# Religion as a Force for Peace Annual Report 2011

Dear Friends,

Long-time CRT and Israeli-Palestinian peace activist Elias Jabbour once said: "Peace is the only safe border." Over the past year, CRT programs and peacemakers have continued to "create safe borders" by combating violence and promoting peaceful co-existence in local communities across the globe.

Through our new minigrant program, a trauma healing project has been initiated in an Arab village in Israel; religious and tribal leaders in rural Kenya have joined in an effort to eliminate violence against women; Palestinian youth have had the chance to explore the Koranic basis for nonviolence and religious tolerance; Jewish and Arab girls in Israel have learned about the history of women's rights and have taken the first



CRT board member Howard Nelson with staff and volunteers Laura Robinson, Farida Essack, Howard Pasternack, and Melissa Heath

steps towards joint political action; and an interfaith women's peace center and garden has been established in northern Israel. These grassroots efforts reflect a growing global movement for peace and social justice across religion, nationality, and ethnic group.

In the past year, CRT launched a student internship program with an intern from New College in Sarasota. Our Women's Interfaith Network of Sarasota-Bradenton (WIN) grew to almost 100 members. Our efforts were recognized by the United States Institute of Peace, and we received a cultural achievement award from the "International Artists and Humans Project." Traffic at our website increased by a third, and we now have active supporters in 25 countries – Austria, Australia, Burundi, Canada, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Iran, Italy, Nigeria, New Zealand, Pakistan, Poland, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Uganda, the United Kingdom and the United States.

We believe that CRT is making a difference – thanks to you. Without your support, CRT would not exist. We look forward to the coming year.

In peace,

Andrea Blanch, PhD

#### **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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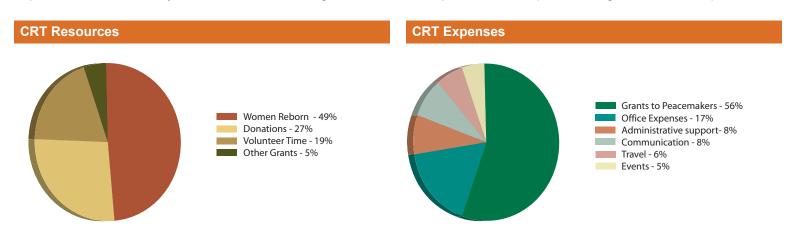
Anna Lewis, Ph.D. Tampa, FL

Peace begins with a smile.

- Mother Teresa

### CRT Financial Report

CRT activities are conducted almost exclusively by volunteers and are funded with a combination of donations and grants. Estimated value of volunteer time in 2011 was \$22,000. Contributions from donors totaled \$30,317 and small grants totaled \$5,495. A grant of \$55,000 from the Clark Charitable Trust, administered through an Israeli nonprofit, funded the Women Reborn project. Total resources in 2011 (including volunteer labor and the Women Reborn grant): \$112,802. Expenses included minigrants and other grants to peacemakers, office expenses, a part-time administrative assistant, travel, communications and events. Expenses were covered by donor contributions and grants. Total CRT expenses in 2011 (not including Women Reborn): \$40,080.



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

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# Special thanks for exceptional contributions to the CRT effort

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