

# Summer of Peace™ 2013

## Summer of Peace Report (Sep. 26)

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Philip:

Hello everyone and welcome back to the Summer of Peace the celebration of a common humanity. This is Philip Hellmich, the director of peace at the shift network and it's really a delight to welcome you to the closing session of the Summer of Peace. We're going to look at some of the highlights and one of the things that has been emerging in the Summer of Peace is that there's really a new narrative for peace arising around the work from the inner to the international. And we have some really wonderful special friends and allies, guests today. Before I introduce them I just want to remind you to visit us on Facebook, Summer of Peace, it's Facebook.com/SummerOfPeaceShift and then also on Twitter @PeaceSummit or just look up Twitter.com/Peace Summit.

As I mentioned, there really is a new story of peace arising around the world. It's no longer the '60s anti-war movement. It's really a story that's emerging from the hearts, souls, and mind of people around the world and it's emerging from multiple different sectors of society from inner to international. Our guests here today are people who are real champions of really moving this forward, this story forward. We have Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury. He is an inspirational champion for sustainable peace and development and ardently advancement the cause of the global movement of culture peace. He served from 2002 to 2007 as the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations.

We also will be hearing from Stephen Fantl who is one of the lead producers and geniuses behind Peace Day TV and the global broadcast of the International Day of Peace. We also will be hearing from Fred Arment who is just the heart and soul and genius behind the International Cities of Peace, which is just spreading like wildfire around the world. We also will hear from Catherine Douglas who is a social media specialist who really, really just took the Summer of Peace to another level who's been working with Be The Peace and multiple different groups. Also, I'm expecting to have David Nicol and Molly Rowan Leach as someone from the Compassion Games joining us shortly.

But what I would like to do is go ahead and start with Ambassador Chowdhury who is really someone who around this subject of a culture of peace. I mean he's been working on this for many, many years and he was really the inspiration behind having the first two UN high level forums of the culture of peace. Ambassador Chowdhury, I'd love for you

to share with us your reflections from the recent high level forum and international day of peace and anything else that you'd like to speak about.

Ambassador Chowdhury: Thank you. Thank you Philip, and thank you colleagues for joining this call-in and I'm very happy to report to you about what can be called the second high level forum on the culture of peace convened by the president of the United Nations General Assembly. In this context first of all Philip, I recall with great pleasure your participation at the inaugural high level forum that is in 2012 you participated as a panelist invited by the president of the general assembly. That is a wonderful contribution by you to this whole effort.

Let me give a little bit of history of this. As the world was moving towards the new millennium in late '90s, we started thinking that the cold war is coming to an end, we have big opportunities. We have the potentials of peace dividends and we thought that yes we need to do something in the new millennium, which will make peace more sustainable, more long lasting than it had been in the past. Efforts by the UN had been basically to stop wars to mediate between rivals and sort of implement the peace treaty.

But we talked, you know, the focus should be much beyond that. It should be making people grow up with a sense of urgency to sustain peace, to make each one of us more peaceful and nonviolent. So we've started talking about then. UNESCO was the lead sort of thinker behind this, the concept of the culture of peace. That was unfortunately restricted only within the precinct of UNESCO.

**[0:05:17]**

So when I was representing Bangladesh at the United Nations as its ambassador beginning in 1996, I felt that this concept needed much better attention. It should be put on the plenary of the United Nations General Assembly. So in '97, I wrote to the Secretary General to bring this concept to that level. From there it started. There was much difficulty initially to even get it as an agenda item. From that point in '97 to this point in 2013 when we are having the second high level forum on the general assembly, it served as a big way forward.

Then in 2000 year, the first year of the millennium was declared as the international year for the culture of peace and after that all living Nobel Peace Laureates wrote to me saying that one year is good as raising the profile but we need a much longer timeframe to build this culture of peace. So they proposed a decade for the culture of peace, which I initiated in the general assembly and the general assembly of the UN

agreed to declare the years 2001 to 2010 as the international decade for the culture of peace.

We thought that we have the year, we have the decade but what is the content? What do we need to do? Then we started drafting this program of action and the general assembly president decided to appoint me as the chairman of the drafting committee to draft this program of action and the declaration on the culture of peace.

We had to work. I chaired this committee, the group, **[0:07:21]** **[Indiscernible]** group from '98 to '99 for nine months before we could have a consensus on the declaration in the program of action. It was presented to the general assembly in its 53<sup>rd</sup> session in 1999. On 13<sup>th</sup> September this declaration and program of action was adopted. This is the first ever conceptual and program oriented document of the United Nations and still remains the sole authentic version of the international communities agreement on advancing the culture of peace.

