

A large, circular image showing a group of hands of various skin tones stacked in a circle, palms facing up. The hands are of different ages and are adorned with various bracelets and jewelry. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple and orange gradient. A white curved line separates the top half from the bottom half of the image.

# ANNUAL REPORT

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2018/2019



## PLAY FOR PEACE

Right now, 500 million people live in countries in conflict, in communities divided by discrimination, hate, and fear. 1 in 6 children live in war zones.

## OUR MISSION

Play for Peace works to bring together children, youth, and organizations in communities affected by conflict, using cooperative play to create laughter, compassion, and peace.

## OUR VISION

To ignite learning initiatives in regions around the globe, networking as one unified community that contributes to a more peaceful world.

## FROM THE PLAY FOR PEACE COMMUNITY

"PFP is my soul and peace is my wish."

**- Arif, mentor, India**

"I brought Play for Peace to my country because I saw the magic, I saw how it worked." -

**Fernando, mentor, Costa Rica**

"Every day when we started working, we only had to clap and the kids came. That one clap made the kids gather around in a circle—both the local kids and the visitors. That one clap was enough to bring people, cultures, nations, and languages together."

**- Ahlam, youth leader, Israel.**

"As a Play for Peace partner, we introduce the concept of nation-building with the integration of fun, collaboration, compassion, and inclusion—all values of Play for Peace."

**- Chad, trainer, Philippines**



In a world that wants to label us by where we are from, what we look like or what languages we speak, we are:

Defining our identity and creating our own paths.

Choosing to live by and teach compassion.

Developing heartfelt connections across long-held divisions and hate.

Building our communities to be places where everyone is welcome and can live in peace.

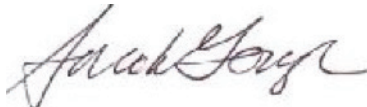
We are kind. We are brave. We are resilient. We are choosing compassion, connection, and community.

### **We are Play for Peace.**

Over the past year, Play for Peace's community members, youth leaders, and child participants have been breaking down stereotypes and lifting up spirits. We're using cooperative play to bring together communities of people of different backgrounds, religions, and races, spotlighting their strengths as people who can create a more peaceful world together.

During our Practice Peace Sessions, our "Positive Identity Signs" exercise—one of the many important Play for Peace games and activities—highlights this effort, asking each person to choose a printed sign that lists an admirable trait or quality about themselves. Everyone then reads off his or her "I am" statement out loud for all to hear. In the spirit of this beloved activity, we share some important Play for Peace milestones in 2019 that demonstrate a few of these qualities—traits we will continue to emulate in the years to come.

Thank you for your interest in our community,



Executive Director, Play for Peace



## I am strong

For two years, Play for Peace Sri Lanka has been working to create peace in communities dealing with violence and cultural divides. Sadly, in April 2019, our community faced the deadly Easter bombings, when suicide bombers detonated explosives in churches and hotels in Colombo, Sri Lanka, killing more than 250 people and devastating the country. While people in our community were greatly affected, **their commitment to peace remained strong**. Just months after the tragic terrorist attack, we hosted three successful training sessions there, teaching participants the importance of inclusion, how cooperative games can bring joy to others, and more.



## I am kind

Every day, hundreds of migrants pass through Huehuetoca, Mexico—a small municipality one hour north of Mexico City—on a perilous journey to find a better life. Thanks to a local rest house and the compassion of groups like Play for Peace Mexico, migrants can find care and support along the way. In December 2018, our club collected donations, such as sweaters, jackets, and condoms on behalf of the organization, Orgullo Ecatepec for refugees seeking shelter and basic necessities.

