

## WFWP USA: 2025 GWPN Quarterly Impact Report (Q3: July - September)

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The third quarter of 2025 was a time of deepening connections within the Global Women's Peace Network (GWPN), centered on **the powerful theme of peace**. Across the nation, WFWP chapters created opportunities for communities to come together in joy, service, and unity. From marching in parades and celebrating diverse cultures, to raising vital funds for education and honoring women of impact, each month overflowed with meaningful encounters and heartfelt efforts to uplift others.



Between July and September, WFWP leaders and partners organized or participated in **25 heartfelt events**. Through these efforts, over **1804 individuals** were engaged—**41%** of whom were new to WFWP. In a growing trend of collaboration, **28%** of initiatives were conducted in partnership with, or in service to, other community organizations. These activities not only strengthened local networks but also expanded the reach of WFWP's message of peace, healing, and empowerment.

### **Celebrating Community, Peace and the Power of Education**

This quarter highlighted community, peace, and connection, with WFWP USA chapters actively engaging in service and bridge-building. Members fostered unity across generations, faiths, and cultures. Fundraising initiatives, virtual programs, and the ongoing **HerStory Podcast** continued to empower women and inspire positive change, reflecting our shared mission of peace in action.

## July

- WFWP Ohio participated in the community's Fourth of July parade, joyfully sharing materials and treats along the route, and was warmly recognized as "an extraordinary NGO committed to empowering women to make a lasting difference worldwide."
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## August : Community Celebration and Fundraising

- WFWP Arizona commemorated the 8th anniversary of *Buhay Buhay Sa Amerika*, honoring the program's host, Rhia Luz, with the prestigious **HerStory Award** in recognition of her dedication to empowering women and fostering community engagement through media.
- In Washington, D.C., WFWP organized a vibrant **yard sale** that successfully raised **\$300** to support the **Schools of Africa project**, a program dedicated to providing quality education and opportunities for children across Africa.
- WFWP Hawai'i actively participated in the **2nd Annual Hawaii Buddha Peace Festival**, engaging the community with a Peace Photo Activity and a live musical performance, promoting cross-cultural understanding and the message of peace. [Click here](#) to read more.
- In Colorado, WFWP hosted a **Peace Road event** focused on **religious freedom**, highlighted by a meaningful **Water Ceremony** that brought together representatives from **seven different faith traditions**, symbolizing unity and mutual respect among diverse spiritual communities. [Click here](#) to read.
- WFWP Pennsylvania celebrated the importance of family and committed relationships by presenting the **2025 Marriage for Peace Award**, recognizing couples who exemplify harmony and service in their communities.
- WFWP Ohio organized a fundraiser that raised **\$4,700** for the **Schools of Africa project**, emphasizing the transformative impact that education has on children and communities throughout Africa.



## September: Building Bridges

- WFWP NJ celebrated **global cultures** with nine tables featuring traditional dress, art, music, books, and snacks from around the world. Participants explored each culture with a "passport," enjoyed performances and interactive activities, and connected heart-to-heart through a "Bridge of Peace." [Click here](#) to read



- Hosted by Wonder Women Tech and WFWP, the Future Forward Summit filled Washington, D.C. with the spirit of innovation and peace. From powerful panels and a symbolic Bridge of Peace crossing to uplifting keynotes, the gathering created a space of trust, collaboration, and hope for the future. [Click here](#) to read



HAPPY SISTERS

- WFWP NJ also joined **Peace Islands' Annual Peace Festival** this year, sharing our vision, promoting Her Tribe meetings, and engaging visitors with crafts, origami peace cranes, and snacks. The *Peace Starts with Me* choir performed original songs, and our team took part in the Bike/Walk for Peace. [Click here](#) to read



Rev. Feffermand and Archbishop Lewis

- WFWP San Diego held a **Bridge of Peace Ceremony** featuring music, inspiring messages, and a symbolic bridge crossing where participants exchanged origami cranes. Reflections, a piano performance, and a shared Korean lunch created an atmosphere of warmth, joy, and unity. [Click here](#) to read
- The Family Church of CT's latest Intergenerational Service celebrated **Unity within Diversity** and honored grandparents. A special **Bridge of Peace ceremony** brought together three pairs of oldest and youngest members, who shared reflections on supporting one another and overcoming challenges. The event beautifully highlighted the bonds that connect generations and the wisdom shared across ages.
- WFWP/UPF Grand Junction, joined an interreligious delegation for tours of the **new LDS Temple in Grand Junction, CO**. Guided by LDS leaders, participants enjoyed meaningful dialogue, sharing of faith traditions, and fellowship over refreshments. The visits created an atmosphere of

inspiration, respect, and unity.



