

# **Imagine Peace Foundation**

## Case Statement

**Imagine Peace Foundation**  
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# Imagine Peace Foundation

Peace is something that on the surface seems so distant to many, yet, as many past and present visionaries have shown us peace is obtainable as we begin to look within ourselves. As we explore our values and our choices we can begin to understand what peace means to each one of us. Imagine Peace Foundation and its projects are designed to explore how others have viewed peace throughout time, how we can begin to define what living a peaceful life means to each individual, and to enable people to connect with their creativity and imagination so that they leave with the tools that empower them to take that discovery out into the community to live more compassionate and peaceful lives.

**The mission** of Imagine Peace Foundation is to provide educational and creative activities and events that allow children and individuals to explore and connect with what peace means to them and to empower them to live it. With this in mind we are about to create a facility with new and unique programs; to collaborate with organizations that already utilize wonderful programs; and to provide a sacred place where people from all over can experience these programs amongst the beauty of the Rocky Mountains, yet near the city and thousands of school age children.

**The Imagine Peace Center** will be a place where people can learn about peace, compassion, kindness and how to reconnect with who they are by participating and learning on many different levels. If someone is a visual person, they can learn from our Imagination Room. If they learn by being a part of an experience they can learn from our Creation or Recreation Room. For those people who enjoy conversing and exploring their thoughts and feelings, they can learn from the Education or Communication Room. The Imagine Peace Center has taken into account many aspects of learning. We want the visit to the Center to be inspirational, educational, reflective and simply, fun. There will be ongoing events, monthly exhibits and workshops that will make frequent visits to the Center desirable.

**The Vision** is to have the Imagine Peace Center be the first of several projects to inspire people from all walks of life to live more peaceful and meaningful lives. Local organizations will have space available in the Center to present their workshops and seminars, which will help to support the expenses of the Center. The next project will be to implement Imagine Peace Productions, Imagine Peace Publications, and Imagine Peace Product Partners. These for profit additions for Imagine Peace Foundation, along with an on going Trust, will enable the foundation, its facility and future facilities to be self reliant in the future and for future generations. Peace is possible, it takes each of us becoming the best example we can be and taking that peace out into the world to share with our children, our families, our communities and then our planet. Imagine Peace Foundation will be a way to begin the journey back to discovering the best qualities and values that are already embodied in each one of us.

## **Our Goals and Objectives**

### **Goal One** To Build the Imagine Peace Center

Imagine Peace Foundation will begin its journey by building the first Imagine Peace Center in the area of Denver, Colorado. This permanent multi faceted facility will house the programs discussed in the context of this summary. The facility will be nearly 30,000 square feet and will house the activity and educations rooms briefly described below.

#### Appreciation Room

This room will include works of art and literature of the world's great visionaries in Area of peace work, e.g. as Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Theresa, Jesus, Mahatma Gandhi, and His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

#### Creation Room

This is a room where children and adults will use their creative abilities to demonstrate how peace appears to them. Artists, including sculptors, poets, Musicians, photographers, and other artistic experts will be involved in the creation room as facilitators.

#### Relaxation Room

In this room staff members and other expert volunteers will help individuals learn the techniques of relaxation, visualization, and meditation. Individuals will learn to relax and release much of the stress and anger from their lives.

#### Imagination Room (Theatre)

Participants will be entertained, enlightened, and inspired in this room by a variety of artists and speakers. The room will have a theatre and music arena where large group classes and lectures can also be held.

#### Recreation Room

In this room children will participate in a variety of recreational activities with children from many walks of life. Through interactive recreation, they will learn To cooperate with others, resolve conflict compassionately, and respect the abilities of their peers.

#### Communication Room

Children and their families will talk out their problems with staff in this room. They will be able to discuss their concerns about the environment in which they live and the issues with which they are dealing.

### Contemplation Room

Thoughtful discussion by staff, volunteers, other organizations in the community will take place in this room. Topics will include how not only our organization, but others in the community can help with the promotion of peace, as well as the reduction of stress, anger, and fear in our lives. Strategies will be discussed and developed to help participants live peaceful lives.

### Education Room

Workshops and classes will be held in the education room that will deal with topics such as bullying in the classroom, dealing with violence at home and in the neighborhood, peaceful resolution to conflict, and our relationship with our peers, our environment, and ourselves.

### Contribution Room

Works of art representing peace and memorable gifts regarding peace and other memorabilia will be offered for sale in this room. Artist will be national and international as well as local, including local children. A portion of the proceeds of each sale will go toward the financial support of the Center.

### Preservation Room

The programs and activities in this room will focus on helping participants learn how to relate to their environment peacefully and respectfully. Environmental resource utilization will be explored. Community projects will be planned that encourage and promote wise use of our natural resources. The role of corporations in wise resource utilization will be explored and programs of corporate responsibility will be developed. Willing corporate leaders will be asked to participate. The Imagine Peace Center itself will be built as an environmentally sustainable model.

### Rejuvenation Room

Information and staff in this room will help visitors find the appropriate healing resources in their communities. Non-western medical healing services, e.g., reiki, massage, yoga, etc., will be scheduled for participants in this room.

### Objective One Capital Campaign

The first objective is to develop and conduct a capitol campaign that will raise \$7,000,000 to locate land, build, furnish, and landscape, Imagine Peace Center. This campaign will begin late winter, 2005. The goal of the campaign will be realized by late fall, 2006.

### Objective Two Finalize Imagine Peace Center Plans

The second objective is to finalize the plans for Imagine Peace Center. An initial set of drawings will be completed and attached. An architectural firm will be sought out to complete the design by April, 2006. An architectural design contest will be implemented January, 2006 to seek designs that include sustainable living concepts. The winner of the contest will be chosen to complete the facility for the Imagine Peace Center and it's international headquarters.

### Objective Three Secure a Construction Contract

The third objective is to secure the services of a local construction firm. We expect To let bids in as of June, 2006, with the selection of a contractor to be completed by August, 2006. The architectural firm will manage this process and will serve as Construction manager.

