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For Immediate Release

## **PHILADELPHIA REGION TO OBSERVE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE THROUGH PEACE DAY PHILLY INITIATIVE**

PHILADELPHIA, PA, September 16, 2013 – For the third consecutive year, the Peace Day Philly initiative will provide a local platform for diverse peace-related activities in observance of the United Nations International Day of Peace. Across Philadelphia and the region, individuals, schools, groups, organizations and communities are encouraged to actively participate in this global day, observed in cities across the world on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Over 50 planned public activities, mostly free, will be taking place throughout the week of September 16<sup>th</sup>, especially September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mayor Michael A. Nutter, a supporter the initiative since its founding in 2011, said: “Peace Day Philly is a great opportunity for citizens, organizations and communities to come together in the spirit of unity and to build a more peaceful city. I encourage you to join with the local and world community – by actively being a peace-builder in a way that is meaningful to you.”

The Peace Day Philly website ([www.peacedayphilly.org](http://www.peacedayphilly.org)) offers many ideas and resource links for Peace Day activities, information about the International Day of Peace and other cities that are actively engaged in Peace Day, as well information about local Peace Day events.

This year’s activities, offered by a wide range of organizations - including the Philadelphia Police Department with over 20 planned activities in Police Districts citywide - will include a wide range of programs related to: peace education and skill building, visual peacemaking and the arts, global citizenship and awareness, spiritual engagement, social justice, cultural storytelling, anti-bullying programs, gun violence, health and wellness, multicultural sports, community gatherings and celebrations. Some events are part of global observances, such as the Minute of Silence/Moment of Peace at Noon and the Global March for Peace and Unity, both of which will take place in cities across the world on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Peace Day Philly welcomes everyone to its main event on September 20<sup>th</sup> to kick-off a weekend of peace activities (5:30pm at Hawthorne Park, 12<sup>th</sup> and Catharine Sts). Featured guests will include Philadelphia’s Poet Laureate Sonia Sanchez and world fusion artist Farah Siraj.

The 2013 global Peace Day theme is “*Education for Peace.*” Said UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, “It is not enough to teach children how to read, write and count. Education has to *cultivate mutual respect for others and the world in which we live, and help people forge more just, inclusive and peaceful societies.*” Dot Maver, Co-Chair of the UN International Day of Peace (IDP) NGO Committee’s Peace Education Team, reflected that this theme “presents a powerful, unifying opportunity for integrating peace education into academic settings.” A Peace Education Resource Center ([www.perc4peace.org](http://www.perc4peace.org)) that can be accessed by educators across the world will launch on September 21.

Peace Day Philly provides collaborative leadership to the CITIES Peace Team, a subcommittee of the IDP NGO Committee at the UN. The Peace Day Philly initiative encourages and forges collaborations to create positive, substantive peacebuilding opportunities year-round.

**For a list of confirmed events, go to: <http://www.peacedayphilly.org/events/>**