- WFWP Los Angeles celebrated the leadership transition and piloted *Tea with Intentions*, guiding participants to envision a peaceful world and commit to tangible action in their community.
- WFWP PA Chairlady Jizly Dohou joined a panel hosted by WFWP UN-Vienna and WFWP Austria, highlighting collaboration for peace and a sustainable future.



- WFWP Alabama's Bridge of Peace brought together friends in a vibrant setting for an inspiring keynote, a moving rose exchange ceremony, and joyful singing, leaving all participants uplifted and united. Click to [read more](#).



- WFWP Oregon celebrated the International Day of Peace on September 21, 2025, at Portland Family Church in West Linn .In partnership with the Baha'i community, the event featured a Peace Pole



Planting Ceremony, interfaith prayers, and lively discussions that fostered new connections and shared commitment to peace.



### Consistency and Connection



- The Western Region's ongoing virtual series, *Self Care Isn't Selfish*, continued strong, offering expert insights on cultivating healthy relationships as men and women.

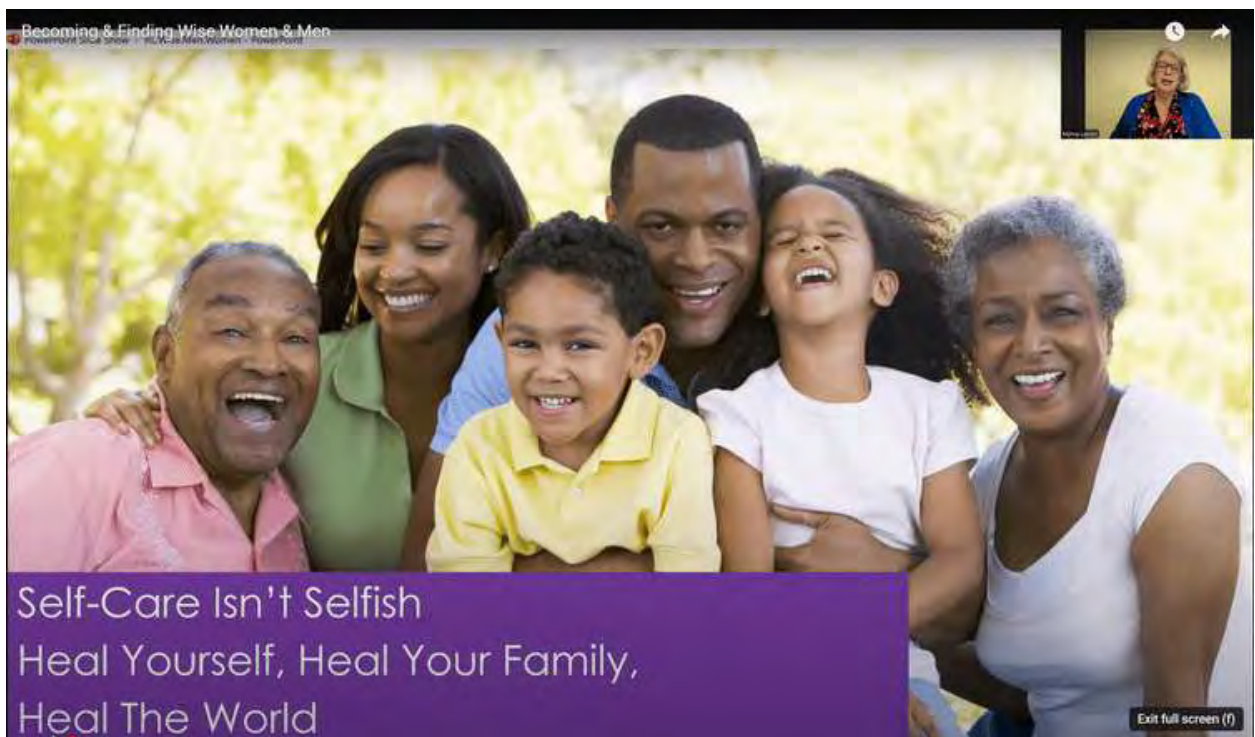




- **WFWP San Diego** continued to host the **Peace Starts with Me Tea**, a monthly gathering inviting women from diverse sectors to share in meaningful conversations over refreshments.



- Finally, **WFWP USA** maintained its commitment to storytelling and leadership by releasing monthly episodes of the *HerStory Podcast*, showcasing the values and visions of GWPN members across the country.



Thank you to our WFWP members, donors, and partners who walk this path with us. Your love and commitment are transforming lives and expanding our shared mission of peace.

**The third quarter of 2025 brought meaningful service and bridge-building, with even greater moments yet to come.**





## WFWP-HI Participation in the 2nd Annual Hawai'i Buddha Peace Festival

Written by : Donna Shaver

The Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) Hawai'i Chapter was honored to participate in the 2nd Annual Hawai'i Buddha Peace Festival, themed "Compassion, Love & Peace." The festival, held on August 16, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Chinatown Cultural Plaza, brought together peace organizations, cultural groups, and community members for a day of performances, activities, and fellowship.