### Objective Four Build Imagine Peace Center

The fourth objective is to build the facility. Construction will begin in late fall, 2006 With completion targeted for early winter, 2007.

### Objective Five Secure a Temporary Facility

The fifth objective is to secure the free or lost cost use of temporary quarters for the Foundation out of which daily operations can be handled and a portion of the Proposed Center's programs conducted. We have completed this objective as of September, 2005. We are now utilizing space located at 1643 Boulder Street in Denver, Colorado.

### **Goal Two** Complete Initial Program Development

The second major goal is to complete the initial development of the educational and activity program curriculum for use in the Imagine Peace Center and for the outreach programs. The development of additional programs will be on going.

### Objective One Creation, Recreation, Education, and Relaxation Programs

Complete the initial development of programs for the Creation, Recreation, Education, and Meditation rooms. This objective will be completed by late spring, 2006.

### Objective Two Remaining Imagine Peace Programs

Complete the initial development of programs for the remaining Imagine Peace Rooms. This objective will be completed by mid-summer, 2006.

### Objective Three Continue Program Development

Continue the development of Imagine Peace Center programs and begin the development of outreach programs. Program development for the Center will be on going and may implement with permission from other organizations, programs that already exist. The initial outreach programs will be developed by Spring, 2006.

### Objective Four Evaluation

Routinely evaluate the success of our programs by asking for formal and informal Feedback from program participants. A formal survey will be designed by early Summer, 2006 that will be administered after participants have completed a Designated segment of a program or programs. Informal interviews will be held Periodically with participants to gain their perception of the usefulness of what they have learned in the programs. We will also ask participants for suggestions regarding the format and content of programs, their satisfaction with the work of staff and volunteers. Family members, appropriate school personnel, and community facility staff will be asked to contribute to the evaluation process by completing formal and informal surveys.

### **Goal Three** Develop an Artistic, Musical, Lecture and Workshop Program Series

The third major goal of the foundation is to develop a series of artistic, musical, lecture, and workshop programs which will be held in the Imagination Room/Theatre. These programs will begin shortly after completion of the Imagine Peace Center and will be open for general public attendance as well as participants of our other programs. Planning of these programs will begin one year before the targeted completion of the Center.

No objectives are specified now for this goal.

### **Goal Four** Creation of the Development Program

The Fourth major goal of the foundation is to develop and to conduct a comprehensive development program. In addition to the capital campaign mentioned in Goal One, this program will include membership drives, annual giving campaigns, major gift campaigns, planned giving campaigns, sponsorship of special fundraising events, and participation in community events.

## **Goal Five** Build Replicas of the Imagine Peace Center

The fifth major goal of the foundation is to build replicas of Imagine Peace Center in other cities and in other countries on a smaller more cost effective scale. No timelines or objectives have been established for this goal at this time.

### **Objective One** Sponsor The Concert for Compassion Event

Sponsor The Concert for Compassion Event at the Denver Red Rocks Amphitheatre During the week of 9/11/06 that will involve an afternoon and evening of musical Entertainment and inspirational speakers. We will solicit corporate sponsorship for This event in the amount of \$100,000 by June, 2006. Another \$250,000 will be raised from ticket sales.

Each year a Concert will be held at Red Rocks Amphitheatre on or about 9/11.

### **Objective Two** Conduct Fundraising Training

Conduct fundraising training for the Board of Directors by January, 2006 and each year after that in January.

### **Objective Three** Develop Printed Materials for Fundraising

Develop the initial set of printed materials for conducting a comprehensive Fundraising program by December, 2005.

### **Objective Four** Collect Potential Donor List

Begin now to collect lists of potential donors including names of individuals, small Businesses, large corporations, community groups, and foundations, both private and community. This effort is on going. Enough names will be collected by June, 2006 to begin a major gifts campaign and a grant-writing program.

### **Objective Five** Fundraising Financial Targets

The amount of money we will generate for specific purposes will be determined as we progress with development of our programs.

### **Objective Six** Development of Staff Financial Resources

The amount of money that we will need for staff will be determined as we near work on the Imagine Peace Center. To begin with we would like to hire an Executive Director, a Program Director, and a Development Director by late Summer, 2006. The budget for this staff would be close to \$100,000.

### Objective Seven Establish a donor tracking system

Establish the first cut of a donor tracking program on an appropriate spreadsheet Program by February, 2006. Explore the possibility of putting this program on Our web site for selective use by the development committee.

### Objective Eight Promotion of the Foundation

The foundation will be actively promoted by sharing its programs with schools, Churches, community recreational centers, libraries, bookstores, and public media Outlets. This promotion effort has started and will be an on going effort. Program Information will be presented to at least two community organizations per month Beginning March, 2006. Per month at least 10 other organizations will be sent Program information starting February, 2006.

### Objective Nine Updating our Web Site

The existing web site will be enhanced to include information on all Imagine Peace Center programs as well as the outreach program schedule. Event ticket purchases, Course selections, and course payments will be made through the web site as well as at the Center. The web site is in the process of being modified to include opportunities for donors to make contributions to the foundation. This case statement will be included on the site along with links to other community programs that complement our programs.

### Goal Six Develop Imagine Peace Productions

Imagine Peace Productions will solicit writers and directors who wish to enhance our Vision and will provide an outlet for them to produce their art through our production company, which will assist with the expansion of our Centers nationwide and internationally.

### Goal Seven Develop Imagine Peace Publications

We will be working with artists in the community who have inspirational messages to share to publish their work through our publication company. A portion of their sales will go back to support the foundation and its projects.

### Goal Eight Develop Imagine Peace Product Partners

In collaboration with other product sponsors we will offer products, publications, music CD's and other merchandise that can be purchased through our web site with a portion of the proceeds going back to support Imagine Peace Foundation and its Center facilities.



