

20 YEARS
Planting Peace

THE GRETCHEN & BRIAN GRAD PLANTING PEACE FUND



THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO HONOR THE GRAD FAMILY, OUR COURAGEOUS PARTICIPANTS, AND LONGTIME HANDS OF PEACE VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS, THAN TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THIS AMAZING ORGANIZATION AND TO LAUNCH THE NEXT ERA OF HANDS OF PEACE.

It started with one woman. Twenty years ago, in the face of hatred, division and violence following 9/11, she asked, "What if we helped young people learn to see and hear each other across lines of difference?" She shared her idea with friends from a nearby church, mosque and synagogue and the concept for Hands of Peace was born. Gretchen Grad's response to violence and hatred was to act, to create space for young Americans, Israelis and Palestinians to meet, dialogue and envision a just and peaceful world.

Today more than 700 young leaders from America, Israel and Palestine have experienced this transformative program and are making a difference in their own communities. After years of grassroots organizing, learning, fundraising, with grace and support from unexpected places during difficult times, Hands of Peace is now a \$1M per year organization with 10 staff members across 3 countries. Yet it is still supported mostly by extraordinary community members in Chicago and San Diego who care deeply about our shared future. Each year represents new challenges to

reach budget goals to empower almost 100 youth per year and continue building alumni skills and networks. Hands of Peace leadership recognizes that growing nonprofits must also raise funds to guarantee a future. The Gretchen and Brian Grad Planting Peace Fund is a board-directed quasi-endowment that will provide a portion of funding for our core mission for generations to come. Funded by some initial major gifts by generous donors and planned gifts to be realized over many years, the fund's investments will generate proceeds (once minimum balance goals are met) for our signature Summer Program. This first step toward sustainability will provide a stream of revenue through the ups and downs of annual giving.

20 years ago, one woman dedicated her life to launching a movement of people-to-people peacemaking. This fund is an opportunity to honor and extend that work by planting peace for generations to come. The first step toward a sustainable future for Hands of Peace starts with you—now.

**HANDS OF
PEACE**



To honor Gretchen and Brian Grad and be a part of the future of Hands of Peace through a major or planned gift, **please contact Lisa Notter, lnotter@handsofpeace.org**