So this document has I believe a kind of standing along with the charter of the United Nations the universal declaration of human rights the convention on discrimination against women and the culture of peace program of action. These are I call the documents, timeless documents of the international community, which will not lose their ability across the boundaries, across the levels of international community. We believe that this is what was done and since 1999, the secretary general has been presenting every year a report on the implementation of the program. But after sometime, we felt the thing is losing the sort of spirit and the vibrancy behind it. It was becoming a routine thing.

So in 2012, the president of the general assembly thought very deeply about this sort of lack luster implantation reports. So we thought that something must be done to put the agenda for the culture of peace at the high level and that is why last year the first ever forum, high level forum on the culture of peace was convened on 14<sup>th</sup> of September because 13<sup>th</sup> September is the anniversary of the adoption of the program of action so the president felt the 14<sup>th</sup> maybe a good day.

**[0:10:12]**

But following the first high level forum, the general assembly adopted a resolution in December 2012 to say that this is a good idea, we welcome this opportunity and we should have such a forum every year. So they left it to the consideration of the president of the general assembly of the year because as you know every year a new president is elected and that was done. The general assembly by consensus agreed to this decision and on that basis, the second forum was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September. The

general assembly resolution said it will be good if you can have it on the 13<sup>th</sup> September, the anniversary of the adoption but it should be on that day or around that date. So this was done on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September next year in 2014, 13<sup>th</sup> September is a Saturday so we are now already thinking of having it on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September if the president of the general assembly the new president agrees to that situation. He is the president of the 68<sup>th</sup> session.

The last forum which was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> September, I think the president of the general assembly the deputy secretary general representing the secretary general in their statement emphasized and many of the participants emphasized the validity of education being the most prominent element in advancing the culture of peace.

As you know Philip and my colleagues there, that the program of action of the general assembly on the culture of peace adapted eight specific areas of action and education is the lead element in those action areas. Education comes first followed by social and economic sustainability of development and then comes human rights then comes equality between women and men and so on and so forth. So there are eight areas including building understanding, solidarity and tolerance among peoples.

So education and particularly it was in the context of the education first initiative launched by the secretary general a few months last year in I believe November it was done. So this last high level forum focused basically on education and I'm very happy to note here that the deputy secretary general said that building of the culture of peace permeates the work of the United Nations. I think that is a very solid statement on the part of the leadership of the United Nations to underline the importance of the culture of peace.

Two things I would like to highlight in the context of the forum and then I'll be open to questions or comments from participants at this call-in. Firstly, this forum from the beginning from last year and this year had been a big effort to integrate the support and work of civil society towards building the culture of peace. I think this is the preeminent forum of the United Nations where civil society takes a measurable, easier one of the civil society organizations, the global movement for the culture of peace participated as a partner of the president of the general assembly to organize this forum.

I'm very happy to report that some of the usual restrictions and protocol difficulties were waived for civil society to join the member states and

the council chamber of the United Nations to participate. Second, that I mentioned is that most of the panelists and this year the president of the general assembly struck the forum in a different way. As you recall, Philip, last year we had an opening session by the president and the secretary general and then we went to two panel discussions, the two panels and then it was closed through a session subsequently at the end of the day.

**[0:15:33]**

This is a daylong forum. This year the president has an opening session and then he had keynote speakers, three religious leaders came to speak there. Then third was the high level segment where the foreign minister of Bangladesh came to speak and I was invited to speak as a special guest because I chaired the general assembly drafting committee for the declaration and the program of action on the culture of peace. I spoke on behalf of the civil society and on behalf of the global movement for the culture of peace.

Then we went into three-panel discussions. The first panel was on the role of interfaith cooperation to promote a global culture of peace. The second panel related to the culture of peace as the agenda for a new global civilization. Third panel looked into the program of action and what more could be done to advance and implement that program of action. I must say that most of the panelists except the two moderators of the second and the third panels who were ambassadors of Nigeria and ambassador of El Salvador, all other panelists were from civil society, individual thinkers respected in their own sort of spheres of expertise and experience. So I'm very happy that this forum is emerging as a reflection of what civil society is contributing and thinking about advancing the culture of peace under the leadership of the United Nations. So this is basically what I thought can be said of this forum.

Another element that came out because of the rumblings of war in Syria many of the speakers, almost all of them advised against resolving the world's challenges through conflict or war or violence. So the message or the need for peace came out again and again. I myself declared very emphatically there that there is no place of war in this world. Many of them, the participants also looked ahead and highlighted the importance of recognizing the human right to peace by the United Nations. And they emphasized that sooner it is done the better it is for the international community to at least have a recognition of that right to peace by all people both individually, collectively and also among the nations.