To prepare for the festival, WFWP-HI organized an Informational & Educational Display that included a special Peace Photo Activity section coordinated by Elizabeth Lim, Yoshie Yamada, and Donna Shaver. Artist Jordan Agcaoili designed and created the Hawai'i Peace backdrop and props, dedicating 20 to 30 hours of work to the project. Paulina Lim and Donna Shaver painted the clothing on the people props, turning it into WFWP's largest coloring project to date. Guests could take photos with the backdrop and props, and their pictures were printed on-site with a portable printer donated by Debbie Nanod. Each photo included a peace quote from Mother Moon on the reverse side, designed by Yoshie Yamada and printed by Donna Shaver. The quote, provided by Mika Deshotel, read: "Everyone desires peace, but peace does not come easily... To experience true peace, we must first practice true love without expectation of reward."

The WFWP-HI display was located alongside other peace organizations such as Yoly Jon Henna and Neels Nirvana. The festival featured a wide range of cultural performances including Hawaiian hula, Vietnamese dances and choir, Indonesian bird and line dances, Chinese traditional dance, Korean janggu drumming, Nepali traditional dance, and more. Musical pieces included John Lennon's *Imagine*, flute dance, a peace song, and a closing ukulele and hula performance by The Park Rats. WFWP-HI was invited to contribute with a crossover peace song, "Where Peace Begins (One Family Under God)," performed by Daniel and Donna Shaver with keyboardist Anne Craig Lum.

The WFWP booth featured the Hawai'i Chapter banner, copies of the *Mother of Peace* memoir, brochures, the WFWP 2024 Annual Report, activity reports, tabletop posters, a slide presentation, and membership forms. Refreshments such as chips, pineapple gummies, and bottled water were offered to guests. The Peace Photo Activity attracted a diverse group of visitors—families, couples, children, teenagers, and individuals—who were delighted to receive a personalized keepsake with Mother Moon's message. Several women expressed interest in learning more about WFWP and its founder, Holy Mother Hak Ja Han Moon.

During the event, WFWP Chairwoman Donna Shaver met with Representative Shirley Templo, Hawai'i State House District 30, who expressed interest in partnering with WFWP to support youth initiatives in Kalihi. Contact information was exchanged, and a copy of the *Mother of Peace* memoir was gifted to Representative Templo. They plan to reconnect soon to discuss collaboration opportunities.

