

THE YMCA POWER OF PEACE AWARDS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Celebrate Peacemakers!

Join the YMCA of Greater Vancouver at the awards

7:30 PM, May 1, 2009 at The Centre in Vancouver For Performing Arts



YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

SUPPORTING PEACE

Since 1987 the YMCA of Greater Vancouver has awarded **YMCA Peace Medals** to a wide range of local individuals and organizations who are working to **strengthen our communities by promoting peaceful solutions** to violence, conflict, discrimination and injustice. Through their actions, the recipients have had a **significant impact on the lives of others**, either locally or elsewhere in the world, **without any special resources or recognition**.

Peace Medals will be awarded in four categories:

Local Peacemaker, International Peacemaker, Young Peacemaker (18 and under), and Emerging Leader Peacemaker (19-30).

To host The Power of Peace Awards, the YMCA relies on the generosity of community leaders to offset the costs of the event. Please become a sponsor and help encourage and inspire youth while building awareness and promoting peace throughout the community.

The proceeds from the Power of Peace Awards ceremony will also go to the YMCA of Greater Vancouver's annual campaign, Partners With Youth, to help support the Youth Peace Network (YPN). The YPN program offers three months of learning and volunteering opportunities to participants from all over the world, so that they may develop skills in leadership, peace building, conflict resolution, community development, asset building, environmental stewardship and global education.

The YPN program won the national Huguette Labelle Award for Excellence in Youth Programming for 2007 at the 15th Annual Canadian Awards for International Cooperation held by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters (CME). In addition, the United Nations Association in Canada, Vancouver Chapter, awarded YPN with the 2008 John Gibbard Award for exemplary work with youth promoting peace globally.

Your support for the YMCA Power of Peace will translate into opportunities for youth around the world...

The YMCA Power of Peace is the power of...

- *social cohesion in my neighbourhood*
- *a world without child soldiers, genocide, or the abuses of war*
- *gender equity*
- *ending homelessness*
- *a brighter future for at-risk youth*
- *an end to bullying in schools*
- *affordable education for every person regardless of race, gender, economic status or cultural background*
- *working conditions that respect the dignity of foreign workers*
- *more green spaces in every town and city*

THIS YEAR'S EVENT



Keynote Speaker: L. General Roméo Dallaire

Author of *Shake Hands with the Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*, **L. General Roméo Dallaire**, will be our keynote speaker for the evening. He will discuss leadership and conflict resolution based on his experiences as the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Rwanda during one of the worst genocides of the 20th century.



Emcee: Lynn Colliar

Our emcee is **Lynn Colliar**, Morning News anchor on Global BC.

Young local talent will be there to inspire and entertain us as we watch the Peacemakers accept their awards.

Joe Given

Joe is 16 and lives in Surrey, BC, Canada. Joe loves to share his passion for singing, music and performing and his goal in life is to work with music in ways that help make a positive difference and that help contribute to peace in the world.

Kunaka Youth Marimba

Kunaka, nine talented young artists, ages 12 to 15, play as though they “own” the music, a signature sound inspired by the Shona traditions of Zimbabwe and fused with contemporary rhythms. Mbira master Kurai Mubaiwa and percussion specialist Theo Vincent mentor Kunaka, sharing the beautiful marimba melodies of Southern Africa and encouraging the young musicians to contribute their own musical ideas to a repertoire that gets everyone’s dancing shoes moving!

Miyanda (African Drumming and Dance)

Miyanda, which is an East African word meaning “ROOTS”, has performed for the past 6 years. The girls make up the following cultural heritage map - Cote d’Ivoire, Nigeria, Lesotho, Haiti, Uganda, and of course, Canada! Miyanda won the Junior Black Achievement Award for Group Performance in 2006 as well as the Runner’s Up Award in 2005.

Freshh

Freshh are the 2007 World Hip Hop Junior Champions from Fresh Groove Productions. Fresh Groove Productions continues to strive to nourish personal growth, strengthen self-esteem and bolster self-confidence. FG dancers all share the passion to “just dance”.

RECENT INSPIRATION



International Peacemaker: Mordecai Briemberg

“Peace is not the *absence* of war but the *presence* of energetic, imaginative, creative people caring for one another around the globe, relishing distinctiveness without wishing to divide into competitive groups. But so long as we have not remedied the gross inequities of wealth and power, there may be, here and there, a temporary “truce” – but no peace.” Mordecai engages in anti-war work with STOPWAR.CA, Vancouver’s largest peace coalition, Palestine solidarity work with CanPalNet, and humanitarian projects in the Middle East with NECEF.



Local Peacemaker: The Cinderella Project

“Peace means breaking the cycle of poverty and violence. The Cinderella Project is a mirror where youth can see themselves – standing tall and proud. They realize that they can be someone, that they can make a difference.” The Cinderella Project provides disadvantaged high school graduates with formal attire so they can attend their graduation festivities with pride.



Young Peacemaker: Stephanie Ngo

“Peace is a constant process that no one can do without. It is something that should always be a part of everyone. It represents a state of contentment that includes an inner feeling of well being, calmness, understanding, solidarity, caring and the feeling that all is well in the world.” Stephanie has been involved in Youth Inspiring Action and Youth on the Go and has developed, initiated and delivered leadership programs for youth at various community centres.



International Peacemaker: Clement Abas Apaak

“Peace is the divine right to live and develop your talents, skills, and abilities without fear of and or discrimination, intimidation, oppression, and death based on ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, religion, social or economic status.” Clement Abas Apaak founded Canadian Students for Darfur and has been at the forefront of the effort to send more aid to the region and raise awareness about the atrocities occurring there.



Young Peacemaker: Caitlin Ohama-Darcus

“Peace is being able to walk down a school hallway or city street and say hello to every person that passes you whether you know them or not. To be able to have the luxury and freedom to walk outside and be part of the life that surrounds you.” Caitlin founded Build-a-School project in Vancouver, which helped furnish classrooms, provide textbooks and build a school in Kenya.