

PEACELOVE FOUNDATION



# Community & Impact 2023





**PeaceLove**  
Foundation

# 2023 Impact Book

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# WELCOME Year in Review

I've been Chairman of the Board for the past 7 years, though my relationship with PeaceLove extends back to its very start. I had known Jeff socially when he asked me to join him for a program he had just started over at Butler Hospital that he was calling "Paint for Peace." Of course I said yes, and I sat off to the side as a spectator and saw these young boys share what they had made, and what it meant to them – I wasn't even sure what I was looking at because I hadn't seen anything like it before! It was clear there was something really special there. Something I was eager to support and amplify.

Over the next decade I would watch multiple iterations of PeaceLove – from tables to studios, and then a full set for

virtual programming. I've seen the team constantly growing, adapting, and evolving what they do – always with the goal of making it easier to access creative tools for mental wellbeing.

From our red carpet collaborations, to attending the World Economic Forum, to our annual Storytellers series (that I miss dearly!) I've gotten a front row seat to how PeaceLove Foundation has disarmed, surprised, connected and changed individuals in every sector.

I've watched the team encounter major funding challenges and a global pandemic that directly impacted their high-touch modality. Again and again, I'd watch the team pivot, see the need

***"I've seen the team constantly growing, adapting, and evolving what they do – always with the goal of making it easier to access creative tools for mental wellbeing."***

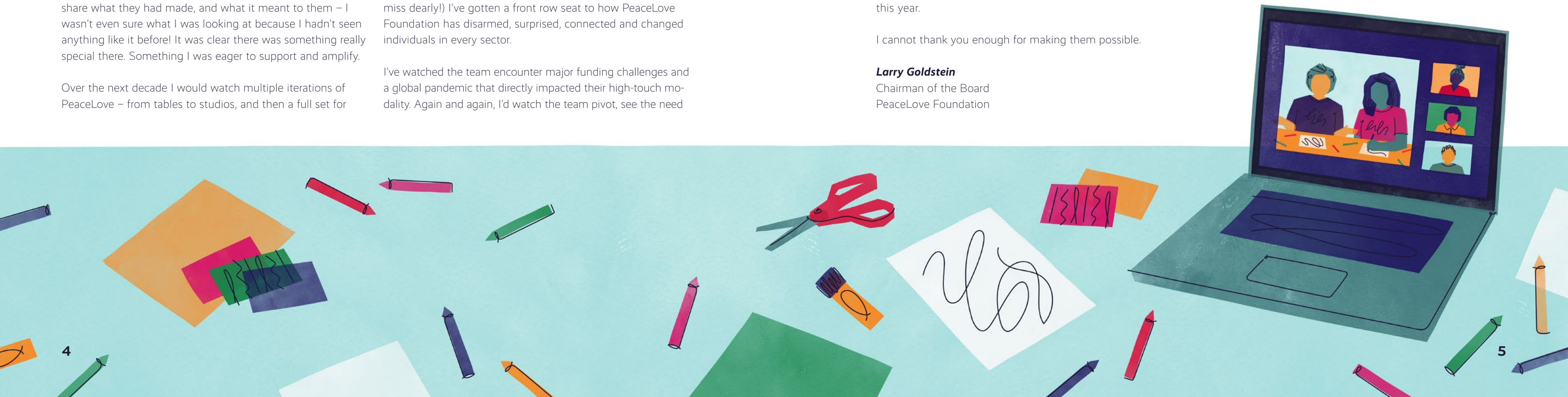
for PeaceLove programming, and figure out how to re-imagine and package PeaceLove to get it out into the world.

As our digital game pilot wraps up and the team springs forward with their new goals and plans, I urge us to pause for a minute to reflect, and to celebrate the achievements of this year.

I cannot thank you enough for making them possible.

**Larry Goldstein**

Chairman of the Board  
PeaceLove Foundation





## 2023 CREATORS UPDATES

# Trainings and Impact

2023



79

CREATORS Trained



2

New Module Trainings



18,280

Network Reach

TOTAL



283

CREATORS Trained



8,609

Workshops Run



93,379

Experiences YTD

## 2023 IMPACT VIDEO



Hear from our CREATORS  
about the impact of PeaceLove  
on their communities.





