so inspired by what she saw that she asked the club's youth to work with Crete for Life. However, language barriers made it difficult for the AMAL youth to facilitate Play for Peace sessions with the children.

Recognizing the challenge, in 2017 Crete for Life invited Swati and Agyat to mentor the AMAL club members so they could better facilitate the sessions. In the 13 days and many Play for Peace sessions that followed, challenges became opportunities. Language barriers became less difficult, and friendship and connection evolved. By the second week, the AMAL club youth and the Belarusian children became one group, going to the beach together and socializing in the afternoons. The program was so successful that it continued in 2018 with Play for Peace groups from Galilee, Israel, and the Skaramangas refugee camp.

*Crete for Life is a nonprofit organization that, among other activities, supports sick and disadvantaged children by offering them a restorative summer holiday in Crete.



New Countries, New Cultures

Always looking for the next opportunity, Olimpia Theodoli connected Swati and Agyat with Federica Lazzarini, founder of the Wonderland Association in Genoa, Italy. The Wonderland Association supports refugees who have suffered loss and struggled with displacement. In Genoa, there is a large male population in refugee camps, most of who have come from Africa to create better lives. Their path there is daunting: many are immigrant workers who escaped the horrors of war in Nepal, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

With Federica's support, Swati and Agyat conducted a two-day workshop in Genoa, hosting participants from 11 different countries: Mali, Gambia, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Italy, USA, Brazil and India. It was here that a new Play for Peace club was successfully founded, now known as the Play for Peace Maza Club.

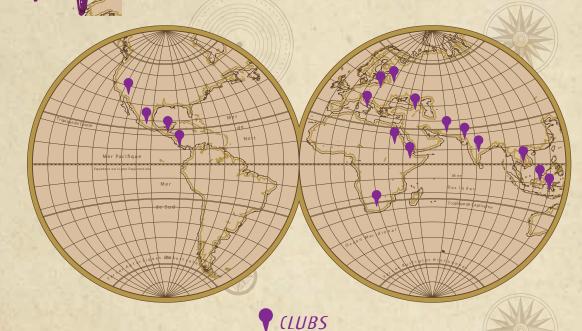
Even with these refugees extreme circumstances, new leaders were fostered, expanding the possibility of peace within the community and promoting positive relationships across cultural, religious, and other divides.



Play for Peace in 2017 - 2018



The Play for Peace Community



- Costa Rica
- Greece
- Guatemala
- India
- Italy

- Israel
- Mexico
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- Pakistan
- Philippines
- Senegal
- South Africa
- South Sudan
- Sri Lanka
- Switzerland
- United States
- Vietnam

HOW PLAY FOR PEACE HAS IMPACTED COMMUNITIES



of youth and adult leaders feel that Play for Peace helps them feel more moments of joy and hope.



of youth and adult leaders feel that they are a **more compassionate** since joining Play for Peace.



of Play for Peace youth leaders report having made more **friends from different backgrounds** since joining Play for Peace.



of residents in areas with Play for Peace feel that the organization helps their communities to be **more compassionate**



We could not do the work we do without the incredible donations of time, talent, and expertise from those who make up the Play for Peace global community, including board members, staff, trainers, mentors, youth leaders, donors, and volunteers. With tremendous gratitude, we recognize their contributions during the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- * John Guarrine, Chair
- * Steve Proudman, Vice Chair
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- * Linda Hartman-Reehl, Director

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- * Michael Terrien

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- * Lisa Gelsomino, Fall 5K Run/Walk Coordinator
- * Aidan Hennessy, Messenger of Peace & Founder of Walk for Peace
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- * Dian Mitrayani, Evaluation & Research Global Coordinator
- * Archana Magar, Community Events & Training Coordinator





This report shows Play for Peace financial activities for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2018. It has been reviewed by Dana & Co. and approved by Play for Peace board member and treasurer, Kevin Creely.

| | CASH | W KIND | TOTAL | PERCENTAGE |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Administration | \$44,927 | \$20,050 | \$64,976 | 9% |
| Development | \$55,141 | \$34,985 | \$90,126 | 12% |
| Programming | \$85,242 | \$486,160 | \$571,402 | 79% |
| Total | \$185,310 | \$541,194 | \$726,503 | 100% |