



# Family Peace Festival

## an Interfaith Celebration

[www.familypeacefestival.org](http://www.familypeacefestival.org)

**Save the Date!!**

**Sunday, September 21, 2008**

**St. Joseph's Villa, 8000 Brook Road, Richmond, VA 23227**

The Mission of the annual Family Peace Festival is to provide an opportunity for children, youth, and adults of the greater Richmond area to gather in celebration of peace and diversity. It is our hope that this will foster a growing sense of community. Through a variety of experiences including arts & crafts, games and entertainment, we will:

- offer opportunities to embrace the possibilities of peace
- help the community explore the many facets of peace
- help the community begin to understand other cultures, religions and races through the use of the art, music, devotions, dance, etc.
- create an atmosphere of fun, fellowship, and love
- create a safe environment that welcomes all who are willing to come and explore expressions of peace
- help to promote self-esteem in the children through age-appropriate activities
- encourage future cooperation and collaboration among the diverse communities of Richmond

PEACE  
BEGINS AT  
HOME

*Past and present sponsoring organizations: St. Joseph's Villa, Richmond Peace Education Center\*, Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond\*, Bon Air United Methodist Church\*, Islamic Center of Virginia\*, Asian American Business Assistance Center\*, Spiritual Mind Center\*, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints\*, New Canaan Baptist Church, Bon Air Presbyterian Church, Center for Congregational Ministry / Resource Center, Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce, Just Be Yoga, and several other faith-based and non-profit organizations.*

*\*founding sponsor*

## **In the Beginning ...**

The seeds for the Family Peace Festival were planted during a candlelight vigil following the tragic events of 9/11. Muslims wondered what repercussions might befall them as an aftermath to the events of that tragedy. In the dusk of evening, Muslims and others gathered for a candlelight service on the front lawn of the Islamic Center. They were surprised and grateful when a candlelight procession of members from a neighboring church, Bon Air United Methodist Church, joined the vigil. Those in the procession had come to provide comfort and to pray for those lost in the tragedy of 9/11. This was one of many such stories of extraordinary courage and love following 9/11, and it was to grow into Richmond's "answer" to 9/11.

During the following years, the two houses of worship continued to talk. Then, in the summer of 2004, members of the Bon Air United Methodist Church contacted members of the Islamic Center of Virginia and proposed that they join together along with other faith-based organizations to hold an event which would foster peace in the Richmond area. Other founding sponsors were the Interfaith Council of Greater Richmond (ICGR), the Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC), Midlothian Friends, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Richmond Mennonite Fellowship, the Spiritual Mind Center, and the Asian American Business Assistance Center. Thus, the Festival was "born".

## **The Event**

The centerpiece of the Family Peace Festival has been and will continue to be an interfaith worship service. It has included speakers from Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Baha'i, Hindu, and Sikh communities. In addition, the tragedy of 9/11 is remembered with a moment of silence and the release of doves.

The Festival is **FREE** and a recurring theme has been "**Peace Begins at Home**". The focus is on children and their caregivers with a celebration including entertainment with local performers and youth in music, song, and dance. The day also includes arts & crafts and games for the children, a moon-bounce and a variety of ethnic/international food.

There are 'event exhibitors' from various faith-based and non-profit organizations that serve the family, i.e. American Red Cross, Virginia Blood Services, Care-a-Van, SCAN, YMCA/YWCA, as well as vendors who display and sell their crafts.

### **How YOU Can Help!**

- ❖ To volunteer to be part of the Planning Committee for publicity, worship, children's activities, vending or fundraising contact [info@familypeacefestival.org](mailto:info@familypeacefestival.org)
- ❖ For vendor/exhibit space contact [tables@familypeacefestival.org](mailto:tables@familypeacefestival.org)
- ❖ To assist with funding and make a contribution, send to: Family Peace Festival, RPEC, 400 W. 32nd St., Richmond, VA 23225, Richmond, VA 23235. Checks should be made out to RPEC [Richmond Peace Education Center], with "FPF" in the memo portion. *The fiduciary agent for the Family Peace Festival is the Richmond Peace Education Center, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.*

**We hope to see you and your family there!**

**[www.familypeacefestival.org](http://www.familypeacefestival.org)**