## CREATORS STORY

# These Workshops Make a Difference



As someone who works with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, how do I measure the impact of a program like PeaceLove workshops? I can give you the numbers of all the participants of all the workshops I've run. I never expect an "A-HA" moment or seeing someone's magic come out in processing their emotions, but it happens every time. The impact is measured in so many ways: when staff tell me that participants are taking fewer behavioral medications, or that behaviors have decreased overall and especially surrounding when a workshop is scheduled. Or when a nonverbal participant relates to a certain color or image, and they're able to convey or communicate that emotion. Or when a participant comes in with a flat affect, not engaging, and then you see it — a shift. They soften, they engage, and they open up. Because in these workshops, these individuals are seen, heard, respected, and welcomed. There's not much opportunity in the world these days to go and do something that the goal is to just "feel better." To create, without judgment or focus on what is produced. That's the magic. And the impact is immeasurable.

CREATOR Andrea Durant Deming is a Recreational Therapist at Covenant Case Management Services in Matthews, North Carolina.



***"In these workshops, these individuals are seen, heard, respected, and welcomed. There's not much opportunity in the world these days to go and do something that the goal is to just 'feel better.' To create, without judgment or focus on what is produced. That's the magic."***



## CREATORS STORY

# One Person Shares, and Then Everyone Shares

I am the Violent Crimes Victim Services Coordinator at Peoria County Sheriff's Office. I deal with many different types of victims on a daily basis. Crimes vary from identity theft to sexual assault (juvenile and adult) to elderly abuse, domestic battery, and homicide victims. I wanted a chance to provide a safe place for everyone to come together and interact, as I was often asked the question, "is there a support group for other victims like me who have gone through this?" The answer was no, but I decided to change that.

I was trained in 2022 and I can honestly say that it has changed our community for the better. The very first group I held was in the evening. I had males and females, ages ranging from 15-68, black, white and Hispanic ethnicities. At first it was

very quiet and everyone was just sitting listening to everything I had to say with nervous faces. We did Transformation Collage. It took exactly 3 minutes into the project for one person to start speaking openly about what they experienced and before I knew it, ALL 14 people were talking with each other sharing stories. They were laughing and, yes, there was crying. I will absolutely never forget this moment in my career. I remember standing there with goosebumps all over and tears in my eyes. I couldn't believe that I was a part of something so special. After the projects, every single person shared about their project. Not one person in this group was ever left out. This group of individuals never met each other before that night and still to this day they get together, the young and old! They created a bond that only they can be a part of because of what they endured and it was all because PeaceLove gave us the tools to give these people the right to open up and feel heard and know that they are not alone in their battle. I wish everyone I know could have experienced this interaction because it was so profound and something so simple helped so many people.

CREATOR Aimee Shinall is the Violent Crimes Victim Services Coordinator at Peoria County Sheriff's Office in Peoria, Illinois.

***“They created a bond that only they can be a part of because of what they endured and it was all because PeaceLove gave us the tools to give these people the right to open up and feel heard and know that they are not alone in their battle.”***



## CREATORS STORY

# No Rules, Make Mistakes



Writing this I have a hard time gathering words to describe the workshop that took place today. My dad decided to stop by to see the rec center and I was nervous about how this workshop would go because you never know with kids.

I couldn't have dreamed of a better experience to share with him. What this workshop unleashed in these 10 girls was incredible! We talked about what makes us nervous, one girl who lost her grandpa recently, sharing she is most nervous of losing the people she cares the most about and that she has lost a lot of people. A lot of these kids have unimaginable struggles at home and it was powerful to hear her share this.

Being told there are no rules unleashed something in these girls! As we started, they asked my dad what it means to be creative. He shared it means believing you can do anything and making mistakes. Instructing them to embrace mistakes, we had an hour-long workshop filled with laughter, smiles, joy, and shouts showing us all the mistakes they made. They were so proud and excited to show their mistakes and kept exclaiming how fun it was to not have any rules here.

They got messy, used their hands, different materials, and guided by the concept to tell a story, they explored without judgment.