The success of WFWP-HI's participation was made possible through the support of many individuals and families, including Elizabeth, Warren, and Paulina Lim; Jordan Agcaoili and family; Yoshie Yamada; Debbie and Gary Nanod; Eiko and David Hirata; Clare Yasutake; Diane Araki; Yukari Nichols; Rev. Ernie Ho; Anne Craig Lum; Daniel Shaver; and Rafia Hasina. Their contributions and dedication are deeply appreciated.

Reflecting on the experience, artist Jordan Agcaoili expressed his gratitude for being able to contribute his artistic talents "for literally peace's sake." Elizabeth Lim shared a moving story of taking a picture for a man without a phone or a photograph of himself. When given food and a printed photo, he expressed profound joy, reminding her that such moments of love and care are sacred gifts from God. Donna Shaver reflected on the value of connecting with other peace organizations, creating a meaningful experience for families through the Peace Photo activity, and performing "Where Peace Begins" with her son and sister as a way to share Holy Mother Han's vision of one family under God.

The 2nd Annual Hawai'i Buddha Peace Festival provided WFWP-HI with a meaningful opportunity to connect with the broader community, introduce WFWP's mission, and advance the vision of peace, love, and unity across Hawai'i.







## Peace Road- " Preserving Religious Freedom"

Written by : Gale Alves

The Peace Road event in Colorado on *Preserving Religious Freedom* brought together a diverse group of faith leaders and community members in the welcoming space of the Unitarian Universalist Church. Seven faith traditions were represented, including United Methodist, Bahá'í, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, First Disciple Church, Unitarian Universalist, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, and the Sacred–Secular Continuum. Among the participants were two pastors and eleven lay people, four of whom hold leadership roles within their communities.

The gathering opened on a note of harmony as Pastor Kevin of the First Disciple Church, accompanied by a guitarist from his congregation, led everyone in singing *"Let There Be Peace on Earth."* The shared song created a sense of unity and reverence, setting the tone for the afternoon. The host pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church then extended a warm welcome, followed by Gale Alves, who spoke on behalf of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP). Gale Alves offered remarks on the mission of Peace Road and the vision of these organizations, founded by Father and Mother Moon. She emphasized their lifelong work as spiritual leaders and explained the movement's unique view of God as both Heavenly Father and Heavenly Mother. She also underscored the value of religious freedom, reminding attendees of the real and present dangers many believers face today.

Speakers from the Bahá'í and Latter-day Saints communities shared personal and historical accounts of religious persecution, including the longstanding oppression of Bahá'ís in Iran and challenges faced by Latter-day Saints in both the United States and abroad. Their testimonies reminded everyone of the importance of vigilance and solidarity across traditions when it comes to defending freedom of belief.

The centerpiece of the event was a Water Ceremony. Each participant introduced themselves and their faith tradition, then completed the phrase "Religious freedom is important because..." before pouring colorful water into a shared bowl. This symbolic act of unity affirmed both the individuality of each voice and the power of their collective witness.

Among the reflections, one Latter-day Saints representative shared, "The fight for religious freedom is much more than protecting the right to worship, it is about preserving the dignity, compassion, and respect that all people deserve. May we all strive, across faiths and borders, to create a more compassionate world for everyone." A representative from UPF/WFWP reflected, "Religious freedom is important because we need to keep God alive in the minds and hearts of humankind."

As the gathering concluded, participants expressed heartfelt gratitude for the opportunity to come together in mutual respect and prayer. The event affirmed a shared conviction that protecting religious freedom is essential not only for the right to worship but also for the preservation of human dignity, compassion, and peace across all faiths.



[WFWP PA CELEBRATES FAMILIES WITH THE 2025 "MARRIAGE FOR PEACE AWARD"](#)

[WFWP-HI PARTICIPATION IN THE 2ND ANNUAL HAWAII BUDDHA PEACE FESTIVAL](#)



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## Passport to Peace: Culture, Connection, Community

On September 13, the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFP) New Jersey chapter hosted *Passport to Peace: Culture, Connection, Community* at the Bloomfield Civic Center in celebration of the International Day of Peace. At a time when the news so often highlights division, this program offered a refreshing space for people to come together, celebrate their heritage, and experience the beauty of other cultures with open hearts.