## **Programs**

Several of our Board of Directors have been involved in the delivery of programs in the helping profession and in the educational setting for several years. Based on our experience, it is our collective opinion that children must be involved in the experiences over a period of time in order to realize maximum benefit. Preferably, they will be able to participate from the first day of involvement until they graduate from high school. This lengthy involvement will increase the likelihood that participants will have experienced a change in feeling toward and thinking about themselves, their peers, their families, their neighborhoods, and their environment. Therefore, our programs are being designed for children of all ages with sensitivity to cultures and neighborhood environments of our participants. Increasing levels of critical thinking and personal examination will be required at increasing age levels.

Our review of community organizations in the Denver metropolitan area has shown that very few programs exist that are similar in nature or presentation style to those that we are planning. Where similarities do exist, the length of program involvement is generally shorter than we are planning, the neighborhood is not one in which we will become involved, the program delivery methodology varies significantly from what we are planning, or we have established a working relationship with the organization offering the programs and will be cooperating with that organization in program delivery.

Our activity programs will provide the opportunity for participants to interact with each other to a high degree and will include the use of classroom programs, many art and music forms, group and individual discussion sessions, role-playing activities, recreational opportunities, relaxation and meditation practice sessions, theatrical performances, and a lecture series. Additionally, an array of musical programs will be available in our theater on a regular basis.

All programs will require that students use appropriate levels of critical thinking skills and will require that they explore their feelings about the topics and issues that are discussed or experienced.

We expect that participants will experience a reduction of conflict and violence in their families, in places where they study and play, in their neighborhoods, and in their schools. We also expect that participants will actively promote the development and maintenance of a peaceful family, neighborhood, and school environment. They will initiate and promote family, neighborhood, and school programs designed to preserve and responsibly use our environmental resources.

The programs will take place in the Imagine Peace Center and where children naturally congregate in their communities. Children will be involved in these programs over an extended period of time so that the benefits will be maximally realized. The outreach programs will be conducted by trained volunteers and staff members in schools, churches, and community centers at least two times per month.

Several prepared courses will be used as part of the Center programs. One is the Course on Nonviolence being prepared by the Institute for Peace and Justice and the Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence. The chair of our Development committee was one of the reviewers for the course and has been involved in its development and test marketing. Another course is offered by the Institute for Peace and Justice and is written for use by teens. It is called Teens Acting for Peace. Finally, another workbook that will be utilized is, Honoring the Light of the Child written by, Sonnie Mc Farland, a Montessori teacher and/or Head of Schools for over 30 years. All these courses are interactive in nature and involve readings, role-playing, group discussions, and completion of worksheets for each lesson. The courses can extend over a period of several months and are modular, so that portions can be offered at various times. Other existing programs are now being examined for use during the initial program offering. Several local organizations that work with children have offered to discuss a working relationship with our foundation.

What follows is a description of the type of programs as well as the atmosphere that will be established in each of the rooms featured at the Imagine Peace Center. Each one of the Board members chose a room to create, as we get closer to the Center design we may choose to modify the room descriptions. This will serve as a temporary model to give an idea of what we want to create. We have chosen to describe the programs on a room-by-room basis because the atmosphere varies in each room and the equipment and materials needed to support the programs are different in each room.

## **Education Room**

The education room will be used for class sessions with a facilitator/leader who guides students through a series of interactive exercises that include readings, film clips, worksheets, discussions between students and facilitators and between individual students, as well as student presentations and role playing exercises.

The class sessions will include topics, e.g., learning respect for oneself, learning respect for others, respecting the environment, examination of race and cultural relations, the nature and impact of abusive verbal behavior, verbal and violent behavior in the family and the neighborhood, how to feel peace within yourself, how to feel peace in the world and how your own peaceful nature and actions impact others, why it is sometimes difficult to feel peaceful toward yourself and others, how to start activities and programs at home, in the neighborhood, and in school that promote peaceful actions and contribute to the happiness of your peers.

The evaluation of the impact of such programs will rely primarily on self, peer, and significant adult responses using formal surveys and informal interviews. These evaluations will take place when a program has been completed and periodically in the students' homes, school settings, and community gathering places.

Tables and chairs constructed to facilitate discussion and comfort will be the primary pieces of equipment. Several computer workstations as well as writing stations will be included. Audio/visual equipment will be necessary, along with chalk and white board.

Appropriate ceiling and station lighting will be available. The overall décor will not resemble a classroom, but rather comfortable and relaxing learning centers wherein several sessions can be conducted simultaneously.

## **THE IMAGINATION ROOM**

This room will be a place for people of all ages to be entertained, enlightened and inspired through different artistic interpretations of peace. Musicians, poets, actors, clowns, and speaker's will capture the imagination of the audience and leave them pondering the question of what peace means to them. The Imagination Room is a theater-like atmosphere.

There will be some evenings that will be dedicated to children's theater and family entertainment, and some evenings for adults. The theater could be utilized for specific workshops and audience participation. Located near The Appreciation Room it can be utilized for special engagements that would coincide with activities from this adjacent room.

The theater will hold between 900-1200 people and the stage will be versatile and have state of the art speakers and musical equipment. With stadium seating every seat will be seated in a desirable location.

The theater will be a place to assist in raising funds to support the Center. Tickets will range from 5.00 to 50.00 depending on the performance and the artist. With children, student, senior and membership discount taken into consideration.

The Foundation will seek corporate sponsorship for this room. Event sponsorship will, also, be sought to host different entertainers from around the country and around the world. An ongoing event manager position will be budgeted at some point after the Center opens.

## **The Information Room**

In this room, visitors to the Center can learn about peace, love, humanity, and loving-kindness through utilization of visuals, feeling methodologies, and auditory sensory materials. Guidance will be provided to other rooms and venues that can assist our visitors and members to uncover the answers that they are seeking to their questions about living peaceful lives.

Information will be provided in a variety of formats because people learn in different modes. Visual, kinesthetic, and auditory materials and devices will be used.

Visual materials to be included will be books, videos, maps, graphs, charts collages computers to access Websites, art works from children and artists the community and around the world that displaying peace and love and dance therapy information.