So that point came out also very strongly but the message of the need for education message for not resulting to war or violence, to resolve

problems, the message of the need for recognition of the human right to peace and the message that civil society is a partner with the member states in advancing the cause of the culture of peace came out very eloquently. So this is my summarization that I would like to mention here. Thank you, Philip. I end here and if there are any questions or comments, I will be happy to respond.

Philip: Sure, sure. Ambassador Chowdhury, just really thank you. I mean this overview is just it's really, really helpful. It's really helpful to see how much emphasis has been on place by the United Nations, so many member states around moving forward in the culture of peace and also the innovation that's happening. I also personally want to thank you for your leadership in the wisdom council for the last couple of years this Summer of Peace. It's been really helpful.

**[0:20:04]**

We have several members of civil society here with us, Stephen Fantl and Fred Arment and David Nicol who are also going to share. I just wonder before inviting Stephen Fantl to share if any of our colleagues who are on the panel with us today have any questions for Ambassador Chowdhury whether Fred or Stephen or David Nicol or anyone have a question for Ambassador Chowdhury about the role of civil society promoting the culture of peace?

Fred: Well this is Fred and I just want to commend Ambassador Chowdhury and everyone that served on that panel because we at International Cities of Peace actually use the eight tenets of the culture of peace as a guideline for people who would like to start the City of Peace Initiative. So it's extremely important to us to have not only the authority of the United Nations as an international spokes body but also that it's so critical. The eight tenets are so critical in spreading peace around the world. So that's my comment. I just want to emphasize that it's so, so important to at least our group and many, many others.

Philip: Wonderful. Thank you, Fred. And Stephen Fantl, you work closely with the United Nations on the broadcasting international day of peace, do you want to share a little bit here with Ambassador Chowdhury and any questions for him?

Stephen: No. It was actually quite a pleasure. We worked particularly closely with the UNIDP committee with Michael **[0:21:49] [Indiscernible]** and Debra and all the people there who did a really wonderful job organizing multiple committees and music committee, media committee, the social networking committee and peace committee or education committee. So that was really wonderful and it brought together a lot of very targeted

content this year around the theme for the year of peace through education. And we're also very grateful to be able to play with permission from, I forget who it was at the UN, them and BET, the Black Entertainment Channel, who allowed us to replay the Stevie Wonder message of peace concert, which was very well received by people and quite inspiring I've got to say.

Philip: Okay. Okay. Yeah, Steve tell us a little bit more about the broadcast, you know, just a hint through that and what will happen this year.

Stephen: Okay. This was the 50-year and I got to say this was my favorite year one because it was on a Saturday and so we didn't have to stay up for five days straight in order to wait for the weekend's activities which is when most things take place that are going to be covered in locations around the world. Each year we start in New Zealand, follow the sun around the time zones around of the world allowing people in various locations to provide us a camera to log into our studio. We take them live to capture the various activities taking place in multiple countries and take a minute of silence, a moment of peace at noon in each of the time zones, a couple of which do make it difficult where you've got places in India where it's on the half hour or Tibet where it's actually on a 45-minute difference. But the moment of peace is and the peace wave around the world is something that we've done each year and it continues to grow.

Then we've had about 170 countries viewers from just all over the world. We had videos from the International Cities of Peace, 11 days of global unity, playing for change events live. Peace Link live gave a really nice program that was aired. Aliza Hava once again got the Listen For Life crew back together which I think was a highlight of last year. So they played out at Sta. Cruz. So Peace Day Live was there.

And then videos from --

Philip: Be The Peace.

Stephen: What's that?

Philip: And you had some Be The Peace video also?

Stephen: We did. We had Be The Peace. I was just about to say about 25 organizations provided videos to show what it was that they were doing. Like I say Paul did a great job out of New York at Time Square noon on the 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a fun activity.

**[0:25:12]**

Philip: Uh-hum. Uh-hum. Stephen and Ambassador Chowdhury, I think this global broadcast is such a wonderful way to bring the life Ambassador Chowdhury what you were talking about the role of civil societies. It was basically the global celebration and Peace Day TV did an excellent job. I know I enjoyed watching quite a bit of it of showing people around the world. Stephen, I know you personally raising a family and working fulltime and everything really feel a lot into this so I just want to thank you for your tireless contribution to the culture of peace. So thank you for that.

Stephen: Appreciate it.

Ambassador Chowdhury: If I may join in, Philip?

Philip: Yes, please Ambassador Chowdhury.

