CREATING SAFE, COMPASSIONATE CLIMATES OF RESPECT IN CLASSROOMS AND SCHOOLS
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Operation Respect is a non-profit educational and advocacy organization dedicated to transforming schools, summer camps and other youth-serving organizations into more compassionate, safe and respectful environments. Founded in 1999 by Peter Yarrow of the famed folk trio, Peter Paul and Mary, along with Dr. Charlotte Frank, Operation Respect advocates for educational excellence and the healthy development of children and youth in all areas of their growth. To help accomplish its mission, Operation Respect disseminates its own educational program, “Don’t Laugh At Me,” that provides effective tools for establishing a caring climate in which the emotional and physical abuse children suffer due to peer ridicule, teasing, bullying and other hurtful behaviors, is far less likely to occur.

MISSION
The mission of Operation Respect is to create respectful, safe and compassionate climates of learning, free of bullying, ridicule and violence.

VISION
Our vision is a world in which the education of children and youth will focus equally on the development of their character as well as academic growth so that they evolve into productive, compassionate and civically engaged members of society.

CREDO
We believe that children and youth must be educated so that they honor and respect themselves and others. They must learn to resolve conflict peacefully. We must reach the hearts, as well as the minds, of children, youth, their educators and their parents – and use the creative arts combined with effective pedagogical approaches to do so. The success of Operation Respect is measured in attitudinal and behavioral changes on the part of children, youth and society.

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203x512 Operation Respect is a non-profit educational and advocacy organization dedicated to transforming schools, summer camps and other youth-serving organizations into more compassionate, safe and respectful environments. Founded in 1999 by Peter Yarrow of the famed folk trio, Peter Paul and Mary, along with Dr. Charlotte Frank, Operation Respect advocates for educational excellence and the healthy development of children and youth in all areas of their growth. To help accomplish its mission, Operation Respect disseminates its own educational program, “Don’t Laugh At Me,” that provides effective tools for establishing a caring climate in which the emotional and physical abuse children suffer due to peer ridicule, teasing, bullying and other hurtful behaviors, is far less likely to occur.

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When we started Operation Respect with the discovery of the song, “Don't Laugh At Me” that in many ways inspired the creation of our efforts (in this case, “life imitated art”, rather than the reverse) we had no idea how basic to the fabric of civil society our efforts, and the efforts of those of others who pursue the same goals, are to addressing what is plain ole “wrong” and advancing what is plain ole “right” in terms of healing and creation of a better world.

Far beyond the elimination of bullying, ridicule and mean-spirited behavior, it has become apparent that for the very survival of the planet and all we hold dear, in the simplest of terms, we’ve got to make sure the next generation cares about each other or we’re going to be in serious trouble.

The enemy of safety for our children is the same thing as the enemy of creating a sustainable future. We’ve got to think about, and care about, “us”, as much as and more than we care about “me” in the future.

To do that, as we analyze the work Operation Respect did in this Annual Report in the section that talks about the Concert for Newtown, we need to come to terms with the reality that hoping for the transformational change that we need in our hearts, in our mores and in our culture, may not be possible at all if we are solely expecting the world of adults to, in the words of Bob Dylan’s song recorded by Peter Paul and Mary, “quit their low down ways”.

How we got to this point with the culture of divisiveness, mean-spiritedness and selfishness advancing exponentially in every quarter of our society, is a subject about which I have many theories, but notwithstanding such analysis, I unequivocally believe that reversing this trend will be in the hands of the next generation.

We, who are adults, are here to help, but every day I see indications of new spirit and strength arising from our young ones. They see with fresh eyes that the emperor has no clothes, that the materialism and hyper-competition and “me-ness” of our times, if unaltered, will lead us to a place where the world and everything we hold dear will be in great jeopardy.

How fortunate we at Operation Respect are to be helping to provide a loving grounding for the growth and development of the next generation. This is really the only antidote to what ails the planet. This is the antidote to terrorism and extremism. This is the antidote to what seems to be a blind march to irreversible climate change. This is the bedrock upon which the strength of our democracy can reassert and reinvigorate itself.

In the end, the answer is simple. Love is an act of courage, strength and transformation and it is through the teaching of love and sharing of love that all ills will be obliterated and all good things will come about.

Thank you for hanging in with us for so long. Thank your for your love and thank you all for your ongoing support of Operation Respect. Without you, we would never have accomplished the myriad of things we only hoped to accomplish when we began.
Gratitude is the theme of our new curriculum at Operation Respect, soon to be released to schools free of charge to all educators who wish to use it, thanks to McGraw-Hill Education, our most generous corporate sponsor. The perspective of the new curriculum, called “An Attitude of Gratitude”, has become more and more central to the work of Operation Respect.