***“They shared openly about their lives, struggles, and one even said the greatest words I could hear in a workshop... ‘This is the best day of my life.’”***

They shared openly about their lives, struggles, and one even said the greatest words I could hear in a workshop...”This is the best day of my life.” Whether true or not, this workshop, this hour of being able to have fun without punishment, to be cheered on for making mistakes, supported to be creative; it meant something to them. It was a moment in their day they could let everything go and just be kids and that was incredible as a facilitator to see.

After displaying our work, I was shocked to see how excited they were to share their stories they created. I have always had trouble with the kids wanting to share but not today. They had these amazing and creative stories behind their shoes. One said their shoe told a story of a shoe they dreamed of buying but couldn't find and then came across one day. Another said it was their mom's favorite high heel that matched her beautiful dress. The creativity and imagination was magical!

*CREATOR Charlee Sparr is the Program Director at Partnership for Providence Parks, Recreation Centers, and Streetscapes (P3) in Providence, Rhode Island.*





## CREATORS STORY

# When Everything Changed

I have recently been working with a 17 year old who ended up having a 4-month hospital stay. Due to her chronic diagnosis, she had to have hour long treatments 3-4 times a day. One day, I introduced PeaceLove to her. Of course, I started with Creative Calisthenics. Well, that moment changed everything for her. She found that she absolutely loved painting (and other art too, but painting was her favorite) and that it helped her cope with the long lonely days in the hospital.

She was also adopted and her parents worked during the day... aside from the fact that it was almost an hour drive to and from her house. Each day, she began painting canvas after canvas. We would talk about her inspiration behind each one.

***“She found that she absolutely loved painting and that it helped her cope with the long lonely days in the hospital.”***

There was one of her lungs filled with flowers that she called “Bad Things Can Be Beautiful” and another of flowers that she called “Looking Through a Window” sharing that she spends her days looking out the window while life continues for everyone outside. She painted me a tree that she called “Helping me to grow” and said that I helped her to grow and cope with her emotions through art.

She ended up with over 25 canvases that she had painted during the last few weeks of her stay. I suggested an art show where she could leave her room and we could share her art with the staff and other families. We took down all of the paintings that had been in a hallway near the playroom. The carpenters and painters repainted it and hung her framed pictures to look like an art gallery. We got a red carpet, up-lighting, and a candy bar with all of her favorite treats. The hospital media attended and she spent 2-3 hours talking to everyone who came to visit about her artwork and what inspired her to start painting. I’m sure you can guess. It all started with PeaceLove.