Ambassador Chowdhury: I would like to pay tribute to everybody who had joined in in this celebration of the International Day of Peace. I think every year we see a new energy imaging, which is expanding, which is broadening in its outreach. Every year, I think it comes wonderfully well. As you might know that I'm the honorary chair of the International Day of Peace NGO committee at the United Nations with Deborah, Monica, Michael and Sean as the co-chairs of that initiative. This year the education for peace as a team you know, had captured the imagination of many and so we had many participants this year. I remember that last year when we started **[0:26:58] [Indiscernible]** Wellington in New Zealand started the day with a message **[0:27:04] [Indiscernible]** from me. This year's message which was I was just told that we just circulated throughout the school system in Korea and it was read out also in Pakistan where the celebrations were held on last Saturday.

I will read out a little portion of that message with your indulgence focusing on this education for peace that I mentioned. I say that I believe that the task of educating children and young people to find non-aggressive means to relate with one another is of primary importance. We all must undertake efforts to inculcate peace in ourselves. We cannot expect the world to change if we do not start first and foremost with changing ourselves at the individual level. I believe therefore the culture of peace should be the most appropriate vehicle to prepare our world in addressing effectively the complex challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This was the focus on education.

I must also commend in this context Fred Arment who had been leading this International Cities of Peace initiative and I think they have done a marvelously wonderful job in propagating and observing the day of peace but also advancing the program of action as he mentioned focusing on these eight areas of action. So my heartfelt thanks to both of you in the context of the day of peace and in the context of the Cities of Peace being a part of that.

Philip: Wonderful. Thank you, Ambassador Chowdhury. I have to say hearing these quotes coming from New Zealand and everything happening around the world it really is quite astonishing what's arising. It's nice to hear people acknowledging the inner dimension. I want to hear a little bit more from Fred about international city of peace and then Ambassador Chowdhury I'd love for you to also hear from David Nicol, Be the Peace and then we have someone from the Compassion Games and then Catherine Douglas also. Fred, I think you were in a special place for the International Day of Peace this year. Wasn't that right? Fred, are you still with us there? Let me give the mic to Fred one second.

Fred: Yeah.

Philip: Fred, yeah there you go.

Fred: Okay, great. Am I on? Great.

Philip: Yes, you are.

Fred: Yeah. Well we were due to go to Dubai which was you know, a wonderful thing but the Syria crisis threw that into a delay. So we were not there but I was in Dayton, Ohio which is my hometown which is a place, the Dayton Peace Accords and we had a wonderful spectacular series of events in our area of 20 different groups were working together for the first time. So I was in a special place for sure thank you very much.

**[0:30:19]**

Philip: Yeah.

Fred: But international cities of peace just a spectacular series of events around the world you know, over the last few months we've had Baroda, India, Douala, Cameroon, Acura, Ghana, Monrovia, Liberia, Bengasi, Libya, Lambushbashi **[0:30:39] [Phonetic]**, Democratic Republic of Congo and Kochi, India. Those have all started international cities of peace movements and there are extraordinary people all over the world who had done this. We're up to over 70 cities at this point.

We had a really amazing idea that we tried this year and it came out to be a great success, which is we sponsored the global peace for peace which was acknowledging from our perspective that's different from other group's perspective. You know, a lot of the ideas are big events and you know, large community events but the global feast for peace is something that everyone can participate around the world. It's a thanksgiving for peace. Something where people around the world break bread together and really it's the first time that that idea I think has been driven so widely. We had the goal of about 30 cities and we I think exceeded that goal. Legos, Monrovia, lots of different places around the world had global feast for peace and it seemed to resonate with people because you know, sometimes people get intimidated with large wonderful events, but to be able to break bread together in your home with your spouse or with your children or even alone. This is the one event for the International Day of Peace that can be celebrated by an individual in community with everyone around the world. So I think it has some legs this year and I think next year the second will be quite an effort and I think that everyone on this call I invite them to learn more about it and international cities of peace is doing very well and appreciate Ambassador Chowdhury's words of encouragement.

Philip: Wonderful Fred. Fred I just want to – you know, having worked with you, you know, a couple of years now I just am really enjoying how you're joyfully helping this manifest and the way you work with... You know you've worked with peace ambassadors around the world, the way you're working with people in so many different contexts, you're just really doing a wonderful job, you and the whole team. So thank you.

Fred: I'm just a bridge.

Philip: Yes. Well it's fun to be a bridge and with that I would love for everyone now to hear from David Nicol because David had a special vision last year and it's just really been manifesting. Ambassador Chowdhury talked about this in the wisdom council call for the Summer of Peace and so here's a chance for you to meet David and hear what he has been doing. David, go ahead.