Undoubtedly, we are devoted to the elimination of behaviors, such as bullying, teasing and ridicule, that leave scars on the psyches of children that can last a lifetime. Similarly, we are determined to provide a classroom and school environment that is devoid of cruelty and mean-spiritedness. But as each day passes, we realize that a focus on correcting what is wrong is only a part of our task and, indeed, we cannot correct what is wrong without making a very powerful commitment to illuminating what is right, wonderful, intuitive and so very hopeful in all students, especially when they first enter school and start their education.

Our students need to learn their academic subjects but they also need to laugh, interact, and celebrate what’s special about being young and at the threshold of life.

These days, we need to be firmly committed to creating all the positive energy that we can amongst our students and teachers. This effort, as well as efforts to correct what’s gone wrong, will give them the strength and the resilience that they need to forge a path that brings forth the goodness that is in all of us. By approaching our work with this mind set, right at the start of school, way before the wind can be taken out of our youngest students’ innocent and hopeful sails, we can assure a happy and fruitful journey that leads to productive and successful lives.

As a teacher of Math in the beginning of my career, I focused on letting students know that what was already inside them, both in their hearts and in their intelligence, was beautiful, valuable and important. I always found that in helping students learn new academic skills, their self-esteem increased, their sense of self was nourished and their confidence was enhanced.

I continue to believe that opening children’s hearts is fundamental to opening their minds and that we need not choose between the two. First the goodness and appreciation of each other is established and, then, the learning will follow.

We need to help our young, new, citizens of the world see life as a series of opportunities and wonderful paths to personal fulfillment. We need to focus less on what is wrong in the world and more on the gifts of what is worth appreciating in our lives. As educators, we need to approach our work with children and youth with gratitude for the opportunity to be so central and critical to their development.

If we want them to be grateful for the good fortune they have in life, we must also lead them by focusing on the positive that is around us. Gratitude builds on gratitude and each act of gratitude is like a stone thrown in the water that creates ripples farther than one can imagine.

I am sending all of you, educators, parents and supporters of Operation Respect, my gratitude for your presence in our lives.
Following the tragic shootings in Newtown, CT, on Dec 14, 2012, Operation Respect’s President and Co-Founder, Peter Yarrow, received a number of requests from the greater Newtown community asking him to organize a concert that would bring the community together in its grief, to mourn and express their love and solidarity for one another. Drawing on his decades of experience organizing benefits, festivals and marches, Peter proceeded to organize that concert knowing that addressing the kind of violence that Newtown had endured meant not only the passage of sane and balanced gun laws in our country, but also meant preventing the kind of cruelty, ridicule and bullying that Adam Lanza, the teenage shooter, experienced, which may well have played a role in his emerging pathology during the time that he attended Sandy Hook Elementary School, where the tragedy took place.

Since elimination of mean-spirited and anti-social behavior is at the core of Operation Respect’s efforts, it was natural that the concert’s themes and messages were strongly linked to the objectives and mission of Operation Respect. Operation Respect is focused on the creation of school climates that allow students to accept, help, and care for one another in an environment that nurtures their social, emotional, spiritual and creative selves, as well as gives them the tools to become excellent students in academic subject areas. Unlike other concerts that were being organized to raise funds for Newtown and the families of the children who were lost, the purpose of this concert was to soothe, comfort and unify the community that needed such a moment to come together in a loving supportive way.

The Concert for Newtown, free to the public, had virtually all of its expenses underwritten by Scott and Cathy Fine, Connecticut residents. The Fines were deeply troubled by the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary and, amongst others, had reached out to Peter because they were determined to do something concrete to help the community and address the root causes of the tragedy. The concert was held, with free admission, on February 10, 2013 at The Ridgefield Playhouse, the entire audience being drawn from the Newtown community itself, including families who had lost loved ones. Also attending were teachers and colleagues of Sandy Hook Elementary School educators, and its principal, who was lost in the tragedy. First responders from Newtown, and other community members who were
A FAMILY CONCERT of
CARING, HEALING, and
TOGETHERNESS

Sunday, Feb 10, 2013 • The Ridgefield Playhouse • 3PM
Tickets to the general public are FREE on a first come, first served basis.

Peter Yarrow
Dan Williams
Guy Davis
Bethany & Rufus
Newtown's Flagpole Radio Cafe
in deep mourning, many still in shock, and all in various stages of disorientation and pain, attended as well.

The concert focused on supporting the community in its effort to fulfill what they called “The Sandy Hook Promise” which is a commitment they made to make sure that Newtown is remembered, not as the place where tragedy occurred, but as the town that sparked transformation in America. The transformation sought was one that would change policies so that America would prioritize the safety of America’s children, and prevent recurrent tragedies of this kind in the future.

