



A D V I S O R

A NEWSLETTER FROM PHILADELPHIA PHYSICIANS FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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Summer
2007

2007 Legs Against Arms was a Success!



*Running in place to keep warm at the starting line for Legs Against Arms.
More photos can be found at www.LegsAgainstArms.org*

It rained and it *stormed*, but that did not stop concerned community and medical organizations, teachers, and students from coming out on April 15th to support **Legs Against Arms**, PSR's 5K Run/Walk, Peace Festival, and Celebration of Youth. The event, which started out in the 80's to address the nuclear arms race, was brought back this year to focus on stopping the violence on our streets, particularly the kind of gun-related incidents which are claiming so many of the lives of our young people in Philadelphia. Although over 800 registered, 300 public school and medical students came out despite the weather in

support of youth violence prevention in our city. In addition to the ponchos, umbrellas, and galoshes present that day, racers who were assigned to numbers between 1 and 406 wore yellow racing bibs to represent the 406 homicide victims in Philadelphia in 2006.

After the race was completed, young and old alike gathered under the tent to present awards for the race, as well as poetry and poster contest awards. Performances were given by local talent which included singing, dancing, and rapping, all
(Continued on page 3)

Parent Posse

"Parent Posse made a difference in my life"

A recent graduate of the Parent Posse group at Turner/Wes Beacon shared this sentiment at the graduation dinner celebrating the completion of their 10 week support sessions. The dinner was an opportunity to share what parents had learned

and how this group experience impacted their lives. Other participants added:

"Parent Posse provided weekly support, nurturing and advice that helped lighten the load of everyday life".

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From the Director's Desk

As you may remember, Sunday, April 15, was the day of the wicked Nor'easter and the day of **Legs Against Arms**, a 5K run/walk and Celebration of Youth held at the Mann Music Center. PSR, 30 partnering organizations and 300+ friends ran/walked/sloshed together to say the youth violence in Philadelphia is not a fair weather activity. The energy and enthusiasm of that event was heartening and incredible affirmation that people are committed to reducing the violence and affirming the positive attributes and resiliency of youth.

Listening to the winners of the Poetry for Peace contest read their poems on a sopping stage, one wonders why there is a problem with youth - the words were poignant and insightful -echoing the concerned sentiment of the majority of the kids. Winning posters from Stop the Violence contest were displayed, as well as, educational exhibits developed by 20 organizations including St. Joes girls' basketball team leading kids to "Shoot hoops, not guns."

Legs Against Arms was supported by thirty partnering organizations who believe as we do that violence in any form is unacceptable.
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Nanci Griffith



The award PSR presented to Nanci Griffith reads "To Nanci Griffith, through whose voice and song we hear the heartbeat for peace."

Philadelphia PSR members were treated to an exciting evening with Nanci Griffith, Grammy Award winner, singer-songwriter and social activist, at the World Café Live on the evening of March 15, 2007. Nanci is a longtime favorite of many who follow country, folk and popular music. She is a warm and generous person, has worked for decades as an anti-war activist, and particularly on behalf of veteran and civilian victims of landmine explosions. During her concert Ms. Griffith received our chapter's 2007 Peace Award, a framed stethoscope with her name engraved on it!

It was indeed an exciting evening, including an earlier presentation of our chapter's Safe and Sustainable Future program and a delicious dinner. The fundraising dinner/concert was our "maiden voyage"-partnering with the World Café Live, developed through PSR member, Arthur Mann, and co-hosted by Neil Sulkes from WCL. The feedback about the evening from our attendees was very enthusiastic, and we are pursuing future fundraising concerts with WCL.