David: Yeah, thanks Philip. Hi Ambassador Chowdhury and everyone. It's great to be with you all and thanks Philip for creating this forum because it creates a certain visibility to all the full spectrum of peace building efforts that are happening. I love that idea Fred about the feast for peace. I hadn't actually known about that but it corresponds with our vision with the Be The Peace event, which was creating meditation circles in all parts

of the world and some of those big events but many of them were very simple as well, just people gathering a few friends in their living room. So I actually like that vision of just these sort of humble simple gestures that people can do in the spirit of peace.

I think I want to just report on you know, our general activities over the Summer of Peace. Firstly I'm really grateful Philip again for you providing this vision that recognized the importance of the inner dimension of peace building, which is what we focus on in the context of an integral approach that spans as you say from the inner to the international. But it's the inner that often in our extroverted world doesn't seem to get recognized as having the potential but it does I believe it has to support a shift to a culture of peace.

[0:35:15]

In particular what we're interested in is you know, how can we even more effectively harness this potential of spiritual practice particularly with new internet technologies and so on that can bring so many people together and opening up to the power of shared intention, shared silence, and how that can channel in energies into our world that are actually critical in supporting that shift.

So I'm grateful that we have this platform through the Summer of Peace. Our vision has been to through the Spirituality and Peace series on the Sunday of the Summer Of Peace to provide a forum for spiritual teachers of various traditions to not just talk about their approach but actually guide us in a practice from their tradition. So that we can weave a global field of peace that contains within it the strands of all the different religions around the world.

And that this field comes to a peak on Peace Day with the Be The Peace Event and I have to say I'm just thrilled with how it all went and especially the peak Be The Peace Event. We had our first event last year and we had 248 events registered on our map around the world which I thought was astounding in and of itself. And this year our goal was 500 events which between **[0:36:58] [Indiscernible]** on the call at the beginning I thought made that a pipedream. I didn't know if that was going to happen and we actually made 561 events in different parts of the world. So it was quite a phenomenon seeing the photos of all these different events from around the world. It's just incredibly meaningful and heartwarming to think we had touched all those people and not just in any way like recognizing that all of these people were gathered in circles where they touched into their absolute deepest essence. And that we shared the same intention in a very deep way and just the same silence, the same love for the earth and

for the same desire to bring peace to the earth, to be a peace on the earth.

Very personally meaningful to be involved in that and just deeply hopeful and I think too I want to reflect on the quality of the field that I felt was there. In addition to these live events, we did three global attunement for peace teleconference and webcast events so hundreds of people were calling in and we had a number of spiritual teachers give blessings and then we guided a practice. Again, it felt special to me. I felt like we truly accomplished a seeding of peace around the planet that I feel is real and is meaningful and will continue to grow. And so I'm still riding high on the wave of that experience and I think too what struck me about Peace Day this year was a deep sense that it's becoming like a magnet. There's a magnetic pull that so many different groups, so much creativity to celebrate peace on that day that it feels to me like it's sort of a strange attractor for the new world, for the next world. It has its own intelligence and its own sort of energy about it, one that has a lot of joy in it. I'm convinced that if we keep feeding it, that it is a truly significant force in bringing forward the shift that we need and indeed the new global connected world that we're moving towards. So deep gratitude to everyone here who leaders and pioneers in this field and colleagues and I'm very happy. Thanks, Philip.

**[0:40:04]**

Philip:

Wonderful David, thank you and it's certainly wonderful to see how this has grown. Ambassador Chowdhury, I don't know if you had a chance to meet with David yet but he did his PhD research on something called subtle activism which is how prayer and meditation can help affect change not only on individuals but on a societal level. David has done just a wonderful job in co-producing the spirituality and peace series throughout the Summer of Peace. Ambassador Chowdhury, I don't know if you have any reflections for David about the Be The Peace initiative?

Ambassador Chowdhury: I believe that this is a wonderful opportunity for the global community to realize the value of peace, realize the need for its sustainability and also realize the fact that we on our own as individuals or as part of a community, we can do a lot without waiting for the big players to wake up and act. So I believe that this is a wonderful energy that I'm seeing now that common people you know, doing their regular activities day to day work they can contribute in a big way to build this culture of peace that we are talking about. I think without that the world if we keep on waiting for the leaders or the global players to act, I think the sustainability of peace will never be achieved. So we have to act on our own and I think David's work in that context is very important and I

really commend him for this work and I would surely look forward to meet him.

Philip: Wonderful.

David: Thank you, Ambassador. Likewise, look forward to meeting you.

Philip: Okay. Wonderful. Thank you, David. Now we have a couple more people to hear from. We're going to save Catherine Douglas for last because she kind of weaves this story altogether. I believe we have Mary Ella and I'm not recognizing the phone from Compassion Game. Mary Ella, is that you?

Mary Ella: Yes, it is. Hi.

