



# Peace in Sight

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD'S RESPONSE TO CONFLICT

Q3  
2022



Felicity Gray, NP Ukraine Director, speaks to a resident of Kharkiv (Tetiana Gaviuk/NP)

## Showing up for Ukrainians

NP's Programme Advisor in Ukraine, Tetiana Gaviuk, worked with NP in South Sudan. Now, she is working for civilians in her home country.

"Dozens stood outside of the entrance to an apartment block on the outskirts of Kharkiv. Some were talking, others stared off silently, lost in their thoughts. All were exhausted and digesting their new realities. The disheveled building they call home loomed in the background, its windows blown out from days of shelling by Russian forces," Tetiana reflected.

"While watching the building's remaining residents wait in line for their daily hot meal—provided by local, self-organized community volunteers—it was hard to ignore the fact that they were mostly the elderly and disabled."

From children, to LGBTQI+ communities, to people with disabilities and illnesses and the elderly ... so many Ukrainians are either displaced, or they are unable to evacuate.

Not only are they at risk of injury or death from

the war, but also are struggling to find food or the medicine they need to survive.

But your support has made it possible for NP's team to act quickly and nimbly. From connecting an elderly man named Yuri to the medical services he needed in Kharkiv ... to assisting

**I do this for a future of peace ... for children like Artiom, an 8-year-old we met. He said he had gotten so used to playing inside the bomb shelter, he no longer wished to step outside and play with his friends.**

a woman with heat sickness in Mykolaiv ... Tetiana and the team are providing protection for communities in hard-to-reach places and connecting people to humanitarian services like food, water, and medicine. Thank you for showing up for Ukrainians like Tetiana, Yuri, and Artiom.

# Youth End Clan Violence



## LOOKING TOWARD A FUTURE OF PEACE

Simon\* and Daniel\* are youth leaders from the Cie-leak and Cie-nyakuong clans in Nyriol County, South Sudan.

Their two clans have been locked in bloody conflict for years. The violence has left members of their communities injured, displaced, or killed—a youth leader died not long ago.

Simon's clan no longer has access to basic services. They are afraid Daniel's clan will attack them when they head into town.

Local and humanitarian groups tried to help the clans reconcile, but it didn't work. At the end of last year, the two clans were gearing up for intense fighting.

But with your support, NP was able to quickly intervene to stop the violence.

To start, NP worked separately with the youth of each clan. The youth shared how the conflict was detrimentally impacting their communities. After NP trained them on de-escalation and peacebuilding skills, they requested that NP bring their two clans together.

Daniel expressed his appreciation for NP's training. He told us, "Before this training, we couldn't look at each other's eyes anymore. ... thank you for the training today. I request you

to find a way for us to come together and talk to each other so that we can stay in peace once again."

Simon shared that, "as a youth, life is difficult here because we are seen as the problem. Thank you, NP, for giving us this training. I have known today that some of my actions could be the reason the conflict is still going. But, I ask you to have a bigger training for us all, as the two clans, so that we can all know what we did wrong and what we should do to stay together again."

After the trainings, the youth talked with their clan leaders, who agreed to come together to support peace.

With your support, NP hosted a peace dialogue between Simon's and Daniel's clans.

Before we started the process, the clans "couldn't look into each other's eyes." By the time we hosted the peace dialogue, the clans were not only looking in each other's eyes, but they were looking toward a future of peace.



The peace dialogue between Cie-leak and Cie-nyakuong.

# Elijah O'Neal

**"I WANTED TO CHANGE MY LIFE AROUND FOR A BETTER FUTURE."**

"I've seen a lot of things happen in my community; I've done a lot of bad things in my community. I wanted to change my life around for a better future."

Elijah (Eli) O'Neal is one of the Community Peace Builders at NP who has overcome the challenges of being impacted by gang violence, and is now addressing community conflict and violence in North Minneapolis, MN.

"[NP] taught me nonviolent skills that I never thought would help me. But in the long run it really changed my life, learning how to dial down a situation and find a common ground between two parties."

Now, Eli and the Community Peace Builders host a weekly discussion and training for youth in their area.

Besides this violence prevention work, the team also supports youth to move forward if violence does happen. Recently, when two teens fired shots during an altercation, the Community Peace Builders met with each of the boys and the adults in their lives to resolve the conflict peacefully.

Eli wants these young men to know that mediation does not mean that you are scared. Peacemaking takes courage and skill.

He and the other Community Peace Builders have also been showing up to represent youth in the community — from neighborhood safety meetings, to meetings with public officials.

Explaining the impact they are already having, the Community Peace Builders' mentor, Will Wallace said, "They are making an impact on their friends' lives by spreading the message to organizations, barber shops and churches. They are having an impact on the community and on themselves."

Thank you for supporting community and youth initiatives. Thank you for supporting a future where peace is possible.



**Beyond easing tension among peers, they also provide unarmed security at local events.**

**Elijah O'Neal, one of the local Peace Builders, said he hopes to stifle narratives that area residents are only capable of violence.**

**He said he wants his peers to know they can overcome stereotypes and think about the bigger picture.**

**"We're not used to talking," said O'Neal. "All we're used to doing is yelling and screaming and trying to get somebody to hear us. But I'm trying to get them to understand that we could talk it out without getting so violent."**

Excerpt from "Community Peace Builders Instill Hope in Minneapolis." Public News Service, Aug 1, 2022. Full article on our website.

# SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



Charles Johnson, NP Volunteer & Supporter



Since taking a course on unarmed civilian protection (UCP) in 2017, Charles Johnson has become an active volunteer of NP's Chicago chapter and an avid supporter of nonviolent peace strategies.

"I believe each generation must build toward world peace, with guidance from prior generations. Some of the best guidance I have found is Unarmed Civilian Protection as practiced by NP. NP's work points us to a future where peace continually expands as systems that produce violence become ever more obsolete."

As a peace activist, Charles knows that building peace takes time. But through cultivating relationships and building trust, peace is possible. That's why Charles became a legacy donor through FreeWill, to continue the important work of peacebuilding for generations to come.

**NP shows that there are healthy ways to interrupt violence and to include everyone. This model of protection is inclusive, life-affirming, and sustainable. Please consider a legacy gift to NP – whether you have little or much to give, it makes a huge difference.**

## August is National Make-A-Will Month!

Go to <https://bit.ly/3BE0yVT>



It is the perfect moment to reflect on how you can protect those you love, now and far into the future. More than 2/3 of Americans do not have an up-to-date will, despite it being essential to securing your future and designating a guardian for your children.

That's why we've partnered with FreeWill: a free online resource that guides you through the process of creating a will in just 20 minutes. By taking action to create a will, you can protect all those you love and leave a legacy gift to NP to continue your support of transforming the world's response to conflict for generations to come.



For more information on ways to give, go to [NonviolentPeaceforce.org](http://NonviolentPeaceforce.org) or call 612-871-0005.