PeaceMaker Minnesota

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Growing Together, One Peaceful Community at a Time

Building Brighter Futures and Safer Places to Learn Across Minnesota

A Letter to Our Community

Every child reached in 2025 was made possible by people like you, and I cannot thank you enough.

2025 was a year that tested Minnesota. Schools absorbed shocks they shouldn't have had to absorb. Families navigated fear. Children carried things far too heavy for their shoulders.

And yet — in classrooms across our state, something else was happening at the same time.

A Peace Guide showed up for a child who needed to be heard. An Ambassador for Respect walked into a fourth-grade classroom and changed the way kids see each other. A kindergartner learned that standing up for a friend is one of the bravest things a person can do. And many schools received the financial resources they needed to make their hallways safer — because a community believed it was worth the investment.

The work of peace never stopped. Because of you, it couldn't.

This report is our accounting of 2025 — the growth, the reach, the relationships built one conversation at a time. We served more students than ever before. We welcomed new communities into our endowment family. We showed up, every day, for the children who needed us most.

Growing together is how we do this work. And we are grateful to be growing alongside you — our donors, volunteers, board members, staff, contractors, and the students and educators who show up every day for this mission.

Peace is worth the work. Thank you for proving that every single day.

Dan McNeil
Executive Director

Our **VISION**

A more peaceful world where people live in kinship with one another and talk through differences without hurting relationships—a world based on love.

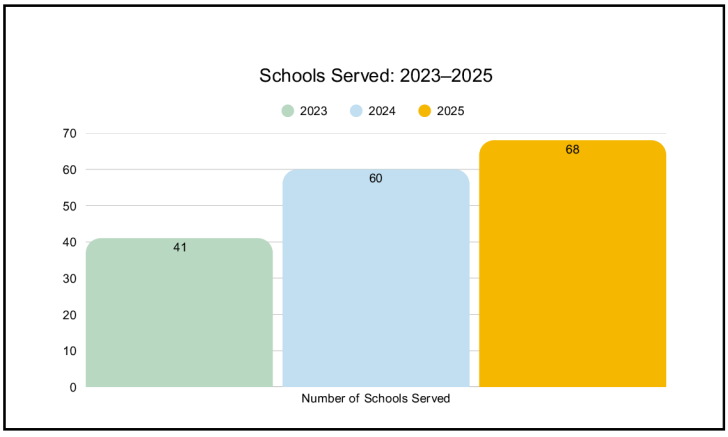
Our **MISSION**

To help schools become safer places, free from bullying and harassment, and help youth learn positive relational skills like empathy, respect, cooperation, and how to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Programming Growth Overview

In 2025, PeaceMaker Minnesota served 8,856 unduplicated students — a 10% increase over 8,032 in 2024. Meaningful gains across all four programs drove that growth. Ambassadors for Respect reached 3,144 students, up from 2,437. Books for Peacemakers grew to 3,714 students, up from 2,397. Peace Guide Services more than doubled, serving 1,384 students, up from 689 in 2024. Safe School Initiatives reached 2,466 students across 11 schools.

1 in 10
Our programs reached students in 35 of Minnesota's 325 school districts — serving youth in more than 1 in 10 districts statewide. That's not just growth. That's a movement.



FOLLOW US
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Programming Outcomes & Growth

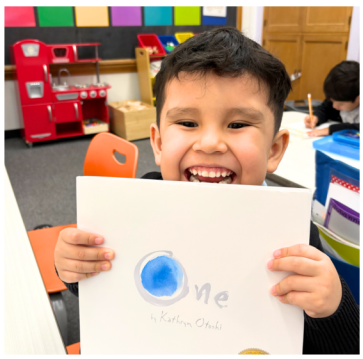
Your generosity — shared by 695 donors — made all of this programming possible.

