



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 16, 2015

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**Panelists and Power of Peace Award Winner Announced for
Peace Learning Center's 17th Annual MLK Community Festival**

*Local peace and social justice education non-profit to host annual festival this Saturday to honor
MLK's vision and inspire social justice action*

Event: Peace Learning Center's 17th Annual Martin Luther King Community Festival

Date/Time: Saturday, January 17, 2015

Location: Christian Theological Seminary
1000 West 42nd Street
Indianapolis, IN

Event Website: peacelearningcenter.org/mlk

Social Media: #2015MLKIndy

PHOTO/INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

- 11:15-11:45 – Opening ceremony with Building Blocks Academy
- 1 – 2:30 – Perspectives on Peace Panel
- 11:45-2:30 – A variety of workshops and activities for all ages
- 2:30 – 3 – Closing ceremony including the presentation of the Power of Peace Award
- Media members are invited to shoot and film throughout the event

INDIANAPOLIS, IN – Peace Learning Center will host its 17th Annual MLK Community Festival presented by Whole Foods Natural Market on Saturday, January 17th from 11 am to 3 pm at CTS to celebrate Dr. King's life and legacy with social justice workshops, art, music, dancing, and a community fair featuring more than 40 local organizations.

Thanks to support from Christian Theological Seminary, Whole Foods Natural Market, Nuvo, Indy's Child, and many other sponsors, this event is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

"We invite our Central Indiana neighbors to join Peace Learning Center in celebrating Dr. King's vision of a community that supports each other no matter where you are from - a day of art, music, food and fun, there will be something for everyone," said Tim Nation, Peace Learning Center co-founder and executive director.

This year's festival will include the following:

- Recitation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech by students from the Building Blocks Academy
- A panel of diverse local leaders will discuss "Creating a Culture of Peace: Celebrating All Things Indy". This year's panelists are Charlie Wiles, George Okante, JoAnne Lingle, and Keishana

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White. More information about the panelists is available at
<http://peacelearningcenter.org/2015-perspectives-on-peace-panel/>

- Eight social justice focused workshops led by local organizations.
 1. Redefining Community Service - presented by Pro(ACT) Community Partnerships, Inc.
 2. Learning from Refugees – presented by Exodus Refugee Immigration
 3. Kids on the Block Puppet Troupe: Multiculturalism – presented by the Joseph Maley Foundation
 4. Identifying Assets and Creating Change – presented by Public Allies Indianapolis (Indianapolis Neighborhood Resource Center)
 5. Restoring the Family Unit – presented by Ladies Under Construction, Inc.
 6. Be the change – presented by HEART (Humane Education Advocates Reaching Teachers)
 7. The Ain't Too Late Show - Climate Change Game Show – presented by Earth Charter Indiana
 8. Fair Trade 101 – presented by Global Gifts
- The Play and Make Friends room with crafts, a reading corner, and a peace corner to help children to make new friends.
- Music, poetry and live art performed on the Free Stage
- The Power of Peace Award Ceremony – An annual award given to a local peacemaker nominated and selected by the community for demonstrating peacemaking and leadership in action throughout the past year. This year's **Power of Peace Award recipient is Derrin Slack** who founded the nonprofit Pro(Act) Community Partnerships to provide opportunities for youth to develop leadership skills and a passion for making a difference within their community through service learning. Through the 12-week Project Greater Than Me program, youth work with a variety of Indy groups to improve our city.
- Family Yoga with certified instructor [Lesli Butler](#)
- Spoken Word workshops with local poet Melita Carter
- Drumming circle with Helger Oomkes
- Zumba sessions throughout the day led by certified instructor [Demetrees Hutchins](#)
- Musical petting zoo with Myra Dworski
- Turtle petting presented by [Indy Park's Earth Discovery Center](#)
- Tap dancing demonstrations with [Circle City Dance Company](#)
- Capoeira demonstrations with [North Star Capoeira](#)
- The event also will feature a **free lunch**
- A community fair featuring more than 40 local non-profits to recruit volunteers and connect people with resources.

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Peace Learning Center (PLC) is an Indianapolis-based non-profit that has impacted the lives of more than 180,000 people locally and internationally since it first began in 1997. Its mission is to educate, inspire and empower people to live peacefully. As a community educational institution, PLC promotes healthy learning, workplace and community environments by establishing safe and common ways to address differences and teaches processes to help build community and healthy communication for youth, parents, adults, and professionals. To learn more, visit www.peacelearningcenter.org.