————— *Rob Garfield, PSR Board Member*

Ericka Jackson Washington leaves PSR to go to School District



Ericka Jackson Washington

Ericka was tapped by the School District of Philadelphia to be their Bullying Prevention Coordinator within the Office of School Climate and Safety starting in 2007. Ericka, an Olweus certified Bullying Prevention trainer, was the creative and energetic leader who headed up PSR's team, and working in close partnership with the SDP, introduced this outcomes based Blueprint program in over 40, K - 8 schools in Philadelphia. Ericka was able to engage school staff and students and was a gripping voice to articulate the true scope of the problem and the program to funders, as well as the media. PSR will continue to work in close relationship with Ericka & the SDP as they make bullying prevention the umbrella under which all other school safety programs are framed. The ultimate goal is to create a Single School Climate with shared norms, beliefs, values, and goals. The focus is to integrate academics, behavior and climate with agreed upon processes and procedures with consistent outcomes.

Jessica Begley, former Bullying Prevention Coordinator, is PSR's new Associate Director for the PSR Bullying Prevention Program, effective immediately.

PSR staff will be continuing program implementation in the fall and working on a pilot to adapt the Bullying Prevention philosophy to the High School climate. Ericka will continue to work in collaboration with PSR and always be part of the PSR family.

————— *Pat Harner*

Peaceful Posse (continued)

"Our group leaders were supportive and challenging, they were the best!"

"I am so glad I agreed to participate, I looked forward to Tuesday nights."

The group was very grateful to their group members leaders and specifically felt having a male/female team was a key ingredient in the success of the group. The group members liked that everyone in the group was real with one another and found that these relationships continued between sessions. The main focus of this group's learning was around conflict resolution issues and how to develop skills that

would improve the relationships in all aspects of their lives that are often strained by conflict.

The goal of the Parent Posse program, funded in part by the Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia, is to create a 'posse' of parents who learn skills to support, engage and strengthen their own interpersonal and parenting skills, as well as, model these skills of support to other community members. By creating opportunities to support and empower parents, our intended outcome is to increase their resiliency skills and build social connectedness for both the parents, their children and their communities.

————— *Kay Brennan*

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Legs Against Arms *(continued)*

around the theme of non-violence. The day's events also included the *Poetry for Peace* jam, a contest in which Philadelphia public school students created and recited poetry expressing their views on peace. Finalists who performed that day were awarded prizes for their achievement. In addition, the winners of the *Stop the Violence* poster contest, also promoted in the public schools, were given special recognition, which for the grand prize winner included their design being featured on the event T-shirt.

Also taking place under the tent that day was the Peace Festival, in which volunteers from 20 partnering organizations and sponsors created interactive educational venues for everyone to participate in. These venues were wide ranging in their creativity and diversity, with such themes as alternatives to violence, healthy exercise, science, nutrition, art projects, sports challenges, story-telling, face painting, and even playing basketball with members of the St. Joe's women's basketball team, who encouraged the kids to "Shoot Hoops, Not Guns."

The enthusiasm and spirit of cooperation present on this day despite the terrible weather conditions were truly something to remember. Though it was joked that this was the "After Easter Nor'Easter," the determination and dedication of this year's participants to come out in support of this event it is a testimony to the importance the issue of youth violence in our community today.

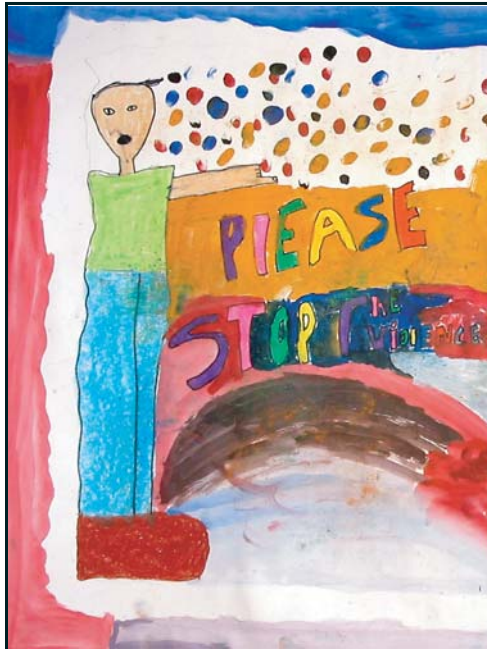
Sabra Mazzaferro

From the Director's Desk *(continued)*

Young and old came together to strengthen their legs as they sent a clear message opposing arms in Philadelphia and to celebrate the positive and creative behavior of our youth. We believe that we are at a "tipping point" of awareness about violence prevention in Philadelphia. The time is now for all to join together to build respect, healing, and opportunities in our communities. Yes, there was overwhelming support from our partners, and the kids who attended, to host *Legs Against Arms* again in 2008.

