

Lutheran Peace Fellowship

2009 Annual Report

We are grateful to our members for their efforts and support this year. 2009 saw hopeful progress in our top priorities – hunger, leadership training and youth work. **Hunger:** We helped win a big increase in federal funding for hunger aid and are working on reforms to improve its effectiveness.

In a promising addition to LPF's **Leadership Program**, we received a matching grant to offer support and training for meal program and food bank volunteers to help them serve the sizeable increases in guests due to the economic crisis.

In July, 35,000 young people and their advisors came together for the ELCA **Youth Gathering** on "Jesus, Justice and Jazz." Each day, a third of the participants took part in **service projects** that the Mayor of New Orleans called "the largest single effort to assist Katrina victims since the hurricane."

Another third of Gathering youth participated in "**Learning Tree**" educational programs including LPF sessions on nonviolence. The final third of participants took in activities in the "**Interaction Center**" at the huge New Orleans Convention Hall.

LPF's 100' x 35' activity area was built around our '**Path of Hope**' exhibit of 120 justice & peace struggles throughout history. Four 38' segments converged on an art activity where participants designed and made '**Peace Flags**' of their pledge of peacemaking when they returned home.

Many participants asked to join our advocacy and youth e-networks and picked up resources and leadership materials to use back home.

The Youth Gathering helped energize other LPF outreach. Our national leaders again offered more than 100 **forums and workshops** around the country (and LPF members led many more).

Popular topics in 2009 included **How to Be a Bridge in a World of Walls... Hunger Amidst Plenty... Biblical Nonviolence... Spirit in Practice and Peaceful Parenting**, as well as sessions on Simple Living, MLK, Global Conflict, Challenging Prejudice, and Leadership Development.

Like most nonprofits, our **budget** suffered as the economy hurt many LPFers' capacity to give. Core member donations increased which helped, but grant income tumbled as foundations cut back or emphasized direct service. For the first time in 14 years, we dipped into reserves, which reduced our deficit to \$4,985: '09 expenses were \$75,180 and income, even with reserves help, was \$70,195 (1/6th from grants, the lowest proportion in years).

We made cuts where we could. **Volunteers** helped greatly by preparing 1600 Peace Flags and thousands of other resources for the Youth Gathering, and assisting with mailings, data entry, computer upgrades, etc. LPF **staff** offered to take no pay increase and proposed other cuts.

We deeply appreciate the continued support, encouragement, and action for peace with justice of **LPF members** and look forward to another strong year for LPF efforts in 2010.



Participants explore LPF's inspiring "Path of Hope."



Young people create "Peace Flags" of their peacemaking pledges.



(July 2009, New Orleans) "**The best activity area of the Youth Gathering,**" wrote one participant.