Peter’s view, and that of Operation Respect, is that the fulfillment of the Sandy Hook Promise has a direct relationship to our work, our mission and our vision for the future. From our point of view, although the presence of guns in the hands of those who might do harm to children is a necessary issue to address, the desire or urge to hurt others with a gun, a knife or a cyber-bullying campaign is at least as an important issue to address. The growing culture of cruelty and mean-spiritedness amongst children and adults in our society needs to be countered with the tools that we have, such as the “Don’t Laugh At Me” Program, and eliminated to the degree possible in our schools and society in general. To accomplish that task, efforts such as Operation Respect are, and will continue to be, essential as a part of the path to reversal of this painful societal reality that, in many ways, lies at the root of what is plaguing our nation. In adult society, we see escalating greediness, selfishness, bullying in government and business and corruption on the rise. Children, in their own way, and in their public and private worlds, are deeply affected by this societal dislocation. In short, fulfilling the Sandy Hook Promise is not a task that is directed at children alone. It is a societal challenge that needs to be faced and prioritized at every level of society.

Because adults are far less easy to change in their habits, their view, and their culture, Operation Respect believes that efforts to educate the hearts of children to become caring, constructive, ethical and generous members of society is perhaps the most fertile terrain, as well as a primary battle ground, for reversing the negative culture that has become ever so prominent as of late. Nurturing a next generation that does not buy into cruelty and bullying as a societal norm is needed to create a future that is caring and peaceful, and focuses on meeting the needs of all citizens. Rather than accepting laws, mores and cultural perspectives that pro-
mote excessive privilege for the few, at the expense of fairness, a change of heart is needed, especially in the world of children who can either recapitulate the negative mores of society or learn new ways of caring for and treating one another as part of their growth, education and development.

Essentially, learning to care about one another is fundamental to the next generation’s being committed to fairness, justice and equality and, ultimately, peace. The attempt to foster friendship and civil behavior, as well as the attempt to diminish cruelty, mean-spiritedness and bullying is basic to our creating the kind of society that is promised to us in our United States constitution, one that guarantees the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all.

Research shows that to successfully diminish bullying and violence it is necessary to create a culture and environment of friendship and caring and, in turn, successfully creating that change means mobilizing, energizing and inspiring the community of bystanders to stand up for what is right and just. There is no way to address bullying through efforts aimed only at the perpetrators and the victims. To be successful we must inspire and unite the majority of school populations, because it is only through them that one can create a culture of kindness and acceptance in schools, with a consensus commitment to the elimination of the kinds of attitudes and behaviors that lead to emotional and physical violence by children and youth. When such a culture is created, research tells us, unequivocally, that success can be achieved in terms of diminishing and eliminating bullying and emotional/physical violence.

This is the perspective from which Operation Respect and its “Don’t Laugh At Me” Program has always operated, and this is the reason that the Newtown tragedy and our efforts to help ignite a nationwide response to it are so important. The tragedy in Newtown is both an example of, and a symbol of, the failure of our towns, cities, and our nation to address the need for us to become a caring, welcoming, peaceful society. Newtown is especially important because Newtown and its aftermath is part and parcel of the ongoing effort of the country to fulfill the Sandy Hook Promise: together, we will continue to inspire change and, together, we will pursue the fulfillment of this promise. We will not forget this tragedy and we believe that one day, we shall prevail.
The Sandy Hook Promise and Operation Respect’s goals and objectives are, and will continue to be, linked to one another. That is why, when you go to our website, you will see the Sandy Hook Promise first, before you go to the other pages. Our promise is firm and resolute and we hope, in the name of our children and our future, you will help us continue to hold that promise in our, and your, hearts.

Following the concert in Ridgefield, Operation Respect enlisted the participation of the four-time Emmy award winning documentary filmmaker, Jim Brown, in using the footage from the Concert for Newtown to create a PBS television program that tells the story of the Newtown tragedy and the concert, as well as the story of the effort to advance the fulfillment of the Sandy Hook Promise. In this TV special, the Sandy Hook Promise is read, songs are sung and there are intermittent sections of an interview of Peter Yarrow and Francine Wheeler, the mother of Ben Wheeler who was lost at Sandy Hook Elementary, by Bill Moyers, one of America’s greatest television interviewers and journalists. The interview pointed to the need for sane gun laws, but also to the imperative of assuring all children a safe and caring school environment.

“Concert for Newtown” premiered on PBS in NYC in August 2013, and aired, nationally, on PBS stations throughout the country during the fall of 2013, with additional screenings scheduled in 2014. This PBS program, has reportedly, reached millions of Americans who have experienced the reality of the courageous resolve of the community of Newtown to turn their extreme pain of loss into positive transformational change in America. Music, Operation Respect believes, is one of the surest and most powerful ways to reach, and open, people’s hearts.