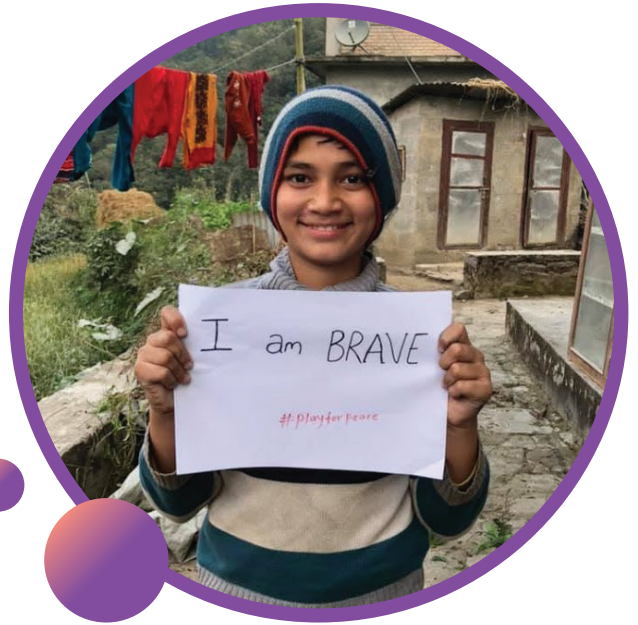
**We are proud of the kindness of our club members**, and that they will continue to support the migrants passing through in any way they can.





## I am Brave

A Play for Peace youth facilitator in Palencia, Guatemala, 24-year-old Henry “Nacho” Ignacio Pedrosa lives in a community struggling with high levels of violence. Six years ago, **he was brave enough to defy many in his community and end the cycle of violence**; Nacho joined a violence prevention program implemented by Play for Peace in alliance with USAID. During that time, he was trained as a facilitator of cooperative games who can bring together children in the community to create joy and trust. Although today he is a traffic police officer, local children still ask him to lead them in cooperative games. He works with his church community on issues of family unity and domestic violence—common issues in Guatemala—helping them to break through barriers and create honesty and trust. Play for Peace has offered Nacho the training, tools, and experience to tackle these issues in an effective, yet sensitive way, and as a result he has positively impacted the lives of many.



## I am Resilient

In October 2018, the refugee camp in Musselkanaal, Netherlands, closed its doors after 25 years, despite community protest. All remaining inhabitants of the refugee camp were relocated, including most of the young people who formed the Play for Peace club there. Roel, the club's mentor, was transferred to Ter Apel, another refugee camp nearby, and was determined to support a new Play for Peace program there. A few months later, Play for Peace youth leader Rayan Salam, who started the club in Musselkanaal, came to Ter Apel to introduce the youth there to the idea of Play for Peace. A week later, 35 youth participated in a Play for Peace training and were soon committed to meeting every Saturday for more training and play sessions. **Thanks to the resilience of Roel and Rayan**, Play for Peace is now thriving at Ter Apel.





# PLAY FOR PEACE IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

The Play for Peace Community was extremely active this year. Here are a few highlights of concrete achievements:



## FUNDRAISING

- Fall 5K Run/Walk in Bartlett, IL (over \$40,000)



## COMMUNITY WIDE ACTIVITIES

- Peace Day Celebrations all over the world
- Community Survey Data Collection
- Kikori/Play for Peace partnership developed and beta app launched
- Community and clubs participated in Global Games to support our #LiveLaughter campaign, Interfaith Harmony Week and Earth Week
- 20th Anniversary Celebration (reaching almost 13,000 people)



## TRAINING

- Refugee Camp in the Netherlands Training
- Advanced Training and support to Sri Lankan Clubs
- Play for Peace Pakistan Mentor-led a teacher training



