Empowering young women and girls in Ethiopia

Serving the Marginalized
Working with victims of sex trafficking

The Power of Community
Student projects build peace

Highlights from the Fall
Another successful semester!
“Thank you for ensuring that the spirit of peacemaking continues to ignite Marquette’s campus with accomplishment and joy.”

During this season of thanksgiving, we are especially grateful for the gifts and friendship you have provided us.

Your support—through donations and encouragement—is resulting in real change at Marquette and around the globe. Thank you for ensuring that the spirit of peacemaking continues to ignite Marquette’s campus with accomplishment and joy.

The joy evident in the values and character with which our staff, students, faculty, and alumni live and work. The following articles highlight their work to promote peace in North Dakota, Ethiopia, The Hague, El Salvador, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Burkina Faso.

The accomplishment is evident in our many partnerships and projects. Our collaboration with a Catholic Relief Services teacher training program is empowering women and girls in Ethiopia. We continue to engage in an ongoing relationship with nonviolence practitioners in Afghanistan. The Peace Works program is teaching conflict resolution and leadership skills to youth in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and some of the local Catholic schools.

The end result of this process you have helped to set in motion is the Center for Peacemaking growing into a center of excellence known around the country and the world for the teaching, research, and practice of peacemaking. This is only possible because of you.

As we approach the end of the year, I ask you to consider the Center for Peacemaking as fertile ground to plant your year-end gifts.

We are forever thankful for your decision to join us in shaping the values of the next generation of peacemakers and working to uplift the human condition.

Patrick Kennelly

Do you know if your employer is part of a matching gift program?

Check if you can double the impact of your gift at

www.matchinggifts.com/marquette/
Gillian Hallissey

When I learned that the oil boom in North Dakota had resulted in significant human trafficking activity, I wanted to do something. So when summer started, I drove to Williston, ND to intern with 4her North Dakota.

story by Monique Collins and Chris Jeske

When Gillian Hallissey read an article online about the work Windie Jo Lazenko was doing to combat human trafficking in North Dakota, she immediately reached out to see how she could get involved. When Windie Jo responded with the news that she could only offer an unpaid position, Gillian knew exactly where to turn.

As a peace studies major, Gillian was familiar with the paid summer fellowships available to students like her because of donors like you.

With her fellowship money in hand, Gillian headed to Williston, a small but rapidly growing town in North Dakota. The discovery of a large oil field a few years ago led to an economic boom and an influx of young men looking for work in the oil fields. However, as the oil industry prospered, there was also a significant increase in demand for prostitution. Gillian adds that, “Where there’s prostitution, there’s human trafficking in massive droves.”

In response to this, Windie Jo decided to start 4her North Dakota, a faith-based organization that works to educate, advocate and eradicate modern slavery in the form of sex trafficking.

When Gillian arrived, Windie Jo put her right to work. Gillian’s internship focused on education and intervention, aid and mentoring, and building organizational capacity.

Gillian helped facilitate educational sessions at community organizations including youth homes, homeless shelters, and clinics. The sessions helped identify those needing assistance from 4her North Dakota.

Those receiving assistance came to Windie Jo’s home, which doubled as an office and temporary shelter. Initially Gillian had a difficult time connecting with the women who oftentimes dealt with addiction problems, mental health issues, and compounded trauma. Windie Jo, a minister, counsellor, and sex trafficking survivor, provided valuable guidance. Gillian said, “I realized how little I understood about their world, and it was frustrating. I couldn’t offer them understanding, but I learned to get past that and listen, which was important.”

Gillian felt that she was especially able to help by building an organizational framework to help Windie Jo as she works to achieve her long-term goal of opening a 30-day crisis shelter in every North Dakota city.

Your donation made it possible for Gillian to spend the summer developing the confidence, courage, and skills to continue working for justice and uplifting those left marginalized in our society.
Improving the lives of teachers, women and girls in Ethiopia

For two weeks in May, Center for Peacemaking representatives traveled to the Oromia region of Ethiopia to facilitate training sessions for Ethiopian educators on strategies for empowering women and girls.

by Patrick Kennelly

As part of our growing partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the Center for Peacemaking was invited to join a team of educators and CRS supporters from Southeastern Wisconsin to facilitate a teacher training program in Ethiopia.

The program is designed to work with teachers because of their influence in the community, especially with their students.

Teachers who participated in a previous program helped design the curriculum we used on this trip. They asked that we focus on three things: to promote the empowerment of girls, to teach innovative methods to protect the human rights of girls, and to help them improve their English.

The empowerment of girls and women in Ethiopia is especially important. Harmful practices and human rights violations that occur in the region include early marriage, abduction and rape as a form of forced marriage, early school dropout rates, and female genital mutilation (FGM). Some sources indicate the FGM rate is greater than 70 percent.

After arriving in Addis Ababa, we drove 4 hours to the town of Meki. There, a group of 120 teachers met us, ready to start the two week training. We began with icebreakers and introductory activities before transitioning into the more serious topics including FGM.

To facilitate small group discussions on FGM and other human rights violations we used a publication by the World Health Organization entitled Female Genital Mutilation: A Teacher’s Guide.

The most powerful part of the experience was near the end of the training when the teachers used the knowledge they gained to prepare skits about how teachers could intervene to stop harmful practices.