“Concert for Newtown” is a powerful advocacy tool and source of inspiration for those who believe that we need to do all we can to prevent tragedies such as Sandy Hook from occurring in the future, particularly people who are looking for ways to enter the effort to achieve these goals. It is clear that peer-to-peer child abuse can be a serious contributing factor to the extreme psychological destabilization of any child or youth. It is Operation Respect’s evidence-based belief that punitive treatment of children as a deterrent to bullying is, more frequently than not, counterproductive in terms of creating the kind of environment that can reduce bullying – the kind of environment the “Don’t Laugh at Me” program seeks to assure all children, in which a culture of acceptance, caring and compassion is established.

Instead of relying on metal detectors, armed guards and policies that inculcate fear of punishment or expulsion for children who are acting out, Operation Respect believes that educators and schools need to respond to, and treat, all children with love and compassion, including those who are likely targets of ridicule and bullying, as well as those who are being cruel to others. We must seek to help such children, while simultaneously protecting others from being injured by them and protecting children from injuring...
themselves. Following this path is the best, and may be the only, way to creating more caring, respectful and safe environments for children in which all forms of bullying, cruelty and abuse—physical, emotional and psychological—are far less likely to occur. This is the work of Operation Respect, and it is our belief that the airing of this TV program throughout the nation will powerfully help to advance the Sandy Hook Promise and also advance our efforts to fulfill Operation Respect’s goals and mission.

On October 22, 2013, Peter Yarrow gave a keynote presentation at the National Educational Television Association (NETA) Conference in Atlanta, GA to urge and inspire PBS stations to air “Concert for Newtown.” Three hundred PBS station managers and program directors from throughout the U.S. attended the conference. This conference provided an extraordinary opportunity to promote the program. At a breakfast keynote, Peter shared the heart and purpose of the Concert for Newtown TV program, sang some songs, and screened a 6-minute highlight video of the concert. The audience responded with a prolonged standing ovation and all of the attendees received copies of the hour-long special and a notification of the live feed of the program on November 1, 2013. The response to the program has been extremely positive. Over 30 airings were scheduled throughout the country in 2013, with many more anticipated in 2014.

Operation Respect is extremely grateful to new Board member Scott Fine and his wife, Cathy Fine, who, together, funded nearly all of the costs of the production of the concert, itself, as well as the production and post-production of the PBS TV program. The concert and PBS special could not have been created without Scott and Cathy Fine’s support, both personally and financially. Additionally, many new efforts emanated from, and because of, the Concert for Newtown in 2014; these shall be detailed in next year’s Operation Respect Annual Report.
The Center for Educational Improvement led by Dr. Christine Mason with the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), and Operation Respect collaborated on a project called Transforming Lives through Heart Centered Education and Leadership to enhance an evidence-based anti-bullying program model. The integrated model will build upon existing research regarding effective social emotional learning (SEL) programs supporting students at the K-5 grade levels. Features of the curriculum will incorporate state-of-the-science knowledge on brain-based instruction and student engagement strategies that develop humanitarian leadership and also foster a positive sense of self, independence, and lifelong learning. An important component of the model will be an extension of Operation Respect’s approach to establishing welcoming climates in schools. Implementing school-wide teams and policies that are supportive of a heart centered approach to education. Operation Respect will work with Christine Mason to raise funds for a curriculum development and pilot validation, which will then lead to larger scale implementation and evaluation.

“ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE”
A NEW CURRICULUM AND DVD

“An Attitude of Gratitude” a new curriculum, developed by Peter Yarrow, Laura Parker Roerden and Mark Weiss, will be disseminated in conjunction with “A Tribute to the Teachers of America” DVD, a star-studded event broadcast on PBS, featuring Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul & Mary, Rosie O’Donnell, Bill Cosby, Cynthia Nixon, Odetta and others that pays homage to the teachers who made a difference in their lives. This new curriculum teaches core social and emotional competencies to young people such as respect, communication and active listening, perspective taking, and the healthy expression of feelings. Appreciation, or “an attitude of gratitude” can become a unifying principle in a school’s culture—while at the same time teaching life long skills that contribute to a young person’s future happiness and success. Operation Respect will offer this new curriculum and DVD to educators, free of charge, courtesy of The McGraw-Hill Companies, in the 2014-2015 school year.
DEFEAT THE LABEL/ROCK THE VOTE/STAND FOR CHANGE DAY

On February 27, 2013, Chrissy Faessen, Vice President of Communications at Rock the Vote, requested Operation Respect’s involvement in “Defeat the Label” Stand4Change Day. Defeat the Label’s mission is to create awareness of bullying issues among middle school and high school aged students through the creation of positive campaigns, community outreach, and special events. Each year they host a Stand4Change Day, a worldwide event asking students to stand up against bullying in their schools. In May 2013, over 3 million students participated and took the Stand4Change Day pledge, below.