Kinesthetic materials will include works of art that involve softness, warm fuzzy places to sit and feel, animal visits, and things to touch.

Auditory devices will include audiotapes, music, singing, voice lessons, and public speaking lessons.

Visitors will be able to check out materials as well as share materials of theirs for use in the room. Meeting areas will be established for visitors to share information gathered and being studied. Access to websites will be provided. Guides will be available to help visitors find the learning methodology that best fits their styles. Structured and unstructured material discussion groups will be available with the guidance of staff if desired.

Periodically, speakers will be available who have written some of the materials and recorded some of the tapes. Schedules will be set for artist to explain the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic aspects of peace.

Events will be scheduled that will include a Day of Peace, Warm Fuzzy Day, Inner color Day, Dance your Inner Happiness Day, Live Your Dream Day, Touch Another Spirit Day, Room to Grow Day, Body Awareness Day, Realizing the Spiritual and Human Being Oneness Day, and the “How To” Days.

## **Rejuvenation Room**

Since there is a wide range of healing requirements, to attempt to cover all areas of all human requirements may be too large of a scope for Our Center of Peace. It is for this reason that we envision there being two aspects of the Rejuvenation Room, one that offers referrals to well known successful and well established outside agencies, and the second aspect being workshops that will help participants learn about various methods of physical, mental, and spiritual rejuvenation at Our Center of Peace.

Within Our Center of Peace’s Rejuvenation Room, there will be an atmosphere of safety, security, comfort, calm and peace. People of all ages will come and find an opportunity to be uplifted and learn about the area(s) they might see as helpful.

The outside agencies that Our Center of Peace will be making referrals to will be for those people seeking professional-level help (such as psychotherapy/counseling) and can also include crises management type needs (for example, help for domestic violence victims and their families).

Onsite information and workshops about healing at Our Center of Peace may include any or all of the following:

- 1) Nontraditional methods of healing such as Reiki and other energy healing modalities, acupuncture, rolfing, past life regression healing, coaching, etc.

- 2) Teaching tools and techniques to assist people in their own healing. This could include teaching meditation techniques, so the person can be in touch with their inner guidance, find healing within and also become empowered and self-aware.
- 3) Support groups for different areas as needed.

There should be a qualified professional who can make an accurate assessment of the needs of the people coming to Our Center of Peace for information about rejuvenation, with regards to whether the person needs a referral to an outside agency or can find information within Our Center of Peace's Rejuvenation room.

We also envision that the teachers at Our Center of Peace will either volunteer their time or base their instruction fee on a sliding scale.

## **Recreation Room**

The recreation room will be a safe haven for youth and a place where they can interact with their peers in a variety of activities. Counselors will be available as part of the recreation staff so that student to student interactions can be observed and intervention and teaching can be instantaneous. Activities will usually include a time for discussion of how the participants felt about the game, the interaction, and what might have been learned, both personally and as a group. The evaluation and discussion aspect of these activities is what will differentiate this program from the normal recreation programs.

The indoor games will include a wide variety of table games, educational arcade games, a big screen TV with gaming capability, and plenty of couches on which to relax. The outdoor game area will include a basketball area, a place for croquet, a small area for soccer, football and other field sports, and a tennis court.

The primary purpose of these activities will be to help students learn to interact with their peers in a positive way, how to resolve any conflict that might occur, and how to develop leadership skills.

## **Creation Room**

The creation will be light and open. Its décor will be earth tones, pastels, high ceilings, with water decorations. It will be an open space with the necessary basic equipment for each of the art areas. Earthen tile, natural floors, wood trimmings on walls, windows, and ceilings will enhance the earthy feeling.

Plasma walls will be used to project digital images of works. The appropriate sound systems will be installed. Video equipment and Internet connections will be available.

Artist specialties will include fine art, pottery, digital film, photography, sculpture, jewelry design and crafting, metal works, woodcarving, film, graphic design, poetry, books, light, music, sound, and color. Volunteer artists in each of these areas will work with participants to help them find their creative spirits and to help them express their feelings of peace in art forms.

## **Preservation Room**

**Purpose:** To show the natural order of our environment and what happens when nature or humans interfere with this order. The environments go from global to country to community to home to internal. This is a visual teaching tool.

**Setting:** All walls would work as movie screens. A projector would be mounted in the center of the room on the ceiling. The projections would show the natural order of life, recycling. There would be hands-on interactive areas in the room. A visitor could perform a selected activity. The video would respond to the activity and show the altered results. Such activities would include polluting vehicles, trash dumps, erosion, lead paint, cleaning chemicals, smoking, drugs, negative thinking, stress, obesity, war, extinction, etc. Also, there would be activities such as exercise, balanced diets, xeriscape, recycling, and energy efficient vehicles, peace, etc.

An example of one aspect of the room could be, as the settings in the room change from global to internal, a sound is emanating from the area of the projector. It starts out very soft, distant. It increases with volume and intensity as the environment changes from one dimension to the next. The closer to the internal environment the louder it gets. The sound is a heartbeat. When the environment at any level is according to nature, the heartbeat is rhythmic and when there is interference the heartbeat is changed.

Someone would be available in the room to answer questions and suggest reading material, which would be available in another room at the Center.

### **Governance**

Our Board of Directors currently consists of fourteen people from various professions and backgrounds who have an interest in providing opportunities for children to learn to live more peaceful and less stressful lives than they may be now living. Nearly all of the directors are employed full time for a company or run a company of their own. Several have significant experience in the helping professions, two are accountants, one is a realtor and a mortgage broker, another has been a college administrator as well as a division manager for a large corporation, another is a mortgage broker, one is an information technology expert, and another is a human resource professional. A brief history of their professional and volunteer experience is attached.

Initially, board members have been selected based on their interest and experience. The term for each board member is two years. A set of by-laws has also been attached.

