

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Lisa Parker - Founder, Peace Day Philly**

215-688-6127 / [lisa@peacedayphilly.org](mailto:lisa@peacedayphilly.org), Twitter: @peacedayphilly

## Annual Peace Day Philly Initiative Celebrates International Day of Peace

**Philadelphia, PA - August 30, 2016** - For the sixth consecutive year, the grassroots initiative Peace Day Philly has organized collaborative public programs related to personal, local and/or global peace. As the local initiative for the United Nations International Day of Peace, observed annually on **September 21**, Peace Day Philly focuses on building positive peace and creating the conditions for peace, unity and greater understanding across the Philadelphia region and beyond.

Peace Day Philly 2016 will take place from September 18 - September 24. Yoga, meditation, an international-themed festival, an interfaith dialogue, Syrian refugee youth photos and discussion, an award-winning film on global poverty, a neighborhood folk/soul/rock concert, and the Annual Sing Along for Peace are some of this year's offerings. There will also be two peace pole dedications at local schools, with the poles bearing "May Peace Prevail On Earth" in different languages reflecting diverse student populations.

"I look forward to continuing the tradition of Peace Day Philly," said Mayor Jim Kenney. "Events like these that encourage open dialogue and community engagement help us to not only celebrate our differences, but to realize our many similarities."

Additional 2016 programs will include Philadelphia Rotary Club's program on restoring trust through grassroots peacebuilding, a Dialogue Institute workshop, a United Nations Association soccer for peace event and police-organized peace activities in various districts across the city.

Peace Day Philly is partnering with the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbilities (DBHIDS), with support from Mural Arts Program, to present "*Welcoming City: The International Day of Peace In Philadelphia*" on September 21 at 11:30am at the North side of City Hall. Special guests for this public event will include Jordanian singer Farah Siraj, past Poet Laureate Sonia Sanchez and Mayor Jim Kenney.

Also on September 21, PDP is collaborating with International House Philadelphia and Penn Global on Philly's first *International Peace Day Festival and Market*, which will feature performances, food and activities celebrating peace and cultural diversity. The Festival will close with a screening of the documentary "*The Same Heart*." This film, which focuses on the global problem of child poverty and a bold idea to address it, was most recently screened at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum. Filmmaker Len Morris and Drexel University's Mariana Chilton will engage the audience in a post screening discussion.

Says Peace Day Philly's founder and Philly native Lisa Parker: "For each of the past 3 years, PDP has presented 24-30+ peace programs, some in collaboration and some generously offered by organizations across the region. We are grateful to the more than 30 organizations in 2016 that are involved in this global day of local opportunity. We welcome everyone to participate in an event, but we also encourage you to make a commitment as an individual to do something to create greater peace in your world on September 21. Everyone can be a peacebuilder, everyone can make a difference."

In that spirit, Peace Day Philly is launching the #makepeace campaign 2 weeks before Peace Day. It asks the question: "*How can YOU make peace in Philly?*"

The full list of events, all free, can be found at [www.peacedayphilly.org/events](http://www.peacedayphilly.org/events).