The Stand4Change Day Pledge:
Today, I am surrounded by millions of students around the world; I am taking a stand for myself and for my classmates. I WILL SPEAK UP - I will take a stand when I see my friends and other students hurting, humiliating and bullying each other. I know that in the split second it takes to bully someone or to just watch as someone is being bullied, I can also use that time to do something positive that can help someone else. I will use my voice for those who cannot to let others know that I think bullying is wrong. I WILL STAND UP - I will stick up for my friends and other students who might need someone to stand up for them. I know that it takes just as much time to stand up for someone as it does to look away. I will let them know they are not helpless or hopeless. I will not ignore bullying. I WILL DEFEAT THE LABEL - I will not use my computer or my phone to spread mean or hurtful rumors or to bully others. I know that in the same times it takes to click my mouse on hurtful messages I decide not to act. And when I see other people cyber bulling I will take a stand.

Information about Operation Respect and DLAM was distributed to all of the educators participating in Stand4Change Day, along with a link to our website. Matthew Morrison, cast member of the popular television program “Glee”, participated as well, and produced a video with a positive message that was distributed to everyone who participated in Stand4Change.

Baby Jay, OR Youth Ambassador and positive rapper
In the fall of 2013, Operation Respect entered the final year of a three-year partnership with Welcoming Schools and the Clark County School District in Las Vegas, Nevada. Mark Weiss and Kim Westheimer, Director of Welcoming Schools of the Human Rights Campaign, as well as Cathy Tully, School Climate Specialist with the Clark County Nevada Public Education Foundation have been implementing this program for 16 schools in the 5th largest school district in the nation. This partnership reflects Operation Respect’s ongoing commitment to combine its efforts with those of other organizations, and other effective programs, focused on reducing bullying and promoting a positive school climate. An evaluation of this intervention is currently underway and will be available at the completion of the project in June 2014.

The Foundation for Respect Ability continues to seek to convert “by-standers” into “upstanders”. Their mission, modeled after Operation Respect, focuses on empowering people to address bullying in all of its forms, developing programs and strategies for helping parents, students, and educators. The Foundation hosts DLAM workshops with Operation Respect trainers and helps to support and promote DLAM program implementation throughout Charlotte, NC. Mark Weiss provided DLAM professional development workshops for educators in Charlotte, August 20-23, 2013. Our efforts in Charlotte, NC also focus on reaching out to community stakeholder organizations to involve them in creating respectful environments for children and youth, beyond the school settings.
“RESPECT FOR ALL” IN MANHATTAN, QUEENS, BRONX, BROOKLYN AND STATEN ISLAND

Operation Respect continues to offer Respect for All workshops, through The New York City Department of Education’s Office (NYC DOE) of Safety and Youth Development, and in partnership with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL); the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN); and the Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility. Thousands of school staff from NYC elementary, middle and high schools throughout NYC have participated in these anti-bullying workshops. The primary message conveyed through this initiative is that all students deserve a safe, supportive school environment, free of bullying and bias-based behavior, which goes to the heart of Operation Respect’s mission. Operation Respect is also participating in an initiative that was launched by the NYC DOE to provide anti-bias training to teams of K-8 educators throughout NYC to give them more effective tools to help prevent bias-based harassment in their classrooms and schools.

INTENSIVE DLAM PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION IN NYC SCHOOLS

PS 14, PS 78 AND PS 16, STATEN ISLAND, NY

Operation Respect partnered with District 31 to submit a proposal to the NY State Department of Education to fund DLAM program implementation and professional development in elementary schools in Staten Island. The three year grant was awarded to Operation Respect and has enabled it to provide ongoing intervention and professional development at PS 14, PS 78 and PS 16, three elementary schools surrounded by low-income housing projects in Staten Island that were struggling to address student behavior problems. The interventions at all three schools include DLAM Program implementation, parent workshops, the creation of Peacemakers Clubs, and songwriting workshops and assembly programs provided by OR Board member Steve Seskin and positive hip-hop artist Baby Jay. These presentations spark the effort to unite students, educators and administrators to create more respectful school climates. Principals at PS 14, PS 16 and PS 78 are extremely pleased with the results of the DLAM implementation and are very supportive of continuing and expanding the work of Operation Respect in their schools. All of the schools report that behavioral incidents have diminished and PS 16 reports an increase in attendance over the past two years, as a result of Operation Respect’s intervention. The NY State grant has been extended an additional year, through June 2014.
In March 2013, the NYC DOE Office of School and Youth Development enlisted Operation Respect to provide DLAM program implementation, peer mediation, assembly programs and staff development in five additional schools in NYC, through June, 2013: PS 64, Bronx; PS 65, Bronx; PS 45, Staten Island; PS 213, Brooklyn; and, High School of Computers and Tech, Bronx. The Operation Respect intervention was extremely well received by principals, educators and students at each of the participating schools.

