



NONVIOLENCE NOW YEAR-END REPORT

April 28, 2006

Membership: This year Nonviolence Now's membership rose to 19 individuals, all of whom made contributions to workshop development, workshop presentation or were involved in organising/running awareness events.



NVN Members

Collaborative Event Participation:

1. **Hamilton Children's Peace Day (Hamilton Public Library):** Along with several other community organisations, on November 12th members from NVN participated in this 1-day event by facilitating group activities for youth (Peace Superheros, Afghanistan Peace Project). We were very pleased with the response of youth to our activities as there were many insightful comments from youth.

NVN at the Hamilton Children's Peace Day



2. ***Hungry for Change:*** NVN was instrumental in organising this event, which took place in the Wentworth House on November 31st. Our role was primarily in contacting speakers for the event; putting together and short film compilation on global food insecurity; and providing volunteers for the event's set-up and clean-up. This was a very successful event as attendance was almost triple from the previous year.
3. ***Projecting Peace (PACS Film Festival):*** NVN provided volunteers to help set-up, clean-up, sell tickets and act as contacts for the week-long film fest. This was truly a collaborative effort and we were quite happy with our ability to provide assistance to PACS.

****We were very happy in our participation in all three of these events and will be sure to contribute again in coming years.***

Regular Meetings and Group Dynamics: Meetings were very well attended this year, especially during second semester once more people joined the group. We also were much more effective in using the consensus model for decision-making and meeting structure. Minutes were taken at every meeting, and we shared the roles of "note-taker" and "meeting chair" on a regular basis.

School and Group Home Workshops:

1. ***Hamilton Community Adolescent Network:*** From February 7th to April 6th, we implemented the 6-session workshop series once a week on Tuesday nights at Lotus Residence. The participants were very responsive and our relationship with the facility staff improved a lot from last year. The only issue was arranging transportation to get to the workshops.
2. ***Canadian Martyr's Elementary School:*** Presentations to a grade 5 class from February 7th to April 6th were nothing but a positive experience. NVN facilitators developed a strong rapport with students and all activities were quite successful at generating discussion. The location directly across from McMaster also made it quite easy for volunteers to attend workshops.

Campus Workshops: We only held one workshop on campus as part of the Anti-Violence Network's Month without Violence in October. Attendance was limited but this provided a good experience for newcomers to present. The main focus of the workshop was Culture of Peace values and the concept of restorative justice.

Volunteer Training: At the end of January we held a 4 hour training session on a Saturday afternoon for new, incoming volunteers. This was a very effective way of getting everyone organised and on the same page. We made sure to get the participants to fill out evaluation forms and will be sure to consider their comments for next year. For the 2006-2007 school year, we would like to hold one of these sessions at the beginning of each semester.