

~ Sport in the Service of Peace ~

Twinned Peace Sport Schools

"Sports is a world where we compete without hate, a world where we win without violence. Sports is a great educator for peace." – President Shimon Peres



SPONSORING THE PROJECT

Every \$600 donated will allow one child to participate in this comprehensive peace education through sports program. The shirts which will be worn by the program participants will feature the name/logo of the donor, thus highlighting their generous support. The donor will also receive periodic reports about the progress of the project, including the outcome of the activities and their impact.



קרן היסוד הישראלי
UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL

▪ WHY - The need

In many communities in Israel, Jews and Arabs have little contact or opportunity for positive interaction despite their close physical proximity to each other. This lack of contact often leads to fear as the “other” can be seen as intimidating and unfamiliar.

As children and youth from different cultures are severely affected by conflict, they are highly susceptible to developing negative perceptions of each other in these circumstances. Therefore, it is crucial to engage children and youth in peace education programming, an outlet that provides an opportunity for people from different cultures to interact in a positive and safe environment.



This is precisely why the Peres Centre for Peace has developed comprehensive educational methodologies that utilize sports as well as other innovative tools to bring Jewish and Arab youth together. Such programs help to mitigate fears, break down emotional barriers, create cross-cultural dialogue, and equip the younger generation with the necessary tools to become constructive and influential leaders within their communities.

▪ WHERE - The Location

The Twinned Peace Sport Schools program (TPSS) is currently implemented in the Israeli communities of Jaljulia, Pardes Katz, Jaffa, Tel Aviv, Abu Ghosh, Mevasseret Tzion, Sahknin, Karmiel, Tel Sheva, Beit Nir, and Jerusalem, with program activities taking place within the communities themselves as well as in various other locations.

▪ HOW - Program Description

During the academic year, beginning in September and ending in June, participants from each “twin” - approximately 80 Jewish and Arab children - take part in the following activities:

- (1) Weekly Uni-cultural Soccer Training and Peace Education: The uni-cultural groups (approximately 40 Jewish children and 40 Arab children) meet separately twice a week, for training focused on soccer skills and peace education. The activities are structured around the ‘Peace Education through Sport Curriculum’ developed by the Peres Centre for Peace.



- (2) Joint Soccer Training, Peace Education & Cultural Activities: Approximately five times per year, the Jewish and Arab groups will meet for joint activities. These activities will build upon the uni-cultural peace education sessions and enable the children to meet their friends from the “other side” and play football in **mixed teams** using the “**FairPlay**” method. Under the FairPlay method, participants referee themselves based on their own predetermined rules and resolve any conflicts that may arise. This method allows them to acquire conflict resolution and dialogue skills, which they apply as participants and young leaders as well as in their everyday lives. It also helps them develop values of teamwork, equality and mutual understanding.
- (3) Inter-language learning (Hebrew/Arabic): Through soccer exercises and drills, and based on lesson plans designed especially for the TPSS project, the participants begin to learn their counterparts' language, allowing them to get to know each other better and communicate with one another during joint activities.
- (4) Annual "Mini Mondial" Tournament: The high point of the year is the "Mini Mondial" which unites all participants of the wider TPSS project for a full day of peace building activities and a soccer tournament modelled after the World Cup. “Mini Mondials” have to date also included “exhibition matches” with teams of Israeli Jewish and Arab mayors, international ambassadors, and Israeli Jewish and Arab premier league soccer players – coming together and playing with the children.

Personal story

The success and impact of the TPSS program can be seen through the eyes of a BA Jewish Israeli student who took part in the Peres Centre's academic peace education course developed and taught in Israel's leading sports academy. The student partook in the course and then led peace education through sport activities for Jewish and Arab children within the framework of the TPSS project:

“In the beginning, I expressed great resistance to the course because I did not understand its main purpose. However, I tried to understand. I searched, I questioned, but I felt that it was all talk. Also, my political attitudes are different; I did not want to help connect Jewish and Arab children, but to engage more in our society, to help children with disabilities, the elderly, and animals.”



The moment that I watched one of the activities, all of my hesitation stopped. Suddenly, I understood how important these meetings were and that it is in the hands of the people involved in this program to change something in our country that may ultimately influence our peaceful relations with other countries. In my eyes, this is a good and effective way to solve conflicts.



During the first activity I saw, I witnessed Jewish children, both boys and girls, playing soccer with Arab children. Although I was very reluctant at the beginning, today I am an enthusiastic supporter and I know that I will act for others. There are many paths to change; you just need to want it. It is possible to create change.

I enjoyed the experience and the change that the children experienced during their time with the Peres Center. I am aware that the process is still very long and that it takes a number of years to influence and to create lasting change.

But if we really think about it, the changes created will influence future generations, who will hold our country's future in their hands. Therefore, it is important to invest in the future generation, to instil the right values in it, and to show it that there are other ways to solve problems, that it is possible to solve every problem through conversation and a common goal.

The FairPlay method and its principle of thinking of the "other" can result in social change everywhere in our country. Solutions can be found, gaps can be bridged, we just need to want it and we will achieve it".