## **Staff**

All of the work to develop this foundation is currently being done by volunteers. We expect to periodically consult with an expert from our board for guidance. When Our Center of Peace is completed, we expect that trained volunteers will do the majority of the class and activity work. A small staff will manage the physical aspects of the center, oversee the programs and activities, work with discussion and contemplation groups, plan the musical and lecture series, and conduct on-going fundraising programs. The temporary facilities will house a much smaller operation and will require a smaller staff and core of volunteers. The primary purpose of that staff will be to conduct the capital campaign and complete the building of the Center as well as work with volunteers to conduct selected programs and activities.

### **Aleta Antoinette** Founder and President

Aleta Antoinette has been an entrepreneur for the past twelve years. Her business and leadership background has been in the financial services arena, specializing in client-oriented management along with training and building teams for several organizations. Prior to being self-employed she worked in dispute resolution and mediation with a large corporation in a department that was created specifically for her to enable her ability to resolve conflict and make an unprofitable situation profitable for both the client and the company. She has held a Securities License, a Life and Health Insurance License, has a Real Estate License and has done specialized training in Mortgage Certification. Creating business on the foundation of integrity, creativity, cooperation and kindness are what she strives for daily.

Aleta's roots and growing up in the turbulent sixties she questioned the violence, human suffering and conflict that surrounded her. She desired to see a more peaceful world and wanted to be a part of creating that; her dream of joining the Peace Corps and working at the United Nations were side tracked when she began a family so she decided to work toward this goal on a local level. With this in mind she attained her Bachelor's of Science degree in Human Services and participated in organizing a group discussion for homeless men in Ontario, California, which enabled many of them to become self-reliant. She participated in a national event, "Hands Across America", which was designed to educate and raise awareness of the plight of the homeless population in the United States. She has volunteered with the Special Olympics, Muscular Dystrophy, and Habitat for Humanity. She volunteered for three years with the Greenwood Village Police Department as a Victim Advocate to assist victims of crime and to aide with crisis intervention.

Exploring her own path and experiencing life's challenges has lead her to believe that her dreams of creating a more peace filled world are possible if we began with ourselves. This belief took her on a journey of self-discovery through experiencing individual and group therapy, workshops, lectures, reading and spiritual exploration. This led her back

to her childhood dream of creating more connection within and therefore, a more peaceful planet. When we recognize a connection in ourselves we begin to realize that connectedness with others and with this we can create peace one person at a time. This is the mission of the Imagine Peace Foundation, which she began in June 2003 with a group of visionary volunteers. The first project is to create, “Our Center of Peace”, a place to explore what peace means to each person, and then to provide the tools to transform their lives in a positive and meaningful way.

Along with her passion to turn the dream of Imagine Peace into a reality, and her business, she enjoys, writing poetry, participating in discussion groups, dance, being in nature and spending time with family and friends. Children are our future and if we can expose them to opportunities to experience more loving choices, to feel a sense of serenity, to discover who they are and to appreciate others they will naturally become more caring adults. The key to life is being balanced, thoughtful, compassionate, and being joyful in everything you do- in this harmony there is peace.

## Tom LaRotonda

### Advisory Board

Tom LaRotonda is a personal and professional transformation Mentor/Coach, Facilitator, Writer and Speaker. He is a partner in a Denver based transformational leadership company called Core Matters, which specializes in helping individuals, and organizations create authentic lives and cultures. Tom and his business partner developed a holistic based transformation program that helps individuals and organizations to discover their core foundational passions, beliefs, and values and aligns them with a higher life or organizational purpose. This alignment immediately creates a deeply powerful, highly conscious, purpose-driven life or organizational culture. Prior to his joining Core Matters three years ago, Tom spent over 25 years as a mid to senior level manager with several large international companies where he developed his passion for and earned a reputation as a champion of transformational living.

Having spent years overseeing large organizations as well as numerous high profile projects/initiatives, Tom realized that true transformation only occurs at the core level of an individual or corporation. He observed that most training programs and consultants only addressed the symptoms and not the disease. He became a champion of seeking solutions that would sustain the long term health and well being of an organization or person. He became an advocate for recognizing the needs and desires of employees and sought out solutions and programs that supported the employees, not only in their professional growth but their personal growth path as well. He promoted a servant-leadership philosophy long before it's current gain in popularity. His “new-thought” ideas and philosophies had a significant impact on increasing morale, commitment, creativity, and profitability at the companies he worked for.

Throughout his life Tom has been an advocate for peaceful conflict resolution. His lifelong success is based on a model that focuses on building relationships through trust, compassion and non-judgment. His passion for peaceful conflict resolution and



community building was significantly impacted by his work as a volunteer mediator for a non profit organization that created a unique victim-offender mediation program for juveniles called Face to Face. It was here that Tom saw and experienced the power of two emotionally charged parties coming together to heal the wounds that had divided a community. The entire purpose of the program is to restore a community to a state of wholeness after a crime has been committed. It was at this time that Tom realized his passion for peace could best be served by directing his energy into an entrepreneurial setting where he had the flexibility and authority to create bold programs that integrated spiritual based concepts of transformation into all aspects of one's life. In his journey with Core Matters Tom has established himself as a leader in promoting non-traditional, leading edge thinking into the corporate world. They have introduced unique programs such as Employee Wisdom Circles, Integrity Strategic Plans, and an Authentic Culture Model into many of their corporate clients resulting in major shifts in the culture.

Tom embraced his entrepreneurial spirit and values as a child from his parents. Together they owned and operated a neighborhood grocery store in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. When that business was sold to a move to Denver, his father started a very successful TV repair business that serviced the Denver community for over 25 years until his retirement. Tom has a BS degree in Finance from the University of Colorado and a certificate in Total Quality Management for Service Organizations from the University of Phoenix. He received his coaching certification from Corporate Coach University in 2001.

Tom's life purpose is to be the voice of authentic freedom and love. He believes passionately in the mission of the Imagine Peace Foundation. He has been involved with the creation of the IPF from the very beginning and worked closely with Aleta Antoinette, the founder of IPF, in helping her to gain clarity on the vision and dream of building Our Center for Peace. He brings to the board his diverse leadership experience in creating and managing a successful organization, as well as his passion for peace and non-violence.

