



Center for Religious Tolerance

Religion as a Force for Peace

Annual Report 2009

Dear Friends,

Without you, CRT would not exist. On behalf of the CRT board, thank you for your support.

During the past year our interfaith projects achieved local, national and international recognition. *Women Reborn*, now entering its third year, is inspiring women all over the world. During 2009, Ibtisam Mahameed, project director, was honored by the Dalai Lama, featured in a documentary film, and invited to speak to audiences across the globe. *Women Reborn* now includes computer skills, English, and vocational training in addition to the basic empowerment course. The local mayor has allocated funds to ensure the future of the program. Three nearby Arab towns are following this lead. The *Abrahamic*



Women Reborn Class of '09

Reunion's work also continues to build momentum for peace. Members have been featured on PBS, in several documentaries and on Arab and Israeli television. Activities in 2009 included religious study groups, youth dialogues, and service projects.

CRT also promotes peace at home. Our *Teaching Tolerance* project gave Sarasota high school students an opportunity to confront discrimination in their own lives. We made dozens of presentations in schools, churches, synagogues, universities and civic organizations. The Southwest Florida Peace and Justice Coalition honored our local work with the 2009 Duisberg Peace Prize.

Internationally, the CRT website became a sought-after source of information, with over 200,000 hits in the past year. CRT now has supporters in Israel, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Nigeria, Australia, Austria, Canada, Ethiopia, Germany, Switzerland, New Zealand, and the UK, as well as the United States.

CRT has demonstrated the power of people working together across religious and national boundaries. We have shown that women of faith have a critical role to play in transforming society. We have learned that reconciliation is possible, despite ongoing political violence. In 2010, CRT will take this message to policymakers in Washington, promoting a multi-track peace effort focusing on reconciliation and grassroots activities in addition to political negotiations.

We look forward to the coming year. Thank you for your help.

In Peace,
Andrea Blanch, Ph.D.

March 2010

CRT Mission

CRT promotes peace and social justice through spiritually based interfaith activities. Our work is guided by principles of fairness and compassion, grounded in an abiding belief in the unity of human consciousness, and nourished by faith

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Peace does not lie in charters and covenants alone. It lies in the hearts and minds of the people.

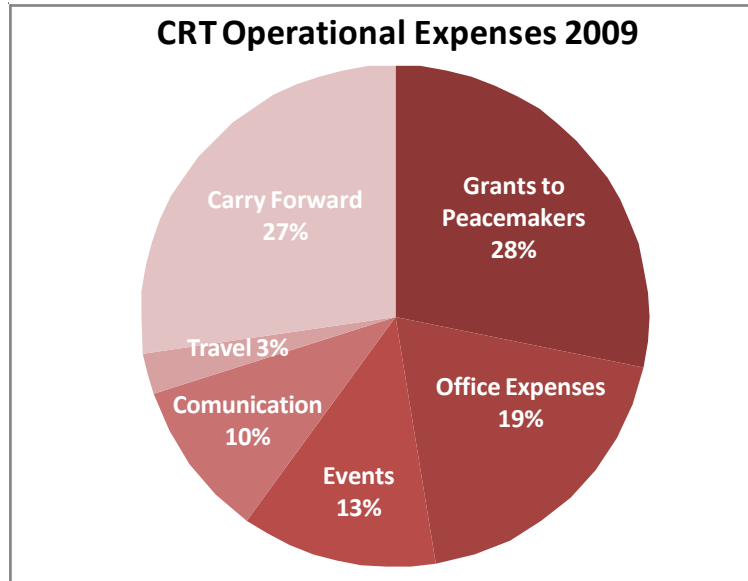
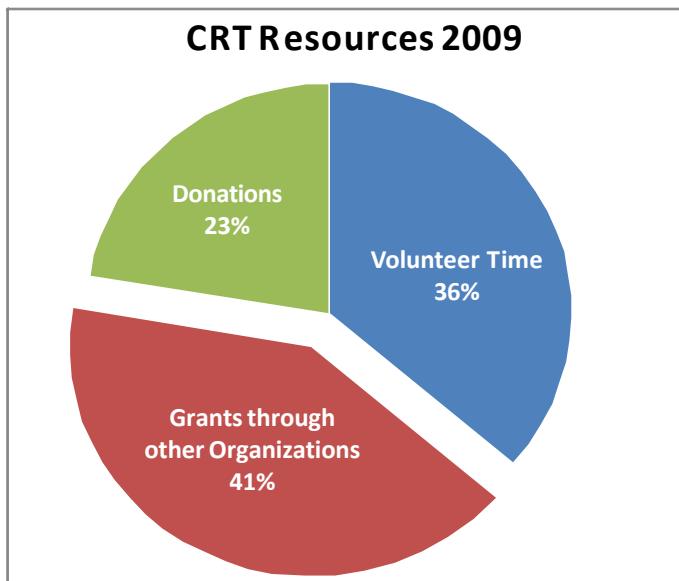
John F. Kennedy

Visit the Center for Religious Tolerance at C-R-T.org to view upcoming events.

Financial Report

CRT Resources. CRT activities are conducted almost exclusively by volunteers. Contributions from donors support operational expenses. Foundation grants support specific peacemaking programs. In 2009, a grant from the *Clark Charitable Trust* to *Shin* (an Israeli women's organization) supported *Women Reborn* and a grant from the *Southern Poverty Law Center* to the *Sarasota School Board* supported the *Teaching Tolerance* project. In 2009 CRT received a total of \$23,085 in donations and an estimated \$37,500 in volunteer time. Grants conducted in collaboration with other organizations totaled \$42,500.

CRT Operational Expenses. Our operating budget includes direct grants to individual peacemakers in Israel and Palestine, events, travel, office administration, and communications. All funds raised by CRT are used to further the mission of peace.



Thanks to the following individuals who gave freely of their time, creativity, and resources.

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