The first skit demonstrated how teachers can work with community leaders and police to confront
The Ethiopian teachers recognized that harmful practices such as female genital mutilation are a serious problem. By the end of the training they described feeling less afraid to speak up and more inspired to take action.

abductors. The next revealed methods conveying the importance of keeping girls in school to their parents. Another was about preparing boys and girls to confront family pressure regarding female genital mutilation. In this skit, an older brother interrupted the FGM ritual of his sister to educate his family about its dangers.

By the end of the training the Ethiopian teachers reported that they not only had a better understanding of the harmful effects of practices like FGM, but they also felt enabled to confront them. They described feeling less afraid to speak up and more inspired to take action.

One of the Ethiopian teachers offered as a final reflection that, “when we know what can and should be done, we can never let fear stop us.”

The Ethiopian teachers recognized that harmful practices such as female genital mutilation are a serious problem. By the end of the training they described feeling less afraid to speak up and more inspired to take action.

Morgan Mekertichian (Arts & Sciences ’14) used the Ethiopia experience to land a job with Creative Court in The Hague, Netherlands.

by Chris Jeske and Monique Collins

Morgan, a peace studies and international economic relations student, was inspired by her time in Ethiopia as it confirmed her hunch that she wanted to work in human rights focused international development.

In addition to the teacher training program, she was equally impressed with how other CRS projects that address water access, sanitation, microfinance, public health, and agriculture have positively impacted the community.

“I came back with a much richer sense of what peaceful community development is,” she said.

Since graduating, Morgan has been working with Creative Court, an organization that uses art to promote peace, justice, and human rights.

Prior to the trip Morgan was familiar with the principle that CRS serves people ‘based on need, not creed.’ While in Ethiopia she saw this in action as the group interacted with Ethiopians from many religious backgrounds.

She remembers a seminal moment on the trip—when Bishop Abraham Desta of Meki gave a short speech to a group composed of Americans, Ethiopians, Christians and Muslims.

“He so powerfully said, ‘we are one,’” Morgan said. “His message was that regardless of ethnicity, or nationality, or religious background, we are all from the same God.” She went on to add, “I will always remember his words. In that moment and throughout the trip I felt the power of a united community.”

Thank you for this life-changing experience!

From teaching (that’s me standing in the picture above!) to immersing myself in Ethiopia’s rich and beautiful culture, this experience continues to affect my life, the perspectives I hold, and the choices I make.

I want to thank you for giving me a gift that I will never forget.

Maryclaret Ndubuisi-Obi (Health Sciences ’16)
Using the Arts to Build Community and Overcome Trauma  
by Emily Landes

Last summer I traveled to El Salvador with the goal of immersing myself in community-based peacemaking.

As an intern at Centro arte para la paz (Art Center for Peace), I taught piano, poetry, and meditation, and facilitated workshops on nonviolence and stress-reduction.

A community art center, Centro arte’s mission is to use the arts to bring together the community of Suchitoto, El Salvador—a community still feeling the effects of the twelve year civil war.

In some ways the violence of the civil war continues today in the form of gang violence. I had the humbling experience of attending the funeral of one of my co-worker’s cousins. He was murdered by gang members.

Through this experience I found that if violence is left unaddressed it creates a ripple effect in the lives of individuals and in the community. That is why it is so important for organizations like Centro arte to create safe communities and work with those suffering from trauma.

Because the classes at Centro arte are free and open to the entire community, I had the opportunity to work with students who had a wide variety of interests.

In each of these interactions, I encouraged my students to pursue their own interests. For me, this meant teaching Celine Dion’s “My Heart Will Go On” to at least four of my piano students. But it was all worth it when I got to watch them perform at a concert to celebrate their achievements at the end of the summer.

While I only made a small impact, I learned that peace is not always a grand process involving international treaties, but instead that peace can be fostered in feeling valued and supported by community, and in recognizing the good in each individual.

Emily was the recipient of the endowed M&J Fellowship for Peace. You can leave a lasting legacy by contributing to the Center for Peacemaking endowment fund.
Highlights from the Fall Semester

The Life and Legacy of Henry David Thoreau

To continue the tradition of hosting a performance highlighting peacemaking and the humanities, we held dramatic readings of Henry David Thoreau.

The readings showcased this American peacemaking icon and his thoughts on abolitionism, naturalism, tax resistance, and civil disobedience.

Jesus Christ: Peacemaker

Dr. Terrence Rynne presented on his new book Jesus Christ, Peacemaker: A New Theology of Peace.

A Faith That Does Justice

Dr. Thomas Kelly of Creighton University presented the inaugural Ignatian Peacemaking Lecture. The event showcased the life and ministry of Rutilio Grande, S.J.

Rutilio was the first Jesuit murdered in El Salvador and was an inspiration to Archbishop Oscar Romero and the UCA martyrs.

Watch the full presentation on the mupeacemaking YouTube channel

Save the Date!

Mission Week

Who Cares? Charity, Justice, and the Quest for the Common Good
Join us for a showcase of Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
February 2 - 6

Peacemaker in Residence

Ret. Col. Ann Wright
Stories of Following My Conscience in Foreign Affairs and Peacemaking
March 16 - 19

We congratulate Dr. Terrence Rynne and Fr. Thomas Hughson, S.J. on their publications.
Bridget Norris, Arts & Sciences ‘13, is busy putting her peacemaking skills into action as a Peace Corps volunteer in Burkina Faso. Because of donors like you, students are inspired to live out their values through careers that contribute to the common good.