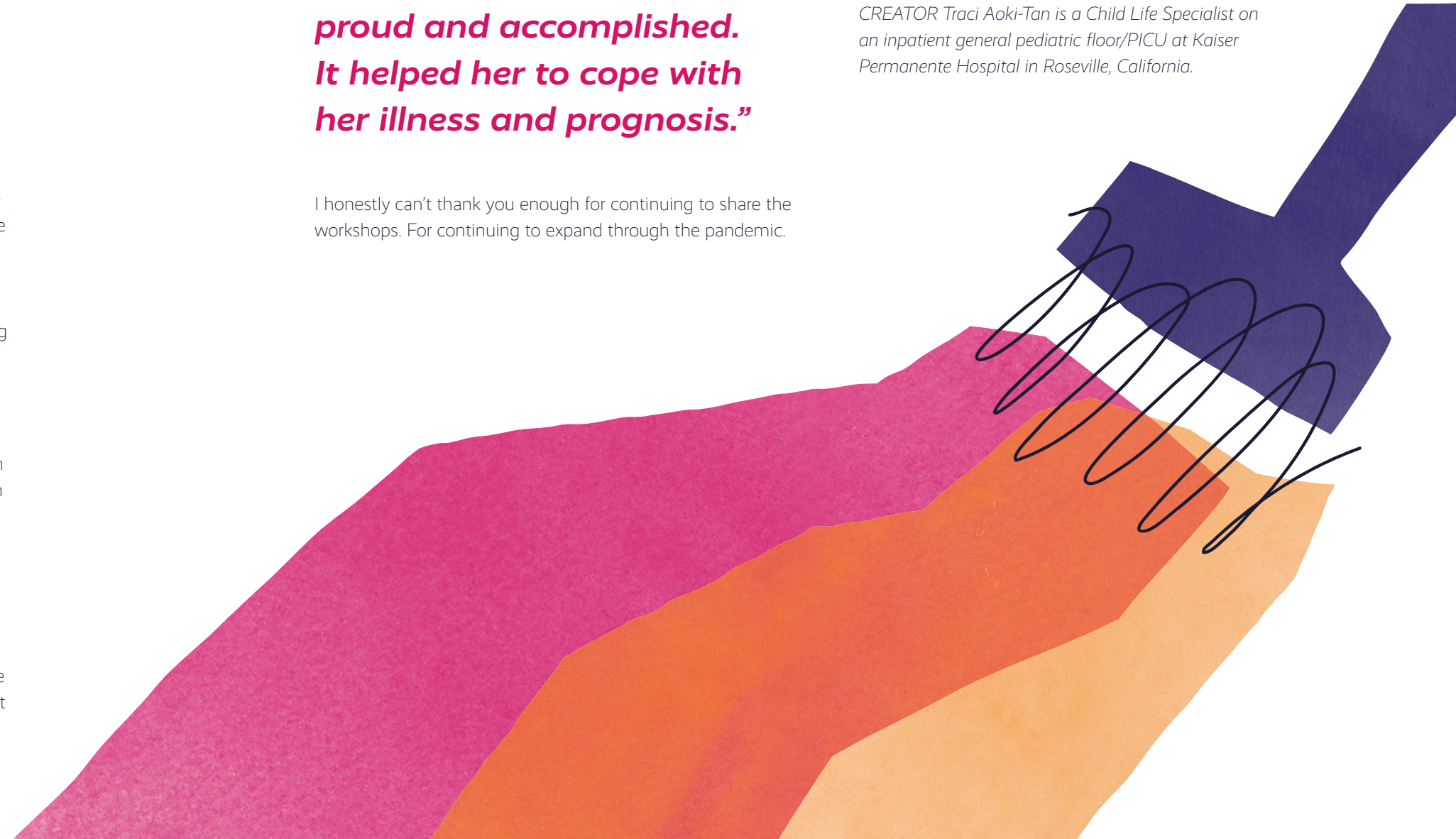
Having the art show gave her something to be happy about. It gave her something to look forward to. It helped her pass the time while stuck in the hospital. It made her proud and accomplished. It helped her to cope with her illness and prognosis.

***“Having the art show gave her something to be happy about. It made her proud and accomplished. It helped her to cope with her illness and prognosis.”***

I honestly can’t thank you enough for continuing to share the workshops. For continuing to expand through the pandemic.

For giving front line professionals, like me, the tools to cope and help our clients to cope. I hope these stories help others understand the impact of the CREATORS program.

*CREATOR Traci Aoki-Tan is a Child Life Specialist on an inpatient general pediatric floor/PICU at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Roseville, California.*





## CREATORS STORY

# A Powerful Tool for Professionals

As professionals, I believe we sometimes assume that particular clients are OK because they don't have the typical emotional expression for what is going on inside. This was most evident to me during a Dual Emotions workshop with a teen with autism. I have known her for two years. She has always presented herself as happy-go-lucky, bubbly and socially engaging. Sometimes her zest for connection has even been invasive to others. I never knew, until this workshop, that she truly HUNGERS for friends, and that she is profoundly lonely. It broke my heart. I know that our students hide or struggle to express emotions. It's easy to overlook the pain underneath the behavior that masks it. This workshop really demonstrated how we may, without knowing it, reinforce our clients when they mask their true selves. We are more comfortable engaging when others are cheerful and outgoing. It's easy to look past the happy face and not see what it might be hiding.

