

The Compassionate Listening Project



Dear Friends,

Warm winter greetings from The Compassionate Listening Project! As the end of the year approaches, we want to share our heartfelt gratitude with our community for our most successful year ever. We've reached thousands of people this year through our programs around the world, and nearly one thousand people received our intensive training, including participants from over 15 countries. Compassionate Listening is helping families, organizations and communities around the world, including many in high-conflict zones.

We know this work makes a difference. We hear from people almost daily about the transformative power of Compassionate Listening. This past October at a one-day training for Palestinians and Israelis hosted by Hope Flowers School in the West Bank (photo above), a young Palestinian man told me that due to our workshop the previous year, he was now working for peace instead of war:

"The Compassionate Listening training took place at a critical time in my life. I was heading down the road to extremism... but the workshop gave me another pathway to follow, inside and outside."

Amidst the ever-deepening cycles of violence in the Mid-East, we continue to bring inspiring messages from each side to the other in Israel and Palestine. During our October delegation we sat in the home of Sheikh Talal Sidr in Hebron, one of the founders of Hamas (photo below). Sheikh Sidr was imprisoned three times and deported to Lebanon before choosing the harder path of peace-making. He explained to us:

"There are those who like peace, and those who have a passion for peace. Those who have a passion for peace want peace for their enemies as much as for themselves."



A new generation of Palestinian Compassionate Listening students from Bethlehem University

The Compassionate Listening Project enters the dark corners of conflict and shines the light of bridge-building and peace-making, one person, one heart at a time. We are *passionate* about peace and this beautiful process of rehumanization! Through our trainings, Jewish-German and Middle East projects, books and videos, public presentations and media, we work locally and globally to transform the wounds of conflict into understanding and peace. (By the way, *Embracing Story*, a moving new video about our Jewish-German work is now available from our website.)

Our ten certified Compassionate Listening facilitators and new part-time Education Director will be working to bring these skills to even more new communities in 2005.



Jacob, a dual Israeli-American citizen (below, second from right), overcame his fear to join us on an overnight in al-Aroub refugee camp near Hebron. Pictured below with three of his Palestinian hosts, Jacob thoroughly enjoyed the experience, which included being a guest at a Palestinian wedding.

Leah presents a peace quilt from Mendocino artists to Rabbi Seth Mandell, whose 13 year-old son Kobie was murdered in 2001. Seth and his wife founded an organization to help other families with the emotional healing process after tragic loss.



We invite your continued participation. Please check our website for upcoming programs, and consider hosting a workshop in your community - we would love to bring Compassionate Listening to you.

We hope to see both new and old friends at our 2nd Annual Compassionate Listening Gathering, July 29th-31st near Seattle. The Gathering will take place at Camp Brotherhood on 200 acres near the Cascade Mountains. With the great success of our first Gathering, we do encourage early registration (you'll find secure online registration for all of our programs at www.compassionatelistening.org).

To those who have donated to us in 2004, our *deepest* appreciation. We are more than grateful - your contributions have allowed us to bring this work to ever-widening circles. If you have not yet contributed, here's another chance to partner with us in creating a more compassionate world. Make your donation a gift in celebration of a friend or family member we'll send them a card letting them know you made a donation in their name - a perfect holiday gift! (You can make a secure online-donation directly from our homepage at: www.compassionatelistening.org)

With gratitude and love to all, and wishing you an inspired season of light,

Leah Green, director



Join Jewish-Palestinian co-leaders Leah Green and Maha El-Taji on our next Compassionate Listening journey to Israel and Palestine in the fall of 2005 (registration at www.compassionatelistening.org)

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