



# Who We Are

## The Mission

*Creating Friendships for Peace, Inc. (CFP) promotes peaceful resolution of conflicts between divided communities by working with young people and their families to build friendships, mutual respect and understanding between opposing communities. Through an international network of dedicated grass roots volunteers, CFP identifies and selects future leaders and enables them to build the relationships and the skill sets necessary to become agents of change.*

People UNITED in countries divided.



## Making a Difference for over 30 Years

► A unique two-year program for high school students involving application, selection, camps, and a hosted four weeks experience living abroad with another teen from across their border of conflict



- ▮ Teenagers age 15-18 are paired, one from each side of a conflict
- ▮ The teens form friendships, meeting personally with each other's families and friends, and developing a broader understanding and perspective on the conflicts faced by their homelands. Their cross-conflict friendships often extend to their families and friends.
- ▮ During their hosted experience, the teen pair shares a bedroom in the home of a family in a neutral country
- ▮ Through CFP's unique program, the teens develop peacebuilding and leadership skills to use now and throughout their lives.

► Over 30 years of experience

- ▮ 1981 – 2007 Northern Ireland
- ▮ 2009 – present Cyprus
- ▮ 2018 – present Israel and Palestine

► Working relationships with faculty and staff of leading universities

- ▮ Stanford University
- ▮ Portland State University
- ▮ University of Baltimore
- ▮ University of Cyprus
- ▮ Near East University
- ▮ Haifa University



## Why CFP is a Sustainable Model

► CFP Model is Universal

**AS LONG AS THERE ARE BORDERS OF CONFLICT, WHETHER WITHIN COUNTRIES OR BETWEEN COUNTRIES, AND YOUNG PEOPLE MUST LIVE WITH THAT CONFLICT, CFP OFFERS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY.** Our model is based on face-to-face interaction between these teens, as supervised by in-country and neutral country volunteers trained in the time-tested CFP program of building friendships across these borders and building peace first at the family and community level.

► Professional

**CFP IS COMPRISED OF LEADING PROFESSIONALS**, including university professors, teachers, lawyers, accountants, artists, IT professionals, corporate executives and others. Our staff and directors are responsive to rapid changes that must be addressed in changing world conditions that impact our program. The most recent example is the timely and successful development of a virtual program for Cyprus when Covid-19 restrictions prevented our traditional schedule.

► Proven Approach to Peacebuilding

**CFP'S STRATEGY IS TO DEVELOP AN ORGANIZATION OF LOCAL VOLUNTEERS WITHIN THE CONFLICT AREA WITH WHOM WE COLLABORATE AND PROVIDE RESOURCES TO RUN THE PROGRAM.** We begin with the two-year teen curriculum and expand it to include the parents and alumni in a locally organized membership support association. In time, the in-country team assumes more responsibility and eventually manages the program independent of the US team.

► Exceptional Social Investment

**BEING A VIRTUAL ORGANIZATION, UNENCUMBERED WITH THE EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH BRICKS AND MORTAR INFRASTRUCTURE, CFP PROVIDES THE HIGHEST ROI FOR THOSE WISHING TO INVEST IN A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD.** Our Board Members' personal commitment is evidenced by their history of funding our minimal overhead expenses, resulting in 100% of contributions going directly to programs.

## Achievements — The Past is Prologue

### ► Northern Ireland

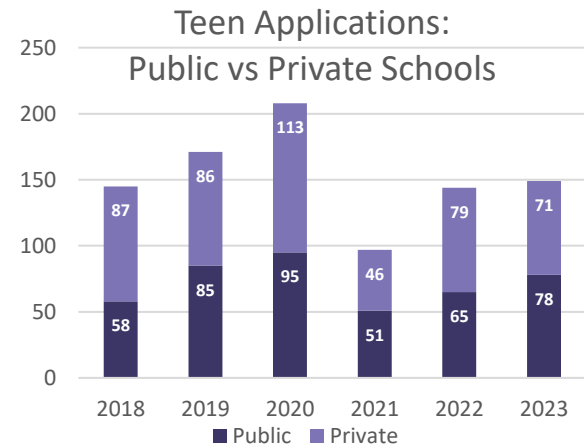
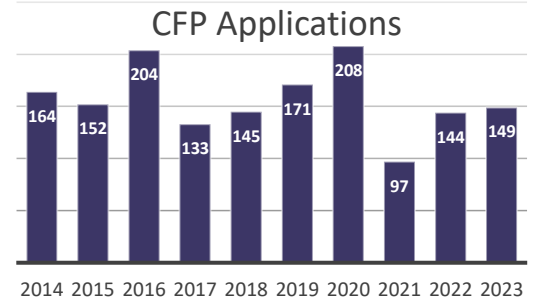
- More than 2,000 teens and their families were connected with lasting friendships formed
- Ongoing relationships have contributed to the social and political integration of Northern Ireland.
- A number of CFPNI alumni have played key leadership roles in creating the governmental structure in Northern Ireland required to implement the peace accord.

### ► Cyprus

- Over 1,300 teens and their cross-border families have been connected, reminding them of the time when all Cypriots lived together without conflict
- A strong Cypriot leadership organization, consisting of 14 Coordinators, manages the program in Cyprus, including the selection of the teen participants and management of the first-year camp program
- An NGO members' association of parents, CFP alumni and all Cypriots wishing to participate in bicultural activities is led by a bicultural board
- CFP is invited annually to provide a bicultural delegation of 24 teens to the EU's Euroscola in Strasbourg

### ► Israel and Palestine

- 38 Jewish, Arab, Palestinian and Bedouin teens have participated in the CFP US hosting program through a pilot program with Jerusalem Peacebuilders.
- Haifa University has agreed to host the annual CFP graduation.
- CFP, through a board member, has agreed to sponsor a 4-year undergraduate scholarship for a deserving CFP alum wishing to pursue a degree in science at Haifa University.
- CFP launched its independent program in 2022.



## Join Us — Be Part of the Solution

Creating Friendships for Peace welcomes all those who wish to contribute their time, talent or resources to reducing conflict in our world and to promoting the interests of friendship and understanding. We are an organization of professionals who give a portion of our time to CFP. You, too, may be a part in any of the following ways:

- **Be an In-Country Coordinator**
- **Be an Area Coordinator** – join an existing or help start a new US hosting area
- **Be a Host Family** – enjoy the many benefits of contributing to the development of friendships and understanding among international students while exposing your own children to global perspectives
- **Be a Financial Donor** – invest in providing possibilities for reducing conflict and promoting relationships among people in areas of conflict knowing that 100% of your gift goes to fund programs, since all professional staff donate their time and overhead is funded by board members.
- **Be a Professional Services Donor** – provide as needed services in such areas as transportation, PR and communications, graphic design, videography, legal services, counseling, etc.

*As shown in the charts above, CFP attracts a steady stream of qualified teens from all economic backgrounds. Despite our inability to present in public schools where nationalist viewpoints are more prevalent, each year new public schools are added through teen and teacher advocacy.*

## Contact Information

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