## Claire Walsh

### Life & Transition Coach

Claire, a native of New Jersey, moved from the Jersey Shore in the early 70's. She has found the Colorado climate and spectacular scenery quite favorable for her outdoor interests of hiking, biking and golfing. She is passionate about maintaining a lifestyle that integrates her personal interests with her desire to encourage others to live their life purpose and do it more effortlessly.

Blending 20 years experience in Human Resources in both the public and private sector, a Bachelor of Science in Management and Professional Coach training thorough Coach University, Claire inspires individuals to discover their passion and live their potential.

As a life and transition coach, Claire works with employees, managers, career seekers, and individuals in personal, business, career and life transitions to help them stretch, grow, evolve and remove the barriers to success. She loves working with individuals to support them in making changes, especially the internal changes necessary to create the life they want. Her clients develop a new clarity about their ideals and become focused on discovering ways to live their life in harmony with their values. She believes everyone has within them the power to create an abundant life—a life of true joy, happiness and peace. By tapping into their wisdom within, clients reawaken their spirit and live life more fully and intentionally.

Claire is a contributing author of two books in the series, “A Guide to Getting It.” *Achieving Abundance* was published July 2002 and “*Remarkable Management Skills*” was published in November 2002.

She has organized the “Create Your Best Life” monthly luncheon for individuals who want deeper connections with other like-minded individuals who are interested in personal growth.

Claire is affiliated with the Denver Coach Federation and is in the Graduate School of Coaching through Coach Ville.

## Linda Penjen Treasurer

Linda Penjen wears the titles of Grandmother, Mother, Entrepreneur, Business Founder, Office Manager, Bookkeeper and Dessert Maker. She has worked continuously in the job market since 1976 with her experience split between Public Accounting and Construction firms. Her on-the-job training has been supplemented with Accounting and Business courses. She has organized offices, trained staff, relocated and decorated facilities. She founded her own bookkeeping business in 1995 and her “Office Mom” business in 2003, which provides special occasion gift buying and desserts to businesses.

Additional she tutors her bookkeeping clients on how to be more organized and hands on with their own record keeping. The dual purpose is to help them be more independent due to knowledge and improve their bottom line by reducing Accounting expenses. The purpose of the “Office Mom” is to provide management with a means of recognizing the individual staff member and the events of their personal life.

Linda Penjen has traveled a path since childhood, which includes being a mediator, inspiration seeker of the authentic and friend. She was born after the end of World War II and has experienced the emotions of each additional World conflict. She believes in the Law of Attraction and that each of us needs to be at Peace with ourselves to radiate and attract Peace from others. Peace is contagious. In 1997, she started Research and

Development on her own passion. She is building a Holistic Retreat for children. This retreat will be located in Nevada.

## Tamara Sherwood

### Advisory Board

***Tamara Sherwood*** is a trained mediator, coach, facilitator and public speaker. She is experienced in teaching Adlerian theory based parenting skills. She has certification to work with families from the International Network of Children and Families Gainesville, FL (1991), and Global Relationship Center, Austin, TX (1990). Tamara works with parents, youth, families, organizational staff and at-risk clients to find peaceful solutions to every day communications and anger challenges.

In her service with The Conflict Center, in Denver, CO, Tamara has created and implemented curriculum that invites parents and their children to participate together in learning skills to resolve conflicts, create mutual respect, manage anger and build quality communication skills. She has developed booklets and learning tools to assist families in crisis.

Tamara has been working in the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) arena since 1993. She has a victim/offender as well as a parent/teen mediation certification from Community Alternatives, Inc., and FACE-to-FACE Mediation Services, Aurora, CO (1993). She has additional training from VORP of Denver (1995), and Advanced Mediation Training from Judy Mars-Dixon, Boulder CO (2004). She is an active volunteer for Jefferson County Mediation Service.

Tamara has conducted mediations and facilitations with families, victim and offender, couples, workplace, neighbor disputes and schools. She has been recognized for her expertise as a parent/teen mediator. Tamara educates families about communication skills, which are effective long after the mediation is over.

Tamara maintains her belief that co-parenting requires exceptional attention to strategic planning. She provides balance and cohesion to families processing their inevitable conflicts. Raised in Boulder, Colorado, Tamara has been a single parent for six years, raising two ambitious teenage boys who are active in school and community activities.

I can be of benefit to the Imagine Peace Foundation through my experience of fundraising and marketing for The Conflict Center. I can bring added benefit to programming and years of experience of knowledge as to what make a good program and how to evaluate. I consider myself as a peacemaker and enjoy the company and work of those that are like minded.

*“Be the change you wish to see in the world.” --Mahatma Gandhi*

## **Colleen Bement**

Assistant Secretary

Colleen Bement works as a customer service representative in the field of telecommunications. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services from Cal State Fullerton, and had spent some time in the field working with children in group home settings. She had the privilege of working her college internship with Hands Across America in 1986, which change her outlook towards others. Although she spends most of her focus on her family, she makes time for her passion for creative writing. Colleen has been involved with the Imagine Peace Foundation since its inception, and had served part-time on the former board of directors.

## **Marcy La Rue**

Secretary

Marcy La Rue was a manager of a nationwide check warranty service for 7 years. In that capacity she developed policies and procedures, which increased productivity in each department in which she worked. Marcy learned how to communicate with a variety of people and how to recognize and acknowledge their strengths. She was responsible for hiring and developing employees, as well as educating and counseling current employees in order to maintain standards for the department.

Marcy was relocated from San Diego to Aurora Colorado shortly after her family expanded. It was important to us that one of us is at home with the children so for a time it was her husband John. Shortly after moving to Colorado her position ended so she stayed home to raise the children and John went back into the workforce. Even though certain sacrifices had to be made, it was more important for her to be involved with raising her children. When her youngest started school Marcy began doing medical data entry at home and after a short time went to work in the office part time for the same company until her position ended after 7 years. Marcy is currently raising three teenagers, one recently graduated high school and is attending college and the other two are in high school.