BOOKS FOR PEACEMAKERS

16
Schools participated
2024: 16

3,714
K–5 students discussed and wrote about their books
2024: 2,397

Ten districts and 29 educators participated in learning essential social-emotional skills—such as conflict resolution, self-advocacy, and emotional regulation—while enhancing literacy, and fostering positive relationships



VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Teacher: "I think they took away positive ideas to deal with things that bother them rather than yelling, hurting, or crying."

Student: "When you have a friend, and they're sad, you should talk about how they can feel better. When your friend is getting picked on, stand up for them."

PEACE GUIDE SERVICES

11
Schools retained Peace Guide Services
2024: 12

1,384
K–8 students in individual & group conversations
2024: 689

K–8 students received support to boost self-esteem, conflict management, and friendship skills. Survey results indicated that 92% of teachers observed improved behavior, and 95% of administrators wished to continue the program next year.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Teacher: "Peace Guides fill the gaps that would normally be overlooked or not recognized to begin with."

Student: "I've had a lot of anxiety, and have been working with you. I am learning a lot about my coping skills."

SAFE SCHOOL INITIATIVES

11
Schools received financial support to combat bullying
2024: 8

2,466
Students and staff — given conflict resolution tools
2024: 3,698

Grants were given to schools in 10 districts, benefiting 215 educators with curricula, training, and materials to combat bullying and teach conflict resolution. This initiative aims to create a culture where every student feels respected and valued.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Teacher: "Teaching empathy and kindness helps students navigate friendships, conflicts, and social challenges positively — supporting not only their personal growth but the well-being of our entire school community."

Student: "I learned how important it is to be kind and not hurt people. Some people in the class are being called names. I could try hard not to participate in meanness."

AMBASSADORS FOR RESPECT

44
Schools learned from Ambassador presentations
2024: 31

3,144
4th graders trained in kindness and belonging
2024: 2,437

112 Ambassadors worked with 13 organizations to train in kindness and self-advocacy. Results indicated that 98% of students learned inclusion strategies, and 82% of Ambassadors felt more integrated into their community, demonstrating mutual change.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

Ambassador: "This meant a lot to me because I never want others to be bullied as I have been in the past!"

Student: "I will keep in mind that we are all different but deserve kindness."

PEACEFUL PEN, A PILOT PROGRAM

2
Cities served

29
adults participated, attending a total of 76 times in the eight-part series

Between October and December 2025, two facilitators led 15 two-hour sessions exploring eight reflective listening topics — bringing the same peacemaking skills that we bring to our children to adults in the community.

VOICES FROM THE FIELD

"I learned to be receptive, non-judgmental, caring, and curious — and that all of it matters when you truly listen."

"I learned that reflective listening is difficult, but needed. It is about helping others to feel heard and valued. We all need that."

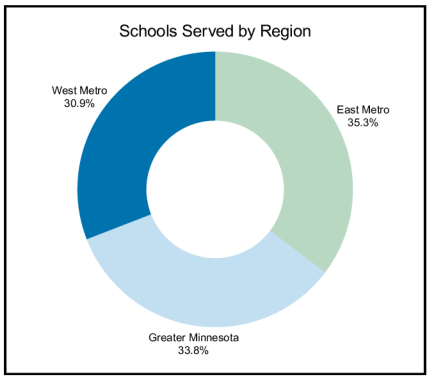
Cost Per Program

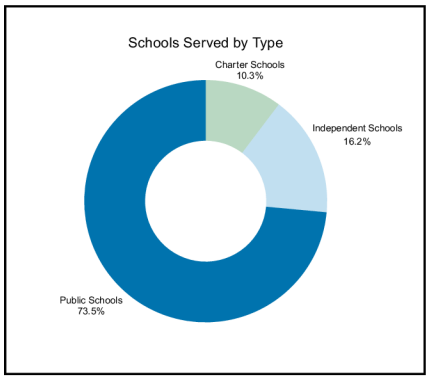
Books for Peacemakers	$54,637
Peace Guide Services	$357,118
Safe School Initiatives	$40,922
Ambassadors for Respect	$56,307
Peaceful Pen	$4,558