The event featured nine cultural tables representing the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Latvia, Ireland, Japan, the Philippines, Germany, Pakistan, and Turkey. Each table showcased traditional dress, art, music, books, and more—while also sharing delicious treats from their country, which quickly became a highlight of the day. Guests received a “passport” to be stamped with country flag stickers as they explored, creating a playful way to journey through the world in one room.

The afternoon was filled with meaningful moments. A “karate” dance performance, traditional music trivia, and a lively presentation on the cultural importance of basket weaving in Ghana offered participants interactive ways to experience different traditions. Guests also engaged in an informal “Bridge of Peace,” where they paired with someone from a different background and shared what they love about their own culture. In this simple yet profound exchange, participants discovered connection beyond words, heart to heart.

Katarina Connery, WFP USA President, shared the vision behind the program with a quote from WFP Founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon: *“People often think that politics moves the world, but that is not the case. It is culture and art that move the world. It is affection, not reason, that touches people in their innermost being. When hearts become receptive, ideologies and political regimes can change.”*

With about 50 people in attendance—young and old, families and individuals—the room was filled with laughter, learning, and a spirit of peace. More than just a cultural fair, *Passport to Peace* was a living reminder that when we open ourselves to one another, we can build bridges across divides and move closer to the dream of one global family.



WFP New Jersey • International Day of Peace





## Future Forward Summit in Washington, D.C. Spotlights Innovation, Leadership & Peacebuilding

Written by: Koeleigh Moffitt

The *Future Forward D.C.: Leadership & Global Impact Summit* brought together policymakers, diplomats, technologists, innovators, and peacebuilders for a groundbreaking day of dialogue and action under the theme *"Driving Leadership, Innovation & Global Impact."*

Hosted by **Wonder Women Tech** in partnership with the **Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP)**, the summit convened cross-sector leaders at the Washington Times Building for a dynamic program weaving together technology, diplomacy, innovation, and peacebuilding.

One of the most powerful moments of the day was the **Bridge of Peace Ceremony**, a signature initiative of the Women's Federation for World Peace. During the activation, participants crossed a symbolic bridge hand in hand, signifying reconciliation and unity beyond the boundaries of culture, ideology, and generation. The ceremony invited leaders and innovators to embody values of mutual respect and collaboration essential for building sustainable peace. In the context of a summit centered on the future of leadership and innovation, the Bridge of Peace served as a reminder that human connection remains at the heart of lasting progress.

Beyond the ceremony, the summit featured a vibrant mix of **Ignite Talks, interactive dialogues, and thought-provoking panels** exploring themes such as AI and ethics, diplomacy and innovation, and the future of the workforce. Global leaders from **Microsoft, Walmart Global Tech, the U.S. military, and the diplomatic sector** joined voices with social innovators and grassroots peacebuilders.

The day concluded with a closing keynote from **Jason Armstrong, Retired Police Chief and public trust innovator**, on *"Leadership in Action."*

The partnership between Wonder Women Tech and WFWP underscored the summit's unique strength: bridging innovation with peacebuilding, technology with humanity, and leadership with reconciliation. Together, the two organizations created a platform where bold ideas and bold relationships converged, demonstrating that the future must be built not only on technological advancement but also on trust, unity, and shared responsibility.



Bridge of Peace





## Peace Island Institute 6th Annual Peace Festival

Written by : Irmgard Baynes

Last year, members of WFP attended Peace Islands' 5th Annual Peace Festival and were deeply impressed by the program. This year, WFP participated as a partner, setting up a table to showcase the organization's vision, share information about the **HerTribe** group meetings in the New Jersey chapter, and invite visitors to explore their website.

A team of six WFP members assisted with setup and greeted attendees throughout the event. The **Elizabeth Family Church's "Peace Starts with Me" Choir** was also featured in the Cultural Performance Program. The choir's performance was very well received, with enthusiastic applause for both *A Blessed Day* and *Peace Starts with Me*, original compositions by David Eaton. Mr. Eaton introduced the choir and shared its vision with the audience.

The festival included nine performances in total, all of which were uplifting and entertaining. At the closing session, Irmgard, representative of the NJ chapter and initiator of the collaboration, was invited on stage to deliver closing comments. This provided a valuable opportunity to highlight WFP's work and express gratitude to attendees for supporting the cause of peace.