Philip: Wonderful, Mary Ella. Thank you so much. Would you share with us what the Compassion Games did this year?

Mary Ella: Sure. Thank you so much for inviting Compassion Games on the call. I'm speaking on behalf of Jon Ramer who needed to make a presentation for the city of Seattle today so he asked me to step up on share with you the really exciting experience that we just completed. The Compassion Games came about because of the compassionate cities campaign and the choice to acknowledge the city of Louisville last year as a very compassionate city and they challenged Seattle to prove that it could be as compassionate as Louisville. This got us all thinking about what could it look like if we actually had a competition that we help each other be the best we could be and it would be the survival of the kindest.

So that kind of thinking has created what we are now calling the compassion games and this year the compassion games ran from September 11<sup>th</sup> to September 21<sup>st</sup> and we invited cities around the world, communities really. We had 18 communities from four countries who joined in. Sweden, Canada, India and the US and it was really exciting to see how this unfolded. Because people could play as communities or they could play as individuals and the idea was that they would do compassionate acts and then they would post those on a compassion map that was based on in the internet report map that would be used in conflict situations.

So the idea is to take the infrastructure that's built for conflict and how can we transform that to use it to support peace, to support compassion. Because our sense is that compassion is the action that really sustains peace, that sustains our ability to deal with the chaos and the challenges

in the world. We want to use the idea of the compassion games to excite people to step up in their daily lives and be thinking about what could I do with it that would be compassionate. So the way we designed this allowed people to participate in compassion events all over the world and we had a website that supported informing the communities within the communities what was going on. We also created ways for individuals to be a part of it. We had secret agents of compassion, people who could sign up and every day they would get an email with their new secret agent mission of how they were to be compassionate that day. And then people would go do something and then they would post it.

**[0:45:09]**

We had random acts of kindness on the website that people could choose. So there were many ways to engage. The games ended Saturday with our closing ceremonies so we sort of mounted it on the Olympics with an opening ceremony and a closing ceremony and interestingly the very beginning of our closing ceremony was to be the peace moment. We timed it so it would coordinate with that and that was a lovely way to weave it in.

We are now in the process of calculating the final results. We have a leader board and people when they posted their activities would post the number of volunteers, number of hours, the number of people served and the dollars donated so that there is a way to quantify the actions that were sourced from this initiative. But at the end of the day it's not about winners and losers. It's about everyone expanding their capacity to think and act compassionately. So while we have final results, we're all winners and that's kind of the way we're trying to present this.

In addition, it's not just about this period of time although we do focus during this period of time on this approach but it's really about building the capacity for compassion throughout the year and people will be encouraged to continue to post their experiences on this compassion map, which is on the [compassiongames.org](http://compassiongames.org) website which anyone on the public can click on anywhere in the world and see the stories and the videos and the pictures that have been posted about the amazing things people have been doing. It's truly been an extraordinary experience for me and we're hoping to grow this each year so that next year our hope is to have a hundred communities around the world involved.

**Philip:**

Wonderful and Mary Ella, thank you so much and I mean it's just amazing the team that you all pulled together the enthusiastic creativity. I understand this is potentially leading to a compassionate festival, is that right?

Mary Ellen: Yes. In 2015, they're wanting to put together a group of people to get together to kind of kick off a bigger global picture of compassion. Jon is in a better position to talk about more of the details on that that's still unfolding at the moment but yes, it's definitely feeding that whole process of the compassion festival that would be about this time during 2015.

Philip: Okay. Wonderful. Mary Ella, thank you. As I understand, it might involve Stanford University.

Mary Ellen: Yes.

Philip: Ambassador Chowdhury... Okay. Any last words for Mary Ellen Ambassador Chowdhury about compassion?

Ambassador Chowdhury: These are the essential thing, compassion, tolerance, forgiveness. I think those elements and spirituality of course is a very important element are missed in the intergovernmental work of the United Nations. There is the hard realities of you know, dealings amongst nations and between nations take the primary focus of their action. So somehow these essential elements, which changes people to be more peaceful, to be more compassionate again and that is an uphill task that at least I have been involved in while talking to the UN forums emphasizing the need for that kind of understanding that compassion is a key component of anything that we do to promote peace and make it sustainable.

So I value the focus on the element of compassion and the compassion games how this is structured and how this is attracting people. We need to focus on how to make people naturally peaceful, naturally tolerant of what is happening around the world, naturally tolerant about the differences that exist and to be respectful for those things. I think this is very important and compassion brings that about in a big way. So again this is wonderful work that I believe contributes to the essential objectives of promoting the culture of peace. Thank you--

Philip: Wonderful.

Ambassador Chowdhury: --very much for that work.