Communities Served

Audubon
Bayport
Belle Plaine
Bloomington
Champlin
Crystal
Duluth
Eagan
Eden Prairie
Edina
Elk River
Elko New Market
Golden Valley
Hastings
Hugo
Isanti
Maple Grove
Minneapolis
Minnetonka
Monticello
Moorhead
Mora
Mounds View
Northfield
Oakdale
Owatonna
Plymouth
Prior Lake
Red Wing
Roseville
Savage
South Saint Paul
St. Cloud
St. Joseph
St. Paul
Vermillion
White Bear Lake
Willmar
Woodbury

Who We Serve





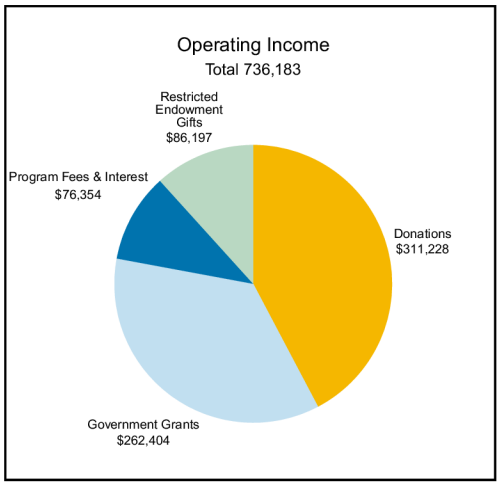
50.7%
High Racial & Ethnic Minority Population Schools

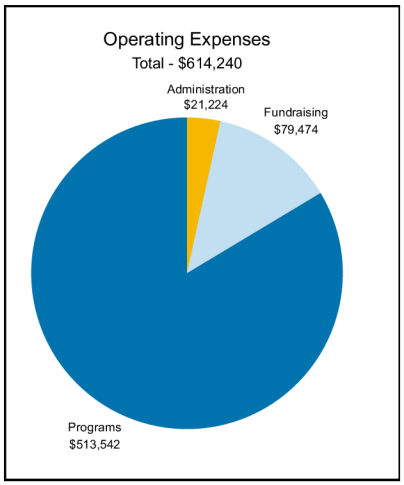
Over 40% of the overall student body identifies as a racial or ethnic minority

55.2%
High Economically Disadvantaged Schools

Over 40% of the student body is economically disadvantaged

2025 Financial Summary



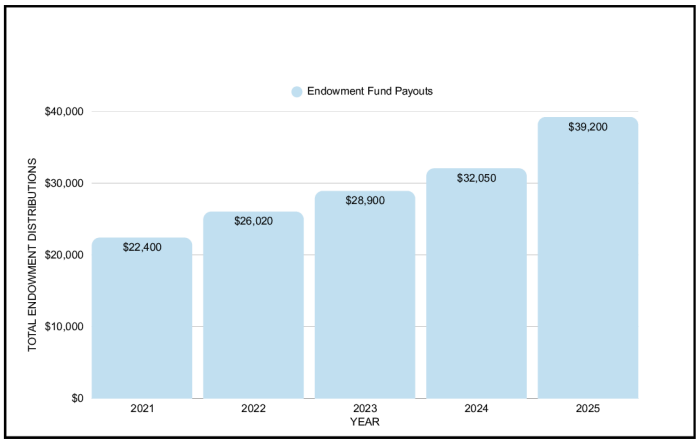


Statement of Financial Position

Total Income	$736,183
Total Expenses	$614,240
Total Assets*	$1,512,904*
Total Liabilities	$21,873

*Includes $1,264,413 in endowment investment accounts.

Creating Long-term Funding for Peacemaking Education



- General Operating
- Cambridge — Isanti
- Catholic Schools
- Dayton
- Eagan
- Lake Park — Audubon
- Lakeville
- Monticello
- Moorhead
- Moundsview School District Area
- North St. Paul - Maplewood - Oakdale
- South St. Paul
- St. Cloud
- Stillwater
- **Winona**

A new endowment fund was created for the Winona community. Two funds — Eagan and Cambridge-Isanti — reached $20,000 or more, unlocking annual payouts in 2026 to sustain our work in those communities for years to come.

