



Interactions for Peace

The Goal of Interactions for Peace is to provide and sustain peaceful and safe environments for Our children

Eden Steele, Founder and Executive Director
1551 Malibu Point Court
Chula Vista, CA 91911-6116

Phone: (619) 421-5046 - Fax: (619) 216-1434
Email: EdenSteele@InteractionsForPeace.org

A MESSAGE FROM INTERACTIONS FOR PEACE[®] FOUNDER and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Journey Continues. . .

In 1989 as a classroom teacher, I observed the sensitivity of our youth and their desire to have an environment where they could be safe and accepted. My beliefs and variety of educational experiences led me to develop the first *Interactions for Peace ~ Peace Patrol* where upper grade students learned and practiced the skills and strategies needed to resolve conflicts peacefully. In 1994 when *Peace Patrol-Creating a New Generation of Problem Solvers and Peacemakers* was published, I wrote about our experiences spreading *Peace Patrols* to other schools expanding our dream for a more peaceful world.

And the journey that began with *Peace Patrol* continued on!

As we entered a new millennium, our nation was devastated with the increase of school violence where students not only bullied one another, but also killed and injured one another. We reflected upon what action must now be taken to intensify our efforts to teach our youth to be peacemakers today. The words of Mahatma Gandhi rang loud and clear, "*If we are to have real peace in the world, we must begin with the children.*"

Thus, the *Interactions for Peace ~ Primary Peacemakers Program* was born.

Kaye Pesavento shared her experiences, expertise and love for children as we developed this unique program. We know that our little ones are able to experience and learn how to live in a peaceful place. Our pre-school/kindergarten through second/third grade students now have appropriate curriculum and can look forward to being *Peace Patrol* members. The elementary school students who had learned the *Peace Patrol* process moved on to middle schools where there were no peer mediation programs. In order to foster the continuation of non-violent conflict resolution a middle school program was needed to expand our curriculum and processes.

The next step on our journey was to ensure the continuation of successful curriculum through the middle school. The *Interactions for Peace ~ Middle School Mediators Program* uses the tried and true skills and strategies of the *Peace Patrol Program*, with adaptations of the process to meet the needs of middle school students.

We also focused our attention on bullying. What is it? Who does it? What does the research tell us about the bully, the victim, and the bystander? In studying the answers to these questions, the *Interactions for Peace ~ Bullies Beware!* was born. Mary Lou Fredrickson, Middle School Mediator Program Director, has been implementing bully prevention lessons for several years and is willing to share her experiences, lessons and expertise as she guides the development and implementation of this extraordinary program.

INTERACTIONS FOR PEACE[®] now includes a complete curriculum and range of programs to meet the needs of our youngest children to the complex needs of adolescents. The incredible power of having a "seamless system of integrated programs which empower and inspire our youth to discover the peacemaker within themselves and to serve their community through peaceful interactions" has the potential of changing how a new generation meets bullying and conflict.

And our journey continues!

I welcome you to join us.

Eden Steele, 2008