A Transformation Collages workshop was offered to our paraprofessionals who work tirelessly with our children with intellectual disabilities, emotional disabilities and autism. Right from the beginning, when participants were asked to share something they were proud of, several became emotional. That simple exercise opened the gate, giving rare permission and encouragement to focus on self-care. Through their art,

***“That simple exercise opened the gate, giving rare permission and encouragement to focus on self-care.”***

our participants shared stories of caring for parents with Alzheimer's, dealing with breast cancer, dealing with progressive vision loss, fleeing violence in another country, struggling with lifelong mental health issues, and escaping an abusive spouse. The participants supported one another so gently, showing kindnesses that were beautiful to witness. Several participants commented during the workshop that they know they need help, but are reluctant to ask for it, as caregivers often are. It was astounding to realize how strong they must be to do the difficult work they do with our children so lovingly and cheerfully. It was also a wake-up call that THEIR mental health should be our organization's focus as well.

This piece started as a self-portrait of the artist in a very dark, black outline with arrows pointing away from himself. He said that the arrows represented the scattered thoughts and feelings he's had all of his life. During the transforma-

tion, he reversed the arrows and blurred his image. He said it represented the help that he received when he let others “in” and shared his story, and how by doing that, he had been softened. He said the words “the hole” glued to his head, showed that the negative thoughts are all in his head, and that when he accepted help, he made himself “the whole,” which were the words he glued to his heart.

CREATOR Mary Lil Moses is a Recreational Therapist at New Horizons Regional Education Centers in Hampton, Virginia.





## CREATORS STORY

# All In for the CREATORS Program

I finally jumped in the CREATORS pond! What a positive and encouraging experience it has been thus far. I work at the VA and I am a Veteran as well.

There have been many mixed feelings among Veterans and the staff who cared for them during this challenging pandemic. It has been my experience that Veterans often hold on to feelings and emotions from the time they served in the military. Having a safe space to express and process thoughts, feelings, and memories, as well as the opportunity to share them with other Veterans has been a true gift to bear witness to. Hearing testimonials like “the vibe was amazing,” “relaxing,”

“this was a chance to mentally get away,” “I could choose what I wanted to do without judgment,” and “I wish we had more time,” fuels my desire to continue offering workshops to this very deserving population. Now that I have taken the plunge into being a CREATOR, I look forward to experiencing the ripple effect as the CREATORS experience reaches far and wide at my VA and others.

*CREATOR Kathleen Burkhart serves on the Whole Health Education Faculty with the Veterans Affairs (VA) New Jersey Healthcare System.*

**“Veterans often hold on to feelings and emotions from the time they served in the military. Having a safe space to express and process thoughts, feelings, and memories, as well as the opportunity to share them with other Veterans has been a true gift to bear witness to.”**



Photo from CREATOR Pingkham Thornburgh of the VA Central California Health Care System



## CREATORS STORY

# The 10 Men I'll Never Forget

In 2019, I started facilitating workshops in our maximum security county jail with incarcerated individuals that were high security risk. The success of the program was on the shoulders of these men and how they handled having access to all of the items that we gave them access to during the program.

These 10 men changed my life! They came to group every session willing to learn about themselves and express themselves in ways that they never had before.

One of the men was 62 years old, he'd spent 37 years of his adult life incarcerated. Through his experience in PeaceLove he learned that he had never given himself the opportunity to feel, even when he was doing well by society's standards and trying to help others. He told me that it was the first time in 62 years that he actually took the time to deal with his emotions!

***“The workshop brought an immediate sense of relief to him that I have never seen anything else provide.”***

Another man I will never forget demonstrated to me what it means to find peace of mind. He came to the group after being sentenced to 72 years plus double life. His heart was heavy and he had not yet told his 9 children that he would never be able to attend a party, graduation, wedding or any other life event of theirs for the rest of his life. I decided that day that our workshop would be Rhythm and Color. I thought that this one would be good because it allows for the participants to let go and be a kid again for a little while.

I made him the lead and he led one of the best drum circles I've ever been a part of. At one point instead of marching and playing music we were all jumping around on one leg in the chapel while playing our instruments!

Imagine that, 10 men, 1 facilitator in a chapel with security staff watching us on camera. The workshop brought an immediate sense of relief to him that I have never seen anything else provide.