Philip: Yes and thank you, Ambassador Chowdhury. It's interesting to think of that bridging from like the UN, you know, the policy aspects and then bringing it really in, bringing in the tangible compassionate tolerance and the spirituality. So that bridge of United Nations and Civil Society these calls are a really good demonstration of that.

**[0:50:10]**

We're going to now hear from Catherine Douglas. Catherine Douglas is just a special being who is a social media whizz and has been with the summer of peace, Be the Peace, Compassion Games and so just a second, I hear Catherine but also I just want to mention if anyone on the line would like to share a thought, just hit \*2 and we may just have a minute or two at the end. So just \*2 or go ahead and type it in on the webcast.

So let's go to Catherine and I also just want to say Catherine is such a joy to work with because she brings in joy and enthusiasm and a whole intergenerational approach that's just really, really wonderful. So Catherine from Hawaii, please share with us a little bit your reflections about all of this.

Catherine: Thank you, Philip. Can you hear me?

Philip: Yes, we can.

Catherine: Good morning from here in Hawaii everybody and Ambassador, David, everybody on the call. Such a joy to be here. It's so cool, it feels like a celebration. I was just seeing how we started off the summer with those peace rallies getting everybody excited and this feels like a going out peace rally and a really fun way to celebrate and honor and acknowledge all that has happened this summer and especially in the last peace month and just everything that we've been up to. So such a joy and it really truly has been such an honor and a dream come true to be supporting the Summer of Peace and all these amazing beautiful peace initiatives happening around the world.

It's so cool to see this emerging narrative that Philip has been talking about and how the Summer of Peace is truly highlighting so many different amazing initiatives and people and organizations and projects and it truly is this holistic systemic, integral vision of peace from the inner to the international. I really recommend everybody goes to our Facebook page, [Facebook.com/SummerOfPeaceShift](https://www.facebook.com/SummerOfPeaceShift) because the first post there on the top is the latest article by Philip **[0:52:25] [Indiscernible]** journal about this new narrative. It is an excellent summary of what we've done this summer with the whole Summer of Peace for the last two summers and then and really gives a great overview and it's just amazing to see everything that has happened in the Summer of Peace for the last two years, it's really beautiful so go there and check it out.

So we had a wonderful response from people and really it's been so cool to connect with people through social media in this beautiful movement.

I so recommend while you're on our Facebook page, in our Twitter to check out there's tons of resources. Every time we've had calls, I've posted about them, shared links, videos, articles, connections to other people's Facebook pages, so many resources from our wisdom council members, the Meta Center's Roadmap to Peace, infographics, **[0:53:18]** **[Indiscernible]** education in America, last year's UN high level forum and Ambassador Chowdhury was talking about so many cool things. You can just enter the whole summer and get a really, really rich picture of the face of the people now and what's emerging and what's happening and who's talking about what and it's really exciting to me.

In terms of our Facebook responses, we had the highest responses for our little mini summit that we did the union of the eagle and the condor and the compassionate and action summit were really, really well received as well as our pledge for Syria and you can still sign the pledge. I really recommend that everybody check that out. It's all in our Facebook and each one of those reach between 30,000 to 50,000 people in the week that they were posted and we got some really beautiful prayers and responses and wishes and letters to the president and people really engaging in a beautiful way.

One of the other things that I was really noticing especially in the last peace month was just the level of collaboration going on between different organizations and movements was so inspiring. Even just in the buildup to peace day there we were having these amazing discussions with all these different organizations and talking what would it really look like to take the peace movement to the next level of collaboration. And it's so as David was speaking to as we've all been speaking to, the level of creativity and passion and engagement that happens around especially international day of peace and how do you really accelerate that and bring people on board.

So a number of us are having this wonderful conversation about a peace coalition and how do we really support each other in a new and greater way and so a lot is emerging there. Aliza Hava from Peace Day Live created this wonderful master document of all of these social media links how we can support each other and cross reference and engage in a new way. I'm super excited to see where that goes and what emerges from that level of collaboration and synergy and I look forward to seeing what we can, how that can really accelerate things and the days and weeks and years to come.

**[0:55:31]**

So the culmination for the peace and spirituality series was the Be The Peace event and that was just a true fulfillment of heart dream for me

and for so many people for me to see the photos coming in all around the world from places on the planet, cities that I've never even heard of and languages that I didn't speak and beautiful people young and old from every background, every personal story, color, age, geographical location on the planet. And to see the faces of people and to hear their prayers and to get the feedback from them that it was so touching. It was just so deeply rewarding for me and it was just so magnificent to see it doesn't matter where we are in the planet or what we look like or how we identify. So many of us truly hold this vision, this real knowing that it is so possible to have a culture of peace and it is emerging and we are being the peace that we wish to see in the world, and to see that from every corner of the planet and just the most magnificent.