“DON’T LAUGH AT ME” PROGRAM DISSEMINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION
Since its inception, Operation Respect has provided over 185,000 copies of DLAM to educators and administrators throughout the United States and the world. In 2013, Operation Respect disseminated 4,000 copies of DLAM. Approximately 3,000 requests were processed through the Operation Respect website and distributed free of charge courtesy of the McGraw-Hill Education. The remaining 1,000 were disseminated through the Operation Respect office, professional development workshops, education associations and conferences.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS IN THE UNITED STATES
Operation Respect continues to offer professional development workshops that provide educators with the skills and confidence they need to launch DLAM successfully in their schools and communities. To date, over 45,000 educators have participated in these workshops. In 2013, Operation Respect trained educators in New York, NY, Charlotte, NC, and Clark County, NV to implement DLAM in their classrooms and schools. Operation Respect also provided “Respect for All” workshops for hundreds of educators from middle schools and high schools throughout New York City.

PRESENTATIONS BY PETER YARROW, OPERATION RESPECT STAFF AND ALLIES
Since Operation Respect’s inception, Peter Yarrow and our team of speakers and performers have addressed over 500,000 educators, educational leaders, parents, students, policy makers and community members throughout the world. In 2013, Operation Respect continued to provide presentations advocating for the creation of safe, respectful and compassionate environments for children and youth.
On November 10, 2013, Operation Respect participated in a concert in Georgetown University’s Gaston Hall, whose focus was on musical advocacy for peace in the Middle East. The concert, called “Amplified Voices” was organized by Bob Schlehuber, an ally of Operation Respect since our Ukrainian outreach, and was co-hosted by Ari Roth and Andy Shallal. Peter Yarrow, Heartbeat, Bethany and Rufus, Lena Seikaly and Humayun Khan gave featured performances. Additional performances from Israel were projected via “Skype” and included: David Broza, the Jerusalem Youth Chorus and the Jaffa Voices of Peace Choir. Through this concert, U.S. based performers were able to unite with their counterparts in Israel: Jews, Christians and Muslims.

This groundbreaking concert utilized the powerful tools of “cultural diplomacy” and “musical diplomacy” to create and unite people-to-people efforts that will hopefully add momentum to current efforts directed at building a road to peace in the Middle East. It was a remarkable evening of song and heart-connecting, peace-building intention. This concert mirrored the efforts of Operation Respect to build peace and acceptance of differences among the students in the schools of Israel and other countries in the Middle East through the implementation of the “Don’t Laugh at Me” program. It has always been our hope that exposure to DLAM will help create a perspective among future citizens of any country, including Israel and other countries in the Middle East, which will make them more prone to reach for non-violent solutions to problems rather than resort to violence as a way to deal with conflict.

Operation Respect believes that peace inside oneself is the primary building block for the creation of world peace. Operation Respect also believes that the implementation of DLAM helps to build the kind of internal, personal peace that will advance the realization of this dream.

**Operation Respect: Israel**

The DLAM implementation in Israel has met with great success and became a source of pride for the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, the Center for Educational Technology (CET) and Operation Respect. In all, 80 schools participated in DLAM program implementation in 2013, up from 56 in 2012, 30 in 2011 and 4 in the initial 2010 pilot implementation. Operation Respect’s work in Israel includes the expansion...
and deepening of DLAM implementation, with enhanced curricula and an assessment of success as measured by, among other things, a national standardized climate survey applied to all public schools in Israel.

In terms of long-term oversight, the leadership and staff of CET continue to provide on-the-ground support in the schools, lending assistance and guidance to each school’s staff, parents and teachers. CET has also offered distance learning opportunities through web meetings focused on conflict resolution, anger management and empathy so that teachers and counselors are able to meet on the internet, listen to a lecture given by an expert on a related topic, and share their questions and problems with one another.

As a result of the positive impact DLAM has had on student behavior, the Israeli Ministry of Education has offered DLAM to all of the schools throughout the country and, in 2013, mandated that DLAM be included in the pre-service education of all future teachers as part of Israel’s Life Skills education. This is an extraordinary testament to the efficacy of DLAM and the high regard and value that has been placed on the program by the Israeli Ministry of Education.

OPERATION RESPECT ISRAELI HEALTH AND EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The Operation Respect Israeli Health and Education (H&E) initiative has entered the second year of its pilot in Israel, with the important endorsement of the Israeli Ministry of Education and the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv. The goal of this pilot project is to demonstrate greater effectiveness by combining strategies employed by teachers and other educators with the strategies of health care workers such as doctors, psychologists, social workers and psychiatrists who integrate their efforts with teachers and administrators.

This conjunction of the fields of health and education to reduce youth violence is, to our knowledge, not being attempted in a systematic way anywhere else in the world. Those who are involved in this H&E Initiative believe that, if it proves successful, it could occasion a huge breakthrough in Israel, and subsequently in other countries, in their efforts to diminish youth and childhood violence.