Marcy was an Officer on the Board of the elementary school's Parent Teacher Organization as the Treasurer for three years. She was responsible for several fundraising activities throughout the year as well as the deposits and record keeping. Marcy also volunteered in the classroom and for field trips. Marcy was involved with her children's sports teams fundraising events. Marcy recently volunteered with the Salvation Army to help the Hurricane Katrina survivors located here locally.

Marcy attended the first meeting because Aleta is a dear friend. She became involved because she recognized how she could make a difference. She believes in living a more peaceful life and sharing this gift with others and educating them as to how to live their own lives more peacefully. Marcy has a special interest in educating children and giving them a voice, which is why she will be involved with the curriculum and program development. Marcy will continue to bring her special talents, interests and enthusiasm to Imagine Peace Foundation.

## **Victoria Kwasinski**

### Advisory Board

Victoria Kwasinski attended Colorado Institute of Art and went on to receive her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design where she graduated class valedictorian. Her love of art has been a lifetime journey that began with her first award at the age of seven. She has over twenty years of experience as a Professional Artist and has worked as a Corporate Graphic Artist, Freelance Illustrator, Gallery Owner, Fine Artist and Art Instructor.

Ms. Kwasinski has been teaching drawing and painting extensively throughout the Denver Metropolitan area since 1996. She has taught workshops and extended class sessions, served as an exhibit juror, and has held critiques and demonstrations for various arts associations including, but not limited to: The Colorado Watercolor Society, The Colorado Pastel Society, Foothills Art Center, Heritage Fine Arts Guild, Denver Allied Artists Guild, Aurora Artists Guild, Broomfield Art Guild, Park Hill Art Club, Business of Art Center, and other public and private associations.

Victoria works in a variety of art mediums, and the versatility of her work serves a varied audience. She is a published illustrator, and her fine art is represented by galleries, shown in local and national juried exhibitions, and is collected internationally. She has contributed art works or services to groups including; The Mask Project, The Global Art Project, Project Safeguard, Art that Heals, etc. Of special note is her painting 'Wings of Unity' painted originally for the Global Art Project in 1998. The theme of this painting is a vision of angels uniting all the continents and the earth in global unity and harmony. Victoria believes that she was spiritually guided to paint this image. Lithographic prints of this painting are now in international collections including: The National Institute of Art/Taipei, Taiwan; His Holiness Cealo/Japan; Dr. Arun Gandhi; musician Nawang Khechog, and numerous private collections.

Of her lifetime journey as an Artist, Victoria states, "Art is my passion and my joy! I believe that we are here to live our purpose as defined by what we are passionate about, that which makes our heart sing. I also believe that we each have a responsibility to share our gifts with all. Whether I am sharing my knowledge of Art through instruction, or providing a visual experience for the viewer or collector, my ultimate goal is to encourage all to see and live the beauty and joy of this gift of life. As the poet John Keats so eloquently stated, " 'Beauty is Truth, Truth is Beauty.' – that is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know." My work is a celebration of the spirit that unites us all."

## Recent Credits

- 2004: The Gallery at Guiry's Lodo, *gallery representation* – Denver, CO  
Ouray Gallery, *gallery representation* – Ouray, CO (since 1999)  
12th Street Gallery, *gallery representation* - Golden, CO (also 2003)  
Source, *gallery representation* - Denver, CO  
Square Deal Gallery, *group exhibit* - Denver, CO  
RL Foster Gallery, *group exhibit* - Denver, CO  
Neo Art Gallery, *group exhibit* - Denver, CO  
Denver Press Club, *group exhibit* - Denver, CO
- 2003: Core Matters, *solo exhibition* – Denver, CO  
825 Art, *group exhibit* – Denver, CO  
RL Foster Gallery, *The Valone Circle group exhibition* – Denver, CO
- 2002: Zwolf Gallery, *gallery representation* – Denver, CO  
Square Deal Gallery, *gallery representation* – Denver, CO (also 2001)  
Copperidge Studio, *invitational exhibit* – Black Forest, CO  
Heart Studio, *invitational exhibit* – Denver, CO  
Global Art Project – Heart Studio, Denver, CO/ Washington, D.C.  
Eagle Fire Gallery, *juried exhibit* – Woodland Park, CO  
Business of Art Center, *juried exhibit* – Manitou Springs, CO
- 2001: The Garden Room, *gallery representation* – Denver, CO  
Fourth Story, *prisma4 group exhibition* – Denver, CO  
Colorado Gallery of the Arts, *invitational exhibit* – Littleton, CO  
Residence Off Broadway, *invitational exhibit* – Englewood, CO  
Mead Street Station, *solo exhibition* – Denver, CO  
Dovecote, *solo exhibition* – Littleton, CO  
Stella's Gallery, *invitational exhibit* – Denver, CO
- 2000: Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, *juried exhibit* – Palmer Lake, CO  
Rocky Mountain National Watermedia Exhibition, *juried exhibit* – Golden, CO  
Colo. State Fair Fine Arts Exhibition, *Juried/Pikes Peak Watercolor Society Award* - Pueblo, CO  
Piper Gallery/Crested Butte Wildflower Festival, *invitational exhibit* – Crested Butte, CO  
Stella's Gallery, *prisma5 group exhibit* – Denver, CO  
Stanton Gallery, *prisma5 group exhibit* – Littleton, CO
- 1999: Market Street Gallery, *Guiry's Faculty Exhibit* – Denver, CO  
The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual State Watermedia Exhibit/CWS, *juried exhibit* – Denver, CO  
The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual All Colorado Art Show, *juried exhibit* – Greenwood Village, CO
- 1998: Global Art Project – Heart Studio, Denver, CO/ The National Institute of Art, Taipei, Taiwan  
Alternative Arts Alliance/Open Studio Tour – Denver, CO  
Littleton Rotary Club, *invitational exhibit* – Littleton, CO (also 1997)  
Matisse Cultural Center, *group exhibit* – Vence, France  
Le Stelle Gallery, *solo exhibition* – Littleton, CO (also 1997, 1996)