It is like the greatest holiday celebration for me and I know where my colleagues working on Be The Peace and for the Summer of Peace as well that really we can see that. I highly recommend that everybody go to the Be The Peace Facebook page and check out the photos. Leave your comments and your prayers just really magnificent to see our global family coming together in this and truly being the peace that we wish to see together and creating the culture of peace that we all know and feel is possible. Thank you.

Philip: Wonderful. Just wonderful. Catherine, you really embody the joy and the enthusiasm and the spirit of peace, the collaboration, the creativity and I want to just thank you for being a wonderful colleague throughout the Summer of Peace and the way you've really have worked and not worked, you just naturally gravitate towards synergy and collaboration and the way you've done that. It's just been really beautiful and to do that --

Catherine: Well thank you.

Philip: Yeah, Catherine.

Catherine: I want to honor you Philip oh my goodness, you just hold so much and your dedication and your true commitment to practicing peace on a personal level and to really be practicing collaboration in a massive way with the Summer of Peace I mean just inspires me every day. It's so much fun to work with you and David and Jon Ramer and all these amazing people with all these initiatives it's like just play for me. It's so fun and I just really thank you and honor you Philip and everybody working in this movement, it's so inspiring.

Philip: Yay. Wonderful. Thank you, Catherine. Thank you. Well we're reaching the end. Ambassador Chowdhury would you like to share any closing remarks for us before we close the call out in the Summer of Peace for this year?

Ambassador Chowdhury: Well I would like to emphasize the point that since the initiative have taken the Summer of Peace 2012, 2013 had really been able to advance two things. One is the conceptual element ,which would make peace sustainable in our world which would be able to make peace or peace activities or working for peace a part of each one of us. The essential theme of moving from inner to international is a very key element and a key concept that needs to be taken on board by all of us. I think this is a big contribution that the Summer of Peace has been able to make.

The second thing that the Summer of Peace initiative has been able to make is bring tremendous energy among various parts of the world, various organizations, individuals, the various work that is going on in advancing peace, advancing the objectives of the culture of peace has been enormous. I think the Summer of Peace in two years' time has been able to sort of catapult itself into the global attention.

**[1:00:34]**

I think I must commend Stephen Dinan and you Philip Hellmich for this wonderful work that two of you had been able to energize international community. I believe that this is wonderful and I think this initiative as we have been talking last Thursday about how to move into the next phase of the Summer of Peace initiative into 2014, it would be essential for us to see how to raise the level and involve the larger community and bigger part and if possible engaging the educational institutions in a big way to catch this synergy that Summer of Peace had been able to engage in.

So my tribute to all of you involved in this, tribute to my colleagues who are part of this calling and also part of the wisdom council and everywhere. Each work for peace goes into the, fit into the bigger objectives of peace that all of us cherish in our hearts. So again thanks and thanks for letting me be a part of this wonderful, wonderful initiative. Thank you.

Philip: Yeah you're welcome and again Ambassador Chowdhury, thank you. Thank you for your lifetime commitment and it's a joy to work with you and then with David and Fred and Stephen and Mary Ella and I think you mentioned the synergy the conception and the synergy it's interesting how those two things have just kind of emerged during the Summer of Peace. It's been a real gift and privilege to be able to sit back and view

and engage with so many people around the world from the inner to the international, the bigger picture kind of becomes clearer. In some ways, I feel like it's a little bit like the astronauts when they were out in the Apollo missions looking back and seeing the earth from the distance. I feel like with the Summer of Peace we've been able to see the larger field of peace emerging from a distance and it's wonderful. It's massive and so it's just a joy. And the synergies, the partnerships that's really how we're going to make a bigger difference.

So with that my friends unless Catherine or David, have any final words, David or Catherine anything else before we go here or Mary Ella? All right well okay. Well let's go ahead and with this my friends, we're going to close out the Summer of Peace for this year and surely the wave of peace will continue and we will be looking at lessons learned. As Ambassador Chowdhury said look at really how we can just take all this synergy and collaboration to the next levels over this next year and even beyond that. So I just want to thank everyone for being a part of the Summer of Peace whether you're listening live or whether you're listening to the recording. Just thank you so much for just really looking at how to be the peace that you want to see in the world. So whether it's morning, afternoon evening or night wherever you are just thank you so much for being with us and may peace continue to blossom in your heart, your families your schools, businesses, communities, states, nations, the world and harmony with the environment right. So thank you all. Bye-bye.

Ambassador Chowdhury: Thank you. Bye-bye.

**[1:04:40] End of Audio**

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