The educational strategy being adopted in this pilot program is, in fact, the implementation of DLAM, which has already received the enthusiastic support of the Israeli Ministry of Educa-
The health care strategies being utilized in this pilot originated with the Chaim Sheba Medical Center and include the creation of video simulations of challenging situations, using actors, a technique that has proved highly successful at Sheba’s Tel HaShomer Hospital. New education-related simulations, designed to help teachers to successfully handle challenging situations in schools, are currently being created at Sheba’s Messer Simulation Center, with input from Israel’s Center for Educational Technology (CET) and from Operation Respect.

An evaluation will be conducted to prove, or disprove, the efficacy of this pilot project. Thus far, the schools report that this initiative has met with great initial success during its early stages.

**OPERATION RESPECT: JORDAN**

In May, 2013, Peter Yarrow visited Amman, Jordan, to introduce Operation Respect and DLAM to Kings Academy, a remarkable and highly prestigious boarding school in Amman, where students from around the world receive an extraordinary education, many of them from disadvantaged backgrounds and on complete scholarship. Peter also sang for young children in two refugee camps in Jordan. During this visit, Peter met with Bryan Butki, the Peace Corps Jordan Country Director, who expressed interest in the possibility of involving a small group of Peace Corps volunteers in the launch of Operation Respect in Jordan. Peter also met with Anneliese Reinmeyer in the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Amman. Subsequently, the U.S. Embassy in Amman awarded...
Operation Respect a grant to launch and implement DLAM in Jordanian schools in 2014. Operation Respect believes a successful launch in Jordan will help advance Operation Respect efforts and programs in Palestine, in Israel and potentially in other areas of the Middle East as well.

Operation Respect: Japan
Following successful meetings with the Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo in February 2013, Peter returned to Japan in November 2013 to solidify the launch of the implementation, and translation of, the DLAM program in Japan. During the November visit Peter met with Ikumi Yoshimatsu, the winner of the Miss International Pageant, who expressed her support for the launch of DLAM in Japan. The U.S. Embassy in Tokyo committed to supporting the launch and implementation of DLAM in Japan in 2014 as well, including the translation of the DLAM curriculum into Japanese.

Peace Boat: Japan
In September 2013, Peter Yarrow and Mark Weiss joined the Peace Boat journey in Central America and provided Operation Respect workshops and presentations over the course of a week at sea. Peace Boat is a Japan-based international non-profit organization that works to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment. Peace Boat seeks to create awareness and action based on affecting positive social and political change in the world. They pursue this through the organization of global educational programs, responsible travel, cooperative projects and advocacy activities. These activities are carried out on a partnership basis with other civil society organizations and communities in Japan, Northeast Asia, and around the world. Peace Boat carries out its main activities through a chartered passenger ship that travels the world on peace voyages. The ship creates a neutral, mobile space and enables people to engage across borders in dialogue and mutual cooperation at sea, and in the ports that they visit.

Operation Respect: Hong Kong
The Hong Kong Bureau of Education continues to support Operation Respect and the implementation of DLAM in schools throughout the country. In 2013, Nini Forino, Director of the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong, offered additional support to deepen
the impact of the program. Ms. Forino introduced Operation Respect to a private foundation that is interested in further supporting and developing our program in area schools. Albert Au, a folk singer and beloved celebrity in Hong Kong has translated and recorded the “Don’t Laugh at Me” song in the Cantonese dialect of the Chinese language that is spoken in Hong Kong. Albert Au expressed great reverence for Peter, Paul and Mary and the impact their music and advocacy has had on his life and career and is honored to partner and support Operation Respect’s efforts in his home country.

**OPERATION RESPECT: UKRAINE**

Operation Respect’s Ukrainian partners, the Peace Corps Ukraine, YMCA Ukraine and Alternative-V continue to broaden and deepen the implementation of DLAM in schools throughout the country. To date, these organizations have provided over 100 DLAM workshops, for 1,500 educators throughout Ukraine, including Peace Corps Volunteers (PCV) in the field. Tommy Boyd, a Peace Corps volunteer who coordinated Operation Respect’s engagement in 2012, returned to Ukraine in 2013 as an employee of the Peace Corps and Operation Respect coordinator. The partnership with Peace Corps, U.S. Embassy in Kiev, and local NGOs in Ukraine serves as a model that we hope will be replicated in other countries throughout the world.

