



## Sowing Seeds of Peace

What would it be like to see the world through the eyes of a child. To be able to be childlike in our curiosity and not childish and petty in our actions. Void of the generational hatred born of cultural differences formed so long ago that even the most dogmatic don't know the origins. What if, as children, Palestinians and Israelis shared the same playground. If Indians and Pakistanis developed friendships in their formative years and carried those friendships as a protective shield when fighting the forces that choose hatred over a shared vision for a better world. Sounds a bit lofty and idealistic, doesn't it. Perhaps, but I submit what we have been doing falls far short of our potential for finding peace.

In my Fall 2022 letter, I focused on a massive dataset of 72.2 million Facebook users that discovered that personal connections made amongst youth of different economic strata were the most significant factor in gaining upward mobility. i.e., Friendships. This year SAGA is applying that same philosophy on a global scale by facilitating collaborative programs that bring youth together in ways that build friendships, educate them on cultural differences and give them a platform for expressing their vision for a better safer world. This will be done in person at Summer Camps in Maine hosted by Seeds Of Peace and by Middlebury College in Monterey. Whereas Seeds of Peace is tackling endemic cultural misconceptions Middlebury and it's Critical Issues Forum is exploring fresh perspectives on nuclear non-proliferation through the eyes of the young adults who life in nuclear countries.

The stakes have never been higher, the gaps in our understanding of each other have never been wider and the opportunity for positive change never greater. We are proud to support the aspirational good work of these organizations as they look for innovative solutions to systemically chronic problems.

This project aligns with our Convene, Collaborate, and Create campaign which continues to be a cornerstone of our mission, and we are not about to give up. We are more determined than ever to develop collaborative relationships with those who strive to make the world a better place. Whether it's thorough your donations or your creative ideas we challenge you to support these game changing organizations. We could all benefit from stepping back and seeing the world become a better place through the eyes of our children.

Kindest regards,

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