Another key highlight of the festival was the **Bike/Walk for Peace** event. Five WFP members participated, wearing T-shirts with the message: *"Women Working Together to Establish a Culture of Heart in the Family, Community, Nation, and World to Achieve Genuine and Sustainable Peace."*

The WFP table drew significant attention, attracting visitors with banners that emphasized "Women Working Together" and "Peace Starts with Me." Attendees were offered origami peace cranes, donated by Japanese WFP members, snacks, and a simple craft activity for children using colorful pipe cleaners.

Overall, the festival provided an exciting and vibrant experience for the WFP team. While additional giveaways and pamphlets would have enhanced outreach, the organization is grateful for the opportunity to showcase its mission and engage with the broader community.



WFP New Jersey • International Day of Peace





## San Diego - Bridge of Peace

Written by : Jasmine Santoro

On September 21, the Bridge of Peace Ceremony was successfully held and brought together members of the community in an atmosphere of warmth, joy, and unity.

The program commenced with opening remarks delivered by the main organizer, *Mrs. Keiko Loew*, who welcomed all participants and set the tone for the occasion. This was followed by a musical offering from *Minister Gwen Austin*, which prepared hearts for the inspiring message on peace and unity presented by *Mrs. Elisabeth Seidel*.

The central feature of the event was the **Bridge Crossing Ceremony**, during which every participant was invited to take part, whether as family members, couples, or friends. As each pair crossed, they exchanged **origami paper cranes**, symbolizing peace, reconciliation, and the strengthening of bonds. This ceremony stood as a meaningful reminder of the values of connection and harmony that the tradition seeks to uphold.

The program continued with a piano performance by a child from the community, which added a touching and hopeful dimension to the gathering. Following this, the floor was opened for reflections. Two participants shared their personal experiences with past Bridge of Peace ceremonies and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to sustain this tradition into the present.

The event concluded with a group photo session, capturing the spirit of togetherness, and a shared lunch featuring Korean cuisine, which provided further opportunity for fellowship.

Overall, the highlight of the day was the unique **atmosphere of warmth and joy**. The entire congregation participated wholeheartedly, creating a space filled with love, laughter, and a sense of belonging.



International Day of Peace - Bridge of Peace





## Bridge of Peace-Alabama

Written by : Bruna Allen

The WFWP Alabama's Bridge of Peace event was a resounding success, leaving participants inspired and uplifted. Reflections collected afterward expressed strong appreciation for both the content and the atmosphere.

The gathering welcomed both new guests and long-time friends, creating a sense of reconnection and community. The venue was beautifully prepared with a graceful stage arch decorated by a dedicated sister, complemented by African-print tablecloths and wall décor that added vibrancy and warmth to the setting.

The program flowed seamlessly under the guidance of a skilled young man who was managing the technical aspects. Guests were introduced to the global mission of WFWP through a 7-minute video highlighting the organization's international activities.

A highlight of the evening was the keynote speaker, a distinguished Black woman whose presentation drew upon Dr. Hak Ja Han's peace philosophy while offering her own insights. Her message resonated deeply, inspiring many attendees to purchase her publications, including an anthology of essays by women and her own authored book.

A display table featured WFWP materials, Mother of Peace memoir, and fundraising items for Rwanda. While only a few items were sold, many participants engaged with the resources, taking home flyers, booklets of Dr. Moon's speeches, and keepsakes such as pens and bookmarks.

The Bridge ceremony was a particularly moving moment. Participants exchanged long-stem red roses, embraced, and walked together through the arch before pausing for photographs. Although a group photo was missed, touching images of the ceremony were captured. Each guest also received a bouquet from the table arrangements, and the speaker was presented with a large bouquet in appreciation.

The program concluded on a joyful note as all participants joined voices in singing the event's theme song, closing the evening in unity and hope.

The Bridge of Peace event successfully achieved its purpose: fostering harmony, celebrating connection, and leaving a lasting impression on everyone in attendance.



International Day of Peace • Bridge of Peace