On behalf of the PSR board and our staff, I personally want to thank all who helped to get this event off the ground - rain or shine. Thank you, thank you for not being fair weather friends.

Pat Harner



The "Stop the Violence" Poster Contest Grand Prize Winners were Quierra Banks and Dawn Boyd. Their design was printed on the official Legs Against Arms race T-shirts featured below.

Get the Picture

*I live in a world of the dead;
Painted a cloud rosy-red,
Where everything's fine,
Everything's good.
Everything's going the way that it should.*

*But when you lift
those rose-colored glasses and see
the violence painted on TV
You say,
"It's a shame."
"It's not my child."
"It's not my business."
"Not my friend."*

*If a picture's worth a thousand words,
how many words should it take to get the picture?*

Wake up!

The "Poetry for Peace" Poetry Jam Contest Grand Prize Winner was Zach Hibbard. Zach performed his poem live during the Celebration of Youth portion of Legs Against Arms.



Runners celebrate crossing the finish line.

PSR is very grateful for the support from the following sources:

Barra Foundation- \$2,000	Samuel P. Mandell Foundation- \$500
Blueprint for a Safer Philadelphia- \$50,000	Pew Charitable Trust- \$120,000 (3 years)
Connelly Foundation- \$15,000 (2 years)	PA Department of Community & Economic Development- \$50,000
Department of Human Services- \$24,000	Philadelphia Activities Fund- \$5,000
Elsie Lee Garthwaite Memorial Foundation- \$5,000	PSR National- \$1,000
John C. & Chara C. Haas- \$45,000	United Way Empowerment Zone- \$13,000
Milton & Hattie Kutz Foundation- \$2,500	Henrietta Tower Wurtz Memorial- \$3,000
Laffey McHugh Foundation- \$7,000	
Lenfest Foundation- \$10,000	



Physicians for Social Responsibility
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"Youth violence is a public health problem that requires a social solution."

Medical Student Open House August 30th at PSR

What is your passion?

What inspires you?

On Thursday, August 30th, at 6pm, PSR will host an Open House for medical students from all area medical schools to explore these questions and more. Students are invited to get to know each other and discuss the issues that are important to them. As a result of last year's open house, students collaborated on lobbying trips, hearings, and cross-school networking activities. We look forward to this year's open house where the medical students will get a chance to meet and plan new activities.

As a student at last year's open house noted, it is a good "introduction for interested students and a good reminder for current members that PSR provides a unique and valuable community of mentorship, support, and activism."

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8th Annual Soul of Medicine Brunch

SAVE THE DATE

8th Annual Soul of Medicine Brunch

on Sunday, September 16th

11:00 am to 1:30 pm

at the College of Physicians

The title for this year's SOM brunch will be:

"Preserving Your Soul from Cynicism: Shared Stories, Shared Solutions."

There is no charge for students to attend this brunch.

Faculty are kindly requested to make a voluntary contribution of \$25 or more.

So many students say that they feel the need to protect their idealism against the assaults of cynicism from residents and attendings when they move into the clinical years, and some feel that they succumb to callousness, cynicism and resignation themselves. How can we protect ourselves? How can we continue to grow in our abilities to care for patients, and ourselves, in the current medical climate?

humor and to this event! Dennis Novack, MD, from Drexel Medical School will introduce the topic, say a few words, tell a brief story, and then invite faculty and students to share their stories. This will be followed by informal table discussions. We will also be giving the Ken Ginsburg Soul of Medicine Awards to 4th year students from the 5 area medical schools again this year.

Please join us and bring your wisdom, energy,

RSVP to sabra.psr@verizon.net