## CLUB HAPPENINGS

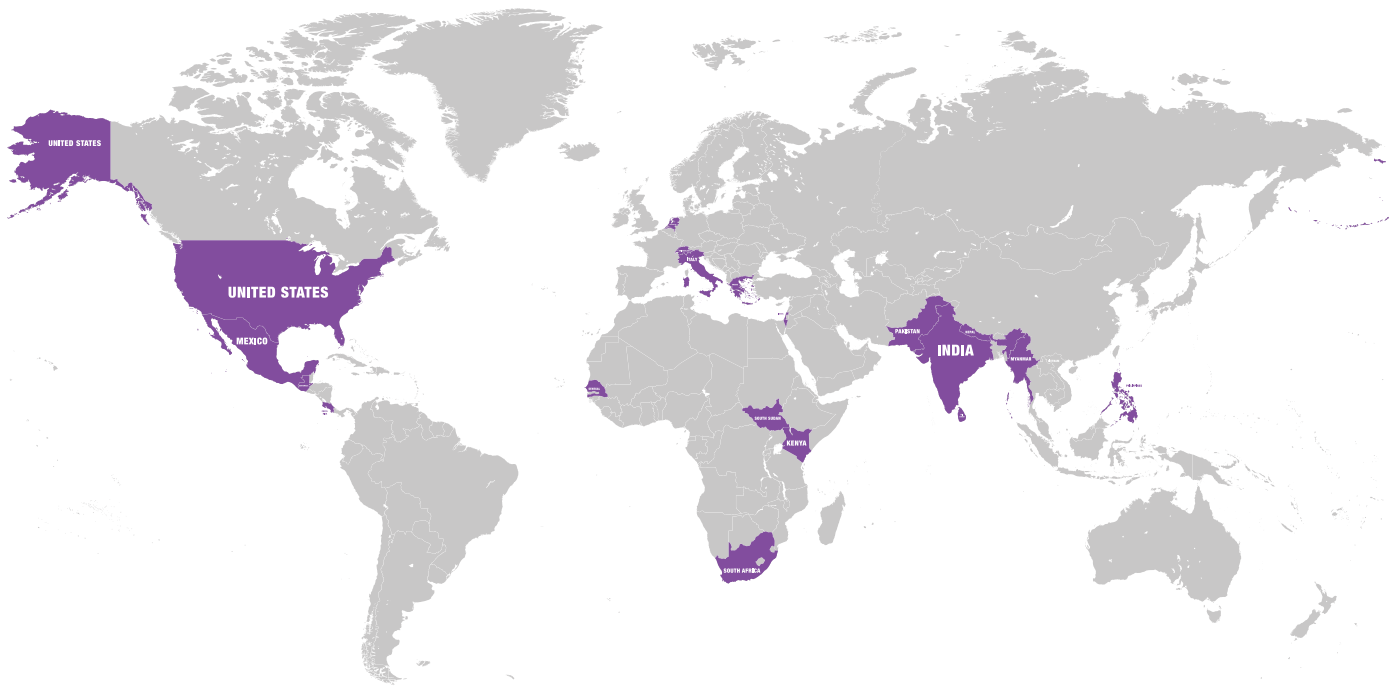
- Sa'eed Diabat, trainer from Israel led a Play for Peace workshop in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with a potential new partner
- Play for Peace Club in Senegal hosted a summer Camp for street children
- Play for Peace Clubs in Nepal and Senegal organized community clean up projects
- Palestinian Israeli Play for Peace Club youth facilitators traveled to Greece to lead Play for Peace activities at a summer camp for victims of Chernobyl and were interviewed on TV when they returned home
- New Play for Peace Clubs were launched in Burundi and Kenya





# PLAY FOR PEACE GLOBAL COMMUNITY DATA

## List of Countries with Play for Peace Clubs



1. Costa Rica
2. Greece
3. Guatemala
4. India
5. Israel

6. Italy
7. Kenya
8. Mexico
9. Myanmar
10. Nepal

11. Netherlands
12. Pakistan
13. Philippines
14. Senegal
15. South Africa

16. South Sudan
17. Sri Lanka
18. Switzerland
19. USA
20. Vietnam

### United States Clubs

- Heart of Los Angeles
- Journey House *(in development)*
- ISU *(in development)*
- UNL *(in development)*

## IMPACT STATISTICS

**97%**

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

**85%**

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

**92%**

Youth and adult leaders feel that they are a more compassionate person since joining Play for Peace.

**83%**

Residents surveyed feel that Play for Peace helps their communities be more compassionate.





## IN RECOGNITION

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 2018-2019 fiscal year.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# PLAY FOR PEACE FINANCIALS 2018-2019

This report depicts Play for Peace financial activities for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2019. It has been reviewed by Dana & Co. and approved by Play for Peace board member and treasurer, Kevin Creely.