**PROJECTED PRIORITIES OF OPERATION RESPECT IN 2014**

- Broaden the dissemination and adoption of the DLAM program in the United States and internationally.
- Expand DLAM and other professional development opportunities for educators in the arenas of the social and emotional development of children and youth.
- Continue the collaboration with the Office of Safety and Youth Development at the New York City Department of Education.
- Disseminate “An Attitude of Gratitude” Guide to accompany the dissemination of an expanded PBS “Tribute to Teachers” DVD, free of charge, courtesy of McGraw-Hill Education.
- Expand advocacy initiatives to improve the education of all children through adoption of whole child education as America’s primary educational model, focusing on the formulation of improved educational policy.
- Expand Operation Respect: Israel’s efforts to include the partnership between health care providers and educators, in an effort to more effectively combat bullying and youth violence.
- Further the partnership with the United States Peace Corps with the goal of replicating the Ukraine implementation model in other countries in which the Peace Corps is actively engaged.
- Continue to develop an effective Board of Directors with new and expanding skills, resources and diversity.
Peter was invited by Warner Music, Japan to create a song based on the Dalai Lama’s poem, “Never Give Up.” For the debut of the song and Peter’s album of the same name (pictured above) Warner Music flew Peter to Tokyo to make a joint presentation with the Dalai Lama which began with a 600 college student Q&A with His Holiness followed by a performance of the song and a discussion of the song’s philosophy by Peter and the Dalai Lama. His Holiness presented Peter with two white silk scarves, one for Peter and one for his guitar and, in response to the acclaim for “Never Give Up,” that song will become a significant part of the coming implementation of OR: Japan’s Don’t Laugh At Me Program.
Operation Respect would like to thank McGraw-Hill Education and Dr. Charlotte Frank, Senior Vice President of Research and Development for McGraw-Hill Education, the educational division of the Corporation, for their most generous support since Operation Respect’s inception. Operation Respect would also like to thank Sue Pearsall, for donating her time and talent to design this annual report and McGraw-Hill Education for underwriting the cost of its being printed.
FINANCIAL SUPPORT
Operation Respect depends on the generous support of individuals, corporations, foundations and governments. Many donors have contributed to make it possible for us to survive and thrive and increase our effectiveness. Our thanks go out to each and every one of them. Thousands of classrooms are evolving into safer and more respectful learning environments because of all who help us. We appreciate and value your support, offered in so many ways, more than we can ever express.

FUNDERS 2013

$40,000-$80,000
Scott and Cathy Fine

$20,000-$39,999
U.S. Department of State, Amman, Jordan
Alex and Marie Josie Berenstein

$10,000-$19,999
Dolores Eyler
Blanche and Irving Laurie Foundation
The Dream Big Foundation
Polis Schutz Family Foundation

$5,000-$9,999
Irving Harris Foundation
David Hilty
Nathan and Vivian Serota
Jonathan Sills

$1,000-$4,499
Amnon and Selma Ben-Yehuda
Cary Presbyterian Church
Human Rights Project
Daniel Kanter
Victor Kovner
LivePerson
Mary Madrid
Elliot and Cathy Masie
Priscilla McDonnell
Michael Miller
Silicon Valley Community Foundation
Stanley and Jodi Reynolds
Scott and Kathleen Simpson
Carolyn Specht
Noel and Elizabeth Stookey
Fred and Lois Tarter
Charles Touhey and Alice Green

$500-$999
Joseph Abessinio
Nancy Bagley
Michael Belote
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Jim Brown
Talley Bryan Foundation
International Union of Operating Engineers
Elliot and Marcia Lepler, MD
Lifeforce in Later Years, Inc.
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Anita and Howard Richmond
Schwab Charitable Fund
Bruce and Pamela Wexler

$100-499
Stephan and Arlene Bassett
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Arlene and Milton Berkman
Nancy Blume
Elizabeth Bontrager
David and Barbara Brandt
Herbert Bridge
Chen and Cox Family Fund
Robert and Elaine Cline

$100-499 CONT.
Avery Cohen
Cohen Capital Management Group
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Chic Dambach
William and Sara Dehoff
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Network for Good
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Julia O’Keeffe
Debra Thrall Pierce
Ramona Pole
Brandon Pole
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Phillip and Arlene Rushe
RTN/WMNB Russian Media Group
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Michael and Ella Weiss
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Marvin and Judy Berkowitz
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Harold and Rebecca Carlson
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McGraw-Hill Education
Sue Pearsall
Rainmaker
Lisa Walsh
Peter Yarrow
Dr. Charlotte K. Frank
McGraw-Hill Education
The Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Activities on the following page were derived from the 2013 financial statements audited by our independent accountants, West, Rhode and Roberts. A copy of the audited financial statements and form 990 for 2013 are available upon request.
# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES 2013

## YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

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<th>TOTAL</th>
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</table>
STAFF
Peter Yarrow, Co-Founder and President
Mark Weiss, Education Director
Elizabeth Kolodny, Program Director
Maryam Williams, Administrative Assistant

TRAINERS
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Javier Francisco Diaz, Consultant
Lynne Hurdle-Price, President, Hurdle-Price Professionals
Linda Lantieri, Director, Project Renewal
Marcy May, Executive Director, Effective Alternative in Reconciliation Services

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Hayley Reardon
Steve Seskin
Bethany Yarrow and Rufus Cappadocia
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    MacMillan/McGraw-Hill
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Operation Respect is a public charity under sections 501c(3) and 509(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our 2013 Form 990 is available upon request.