

The Peace Center, Inc.

EDUCATING. EMPOWERING. ENRICHING.

"You only begin to know the house by the door you enter."

Many people may identify The Peace Center, Inc. as the group that came to their child's school to talk about respect, self-esteem, and valuing the other members of their class. Some will have seen or heard members from The Peace Center working with their business, community, civic group, or place of employment providing conflict-resolution tools, information, and training on racial equity, or teaching them how to build a more peaceful community. Others may have used the services of the county's Bullying Prevention Resource Center which is run by The Peace Center. Or you may have just seen The Peace Center information table at your neighborhood community fair before the pandemic. We do all of that and so much more!

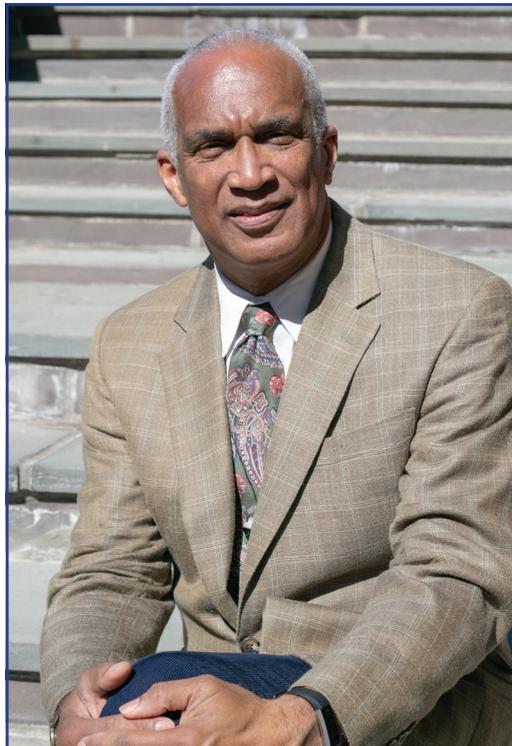
Located on the second floor of the historic Richardson House in downtown Langhorne Borough, The Peace Center, Inc. is not bound by or to its location. The building of Peace extends far beyond the walls of the building. We work within the dynamic tension of the world to help transform conflict into opportunities for growth, understanding, and healing.

We have programming in 11 of the 13 Bucks County school districts ranging from first grade into high school. Many students know The Peace Center as the bridge to help them return to class and rebuild relationships with their fellow students after disciplinary procedures. School staff know us for helping them hone their skills to see and educate all of their students equitably. Even in this new environment of COVID-19, The Peace Center is partnering with several school districts in programs to help students and parents navigate the challenges of learning in the virtual or hybrid environment.

The pandemic drastically changed the landscape as well as the scope of our work. Recognizing that parents and children would be spending 24 hours a day together instead of just 6 to 8 waking hours, in March we launched a series of videos called *Peace Begins at Home* so that families might create ways to adapt to the lifestyle changes that affected their household. We also began reformatting to "virtual" many of our programs that previously were conducted live in the classroom, and we recently launched a virtual pre-school program—*Little Lessons for Big Hearts*. Since the beginning of this 2020/2021 school year, we have already facilitated conversations with over 500 school administrators and teachers to hear the needs of their students and parents.

Also changing the landscape this year was the global response and civil unbalance caused by the murder of George Floyd. The Peace Center has been working in the community to build bridges toward diversity, inclusion, and racial equity for almost 40 years. Since January 2020,

we had already been bringing together community members with law enforcement through a program called *L.O.V.E. Is the Answer*. This program utilizes the film **WALKING WHILE BLACK: L.O.V.E. Is the Answer**, by A.J Ali, which examines policing, restorative justice, and community relations, while also providing a path to shift *Law Enforcement* back to *Officers of the Peace* as community partners. Since June, many organizations and agencies have reached out to us for programs on anti-racism and racial equity. So far this year, we have reached over 2,000 Bucks County residents (and employees) with our racial equity and L.O.V.E. Is the Answer programs.



Danny L. Thomas
Executive Director, The Peace Center

The primary role of The Peace Center is to empower individuals to become our better selves through learning about our own biases and how they impact our relationships with others. Participants in our programs learn skills that help them relate better to others, not seeking their own comfort but working toward mutual understanding and moving forward. Once we learn about ourselves and our triggers, it becomes easier to build relationships and have meaningful, sometimes courageous, conversations with others. To facilitate that process, The Peace Center regularly hosts a *Democracy Circle*—a courageous conversation for community members so they can openly and safely discuss current issues.

There are many doors to enter the programs of The Peace Center, Inc. We strive to be vital partners with all the residents of Bucks County (and beyond) to help bridge the divides that could threaten our community well-being. All are welcome to The Peace Center.



To truly have a Peace Center experience, check out our webpage, www.thepeacecenter.org, and click on the banner, called Bridges To Peace, to sign up for a 1-hour virtual tour sharing who we are and what we do, as you hear stories of our work in schools and the community.