## Published Work

- 2003: "Sacred Union: The Journey Home" – book cover illustration  
2000: "Ouray Visitor's Guide 2000" – cover illustration  
1997: "Littleton – The Entrepreneur's Hometown" – interior illustration  
1997: "The Country Register" – cover illustration  
1996: "My Garden Visits" – complete book publication, illustration and layout  
1995: "5280 Magazine" – dining guide illustration

## Sonnie McFarland

For the past 36 years, I have been actively engaged as a Montessori educator working with children to help them realize their greatest potentials, develop their talents and develop their skills to live peacefully and harmoniously with others. Within my heart I firmly believe that our hope for peace in the world must begin with the children. My work has included experiences as Teacher, Head of School, Founder and Director of an Educational Center, a Board Member of the national American Montessori Society (AMS), Chair of the AMS Peace Committee, Educational Consultant and Workshop Presenter.

My work is based on my deep compassion and vision of the true peaceful natures of children. My experience has shown me that when children have adults who see them in their strengths and provide nurturing environments at home and school that match their interests and developmental needs, the children naturally manifest peaceful qualities such as: thoughtfulness, cooperation, concentration, helpfulness and compassion. I have worked with children in the home, in schools and in church settings and consistently see them manifest peaceful behaviors when they are seen in their strengths and the environments are prepared to nurture, attract and interest them.

In addition to my work with children, I have worked extensively with adults as a Head of School, Board Member, National Committee Chair, Educational Consultant and Workshop Presenter. In addition, I have written two books related to the field of Peace Education: Shining Through – A Teacher's Handbook on Transformation and Honoring the Light of the Child – Activities to Nurture Peaceful Living Skills in Young Children. Currently, I am actively sharing my work and wisdom with schools throughout the country and internationally as I present workshops on:

- Community Building
- Creating Peaceful Classrooms
- Centering Skills for the Adult
- Parenting Skills for a Peaceful Home

My passion is to be a spokesperson for the children and to inspire adults to see and nurture the spirits of love within the children. I also bring specific tools, activities and insights to parents and teachers to help them more fully reflect the children's true natures back to them. When this happens, children more easily recognize their own spirit of love and peace and manifest it in their lives.

I welcome the work of the Imagine Peace Foundation and offer my passion, experience and wisdom to help create a stronger Culture of Peace in our world. In a letter to Dr. Maria Montessori Mahatma Gandhi wrote:

*You have very truly remarked that if we are to reach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with children and if they will grow up in their natural innocence, we won't have to struggle, we won't have to pass fruitless idle resolutions, but we shall go from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all the corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which, consciously or unconsciously the whole world is hungering.*

## David Hatch

Board of Directors

**David Hatch** is the founder and board president of Skyline Sanctuary & Education Center. David's background is in real estate investing; for fifteen years, he has been the

owner and president of Terrell Properties. He is member of many organizations including Amnesty International, ACLU, the Jane Goodall Institute, and the Human Rights Campaign that represent his vision of the long-term, educationally based changes that are possible in our world. David holds Bachelor Degrees in Psychology and Sociology, and lives in Westminster with his daughter Jessica, age seven. Jessica hails from Cambodia, where she and David adopted each other in 1999.

**Rafael Benitez**  
Advisory Board

**Kevin Bradley**  
Advisory Board

### **Location**

A potential site for the Center has recently been located and we are pursuing the details of that site selection. We want to be centrally located near the metro area, easily accessible to participants, and, ideally, near other facilities that attract large numbers of people. The setting located would allow the area to be about 25 minutes from downtown Denver, yet in a peaceful setting near nature and in a community setting that would attract other organizations. One of those organizations is Skyline Sanctuary and would involve having an animal sanctuary surrounding the Imagine Peace Center. This would be an ideal way to teach about kindness to the environment, each other, and all living creatures. Another potential site is being researched that would be nearer to Denver, but in a more accessible location.

### **Finances**

At this point we have not developed a comprehensive budget. The Wings of Unity fundraising dinner was an enjoyable and financially successful event. In the near future we will need to expend a few hundred dollars for a consultant to give us fundraising guidance, for printing fundraising materials, and for other office supplies. In the very near future we will make a down payment to a concert facility so that our concert the week of 9/11/06 will be held. A financial statement follows.

### **Development**

Within the next weeks we will be involved in securing corporate sponsorships for The Concert for Compassion. These sponsorships will provide the secure base that we need to host this event. It is expected that we will raise between \$30,000 and \$60,000. A small portion of those funds may be used to hire one or two staff members to more actively pursue fundraising activities for the building of the Center and for program development. To support the Center we would offer annual giving programs, membership drives, periodic major gift drives, and program user fees will provide the solid basis for continued operation of the foundation programs. We plan to hold annual



special events, e.g., concerts and fundraising dinners. We expect to make The Concert for Compassion to be an annual event.

Our long-term plan is to build Imagine Peace Centers across the country and internationally. The programs that we develop will be easily duplicated in other centers.

### **History**

Our history is very brief. We were founded in Aleta's living room in June of 2003. We have held a successful fundraising dinner at which Dr. Arun Gandhi was the keynote speaker as a kick-off for the 2003 Season of Nonviolence. We raised considerable money through the silent auction that was part of this event. Items that did not sell are now being offered at auction on our web site. We have been involved with developing a fundraising plan, looking for property for our Center, and discussing building plans with an architect. At this time next year we expect to have held a successful concert, participated in other community fundraising events, completed a capital campaign for building funds, conducted some of our programs for children in temporary quarters, and begun the process of building our Center.

To date we have sponsored one successful fundraising dinner that raised \$10,000. We are in the process of planning a benefit concert called the "The Concert for Compassion". Our goal for that concert is to raise \$100,000. We have been active in the planning of our education and activities programs and our development strategies. This planning will continue as we move toward the completion of our activity and program facility, Imagine Peace Center.