

Annual Update



2023 VOLUNTEER, CHURCH, & EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

We are delighted to report that we experienced an increase of over 300% participation in volunteering this year.

Days of Service

- We organized four Days of Service, mobilizing over 1,000 volunteers from 37 churches to serve at various sites across Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- We also facilitated the creation and distribution of teacher appreciation kits, extending practical encouragement to every educator and administrator at our partner schools.

Education and Research

- **Speaker Series:** We hosted Miroslav Volf, author, scholar, and founder of Yale University's Center for Faith and Culture. More than 430 people attended the event.
- **State of the East Bay: Children:** We published our inaugural research report shedding light on the formidable challenges faced by children in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Over 150 church leaders and community representatives attended the events, sparking conversation and building pathways to further support children, schools, and families.

Church Network

- More than 50 senior pastors and church leaders attended one of our three networking events throughout the year, designed specifically to educate, equip, and encourage.

From Franklin Elementary School Principal, Lusa Lai:

Projects such as organizing flower beds, closets, or libraries have long-existed on our list of to-dos. I am so grateful for the support from our Project Peace volunteers. Because of their ongoing help, we now have flourishing planters and organized book rooms that help build on the warm learning environment that our students deserve. Thank you Project Peace!

From Volunteer, Site Coordinator, Church Partner, and now Board Member, Devona Brazier:

Over 7 years, I've participated in Project Peace as both a member of a small church – with no dedicated outreach staff – and as the Outreach Director for a larger church. In both contexts, Project Peace's Days of Service have helped congregants, who may not have had the non-profit connections or administrative capacity on their own, take the first step into service in their communities.



LOOKING AHEAD

Over the next 9-12 months, we will focus on strengthening our church partnerships, amplifying our volunteer impact, and expanding our educational efforts by:

- **Enhancing Church Partnerships:** We are dedicated to enriching and expanding our network of churches. This involves equipping churches with tools for effective service, offering educational networking events, and broadening our service locations and opportunities.
- **Expanding Volunteer Programs:** To make a greater impact, we will provide more avenues for individuals and churches to participate in community volunteering.
- **Hosting Speaker Series Events:** On February 12, 2024, we will host speaker, author, and podcaster, Justin Giboney of the AND Campaign. More information: www.projectpeace.org/speaker-series
- **Providing Relevant Local Research:** Our commitment to education and catalyzing local efforts includes providing research that illuminates local needs and practical ways we can collaboratively address them.

This work is critical, not just to the flourishing of our communities, but to the outreach and witness of our local churches through engagement with the world. As we wrap up 2023 and look ahead to 2024, we are hopeful and prayerful for all God has in store for us, our churches, community partners, and volunteers. Thank you for your partnership as we work together to do the work of mercy and justice in our communities.

From Site Coordinator and Volunteer, Clark Sept:

The reason I return each time is this: serving this way takes me beyond the notion of radical welcome to actually living it. This school serves kids who not only are coming from other countries under stressful circumstances, but many are also unaccompanied minors. They have to learn survival English and survive in one of the most expensive areas in the US. We're all here today to make the stories more positive for the kids who pass through this school.