Start a fund for just $3,000.

Contact us at info@peacemakermn.org to learn more.

Charities Review Council MEETS STANDARDS smartgivers.org

Donors

$5,000 +

Clutch Performance
Joseph C. & Lillian A. Duke Fdn
Hardenbergh Fdn
Hubbard Broadcasting Fdn
King Family Fdn
Lois & Mark Finney
Nancy Jacobs
New Brighton Lions Club
RBC Wealth Management
Roseville Area Community Fdn
Sally Barrow
Sauer Family Fdn
Schenian Family Fdn
Shiely Charitable Trust
State of Minnesota Employees
The Kind World Fdn
H. E. & Helen Warren Fdn
William & Cathy Smith

$4,999 - $2,500

Agape Foundation
Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Fdn
CAP Carpet & Flooring
John & Nikki Laliberte
Elizabeth C. Quinlan Fdn
Robert Friedman
St. Cloud Morning Optimist Club
Stroh Family Fdn
Sweitzer Foundation
The Papa Johns Fdn
The Riverway Fdn
U.S. Bank
Archie D. & Bertha H. Walker Fdn

$2,499 - $1,000

Adagio's Pizza Factory
Anthony & Dolores Zimmerman
Art Stoeberl
Bayport American Legion
Central Minnesota Noon Optimist Club
Croatian Hall
D&D Service
Dan McNeil
Don & Marion Hall
Elk River Rotary Club
Fredrikson & Byron Foundation
Glacier Hills Booster Club
Granite Foundation
Hawkins Family Fdn
Jenna Oberthaler
Joan & Steve Tusa
John & Colleen Hooley
Marian Biehn
Mark Hiemenz
Michael & Roma Gregory
Midco Foundation
Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures
Minnwest Bank
Monticello Public School District Employees
North Suburban St. Paul Kiwanis Club
Northwest Area Jaycees
Open Door Community Theater
Perkins Foundation
Herman & Therese Ratelle Foundation
Richard Clark
Robert & Helen Hatlevig
Robert & Linda Harmon
Ruthena & Douglas Fink
South Robert Street Business Assoc
Spirit Song Choir
The Mike & Linda Fiterman Fdn
Tim & Marian Briggs
Tim & Mary Reimann
Tolerance Tool
Tradition Capital Bank
Vivian Greeninger
Zywiec's Landscape & Garden Center

Volunteers

Alan Loch
Angie Frundt
Barb Bergseth
Bill Hudson
Bob Harmon
Brandon Reichel
Bridget Castaneda
Carole Froehle
Chuck Huber
Dan McNeil
Denny Smith
Dolores Voorhees
Greg Heimann
Gwen Gmeinder
Jack Frundt
Jeff Gintz
Jim Delaney
Jim Jaeger
John Laliberte
John Nelson
Kara Rose
Karla Hill-Donisch
Kate Towle
Kathy Bona
Ken Crea
Kyle Bartholomay
Larry Erickson
Larry Margolis
Lisa Agrimonti
Liz Jaeger
Lois Finney
Lori Tierney
Lynn Belgea
Marj Crea
Mary Stadick
Nicholas Pawlowski
Nickie Dillon
Nikki Laliberte
Pamela Schmid
Rachel Townsend
Rita Spiess
Robin Roland
Roger Thompson
Ron Spiess
Ruthena Fink
Ryan Grunklee
Scott Daughtey
Shirley Bradley
Susan Temple
Tony Ennis
Valerie Swenson
Virginia Ohman

Board Members

Brandon Reichel
Carole Froehle
Gwen Gmeinder
Jack Frundt
Jeff Gintz
John Laliberte
Karla Hill-Donisch
Lisa Agrimonti
Pamela Schmid

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Kyoko Nagayasu
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