

Religion as a Force for Peace Annual Report 2012

Dear Friends.

An African proverb states: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Brokering a peace process politically may depend on one or two respected individuals, but creating a society based on peace and justice for all depends on sustained, collective efforts. Our work has come far in the last

decade, and it has sometimes moved in unexpected directions, largely because of the collective action of CRT peacemakers, social activists, and supporters abroad and at home.

During 2012, CRT activities began to demonstrate some results that could not have been anticipated. On a recent trip to Israel, we had the opportunity to meet with the mayors of the three Arab villages in which the *Women Reborn* program is now operating – Fureidis, Jisser Al Zarka, and Ein Al Sahla. We were heartened to find that in all three villages, *Women Reborn* is now



CRT and Women Reborn team with Mayor of Jisser Al Zarka and staff.

thoroughly interwoven with municipal plans for social and economic development. Even more surprising, all three mayors expressed enthusiastic support for the political empowerment of the women of their village, even searching for a woman candidate to run as their "second" in the 2013 election. This is an example of how a successful grassroots project can create and nurture relationships among local political and cultural figures in such a way that critical social norms are radically changed.

Sometimes the power of personal relationships and acts of courage bear fruit generations after the fact. Seventy-five years ago, on the day after "Kristallnacht," when more than 1,000 synagogues and businesses owned by Jews were demolished by Nazis, a courageous German teacher wrote a quotation from Goethe on the chalkboard in her

middle-school classroom: A secular leader should always hold sacrosanct the religious orientations of his peoples. That action took considerable courage, as repercussions for challenging Hitler were often swift and severe. Gazing at the smoldering ruins of a synagogue next door to the school, one of the students in that class was profoundly moved by her teacher's action. That girl grew up to devote her life to the principle of religious tolerance. This year, in recognition of our interfaith work, the daughter of that young German student selected CRT to establish the "Elisabeth Schilder Memorial Award for Courage in Religious Tolerance" in honor of her mother's teacher.

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 Director

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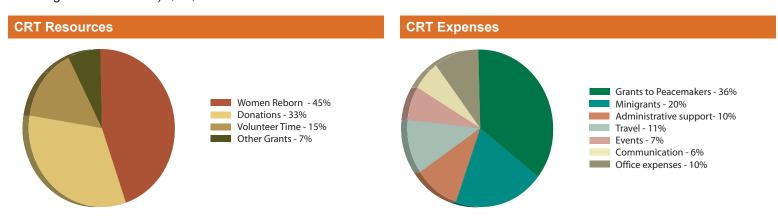
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CRT Financial Report

CRT activities are conducted almost exclusively by volunteers and are funded with a combination of donations and grants. Estimated value of volunteer time in 2012 was \$27,000. Contributions from donors totaled \$58,166 and small grants and awards totaled \$12,400. A grant of \$78,000 from the Clark Charitable Trust, administered through an Israeli nonprofit, funded the Women Reborn Phase II project. Total resources in 2012 (including volunteer labor and the Women Reborn grant): \$175,566. Expenses included direct grants to peacemakers in Israel/Palestine, mini-grants for a variety of small projects, office expenses, administrative support, travel, communications, and events. Expenses were covered by donor contributions and grants. Total CRT expenses in 2012 (not including Women Reborn): \$63,475.



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