In 2021 began leading workshops at the Main Jail. One of the gentlemen that put in for the group was housed in our mental health unit (Let's call him Mike). Mike would come every week with no socks and no t-shirt on under his khaki

***“This truly saved my life! I was at my end. I have never had people outside of my mom that have poured into me the way that they have and PeaceLove was the start of it all!”***

shirt. He would participate but he would not say much. As the facilitator I was OK with it because he was participating and present. I took a two week break and started another cohort. This time Mike put in a request to take the class again, but he was in single cell housing because his mental health was declining. I brought him back to class and watched him blossom right before my eyes! After Mike's second PeaceLove cohort he began consistently participating in our rehabilitative programming that my department offers.

Fast forward to 2023. Mike is still with us and is a part of our therapeutic community. When he tells his PeaceLove story it goes like this: “When I stepped into my first PeaceLove class I was at the lowest point of my life and contemplating suicide. I sat in class each time quietly because I did not feel like I fit in with the rest of the class. I battle with anxiety, depression, and schizophrenia. After the first cohort was over I saw another posting and knew that I wanted to participate. I did not think that anyone would come get me because I was in

a single cell, but I heard my name called for class. I went to class and I was so happy because I knew at that point that there was someone that cared about me. This truly saved my life! I was at my end. I have never had people outside of my mom that have poured into me the way that they have and PeaceLove was the start of it all!

*CREATOR Tresalyn Butler is the Director of Social Services at Franklin County Sheriff's Office in Columbus, Ohio.*





## CREATORS STORY

# PeaceLove Changed My Life



I went through my PeaceLove training in February of 2020, returned home, and eagerly awaited the shipment of my CREATORS supplies. When they arrived, like a kiddo organizing their Halloween loot, I set all of them out on the dining room table to marvel at my materials and start planning my workshops. Before I could even take a breath, the world came to a screeching halt, and the dark shroud of Covid locked us all away. But, Covid was no match for the PeaceLove team who brought hope and light to our beloved CREATORS community. Soon we joined our fearless leaders online and learned how to facilitate virtual workshops to those we were trying so desperately to reach.

In my case, I was lucky enough to facilitate workshops both in person outside and virtually when necessary. PeaceLove workshops not only provided an outlet for the abused and neglected youth I see at the National Center for Children and Families, but for the overworked and overwhelmed staff as well. Creative Calisthenics, Dual Emotions, Story Shoes, and Rhythm and Color were game changers, bonding the groups and allowing folks to “get it all out” when they needed to most. As time went on, lockdown was soon to become a memory. I had completed multiple trainings in new modules, and I had facilitated oodles of workshops. I realized I could use the knowledge I had gained from PeaceLove as a



***“PeaceLove has not only inspired and supported those with whom I work, but it has changed my life.”***

springboard. I went back to school to work toward my registration in Expressive Arts Therapy and started a business, Speak from the Art, so I could cast a wider net and impact even broader populations in need.

PeaceLove has not only inspired and supported those with whom I work, but it has changed my life by giving me a pathway and platform to share this very special and incredibly important work. I am proud to now serve on the board of PeaceLove and help the rest of the dream come to fruition.

*CREATOR Sara Jane Harris is an expressive arts facilitator at the National Center for Children and Families in Bethesda, Maryland. She is the Founder of Speak from the Art, LLC and serves on the PeaceLove Foundation Board of Directors.*



## CREATORS STORY

# A Safe Way to Explore Emotion

I did Transformation Collage recently with one of our teenage psych patients. This patient was here for violent outbursts and struggling to cope with his anger at home. I asked him if he was interested in an art workshop and he eagerly agreed.

When I introduced the workshop to him I told him to first focus on something he didn't like or was trying to let go of. I gave him examples of anything from broccoli to loneliness. The patient chose anger and created a project where he took his anger and created ways he can manage his anger. I was impressed by his self-awareness and desire to tackle this issue. He was calm throughout the session and easily engaged in conversation about what helped and what made it worse. I

was so impressed with him and with this activity and what it allowed him to process and create. PeaceLove allowed us to engage in an activity to begin to dive into what was going on in this patient's mind in a safe and creative way. This was a huge breakthrough for us!

*CREATOR Ruthie Charendoff is a Child Life Specialist at John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County in Chicago, Illinois.*

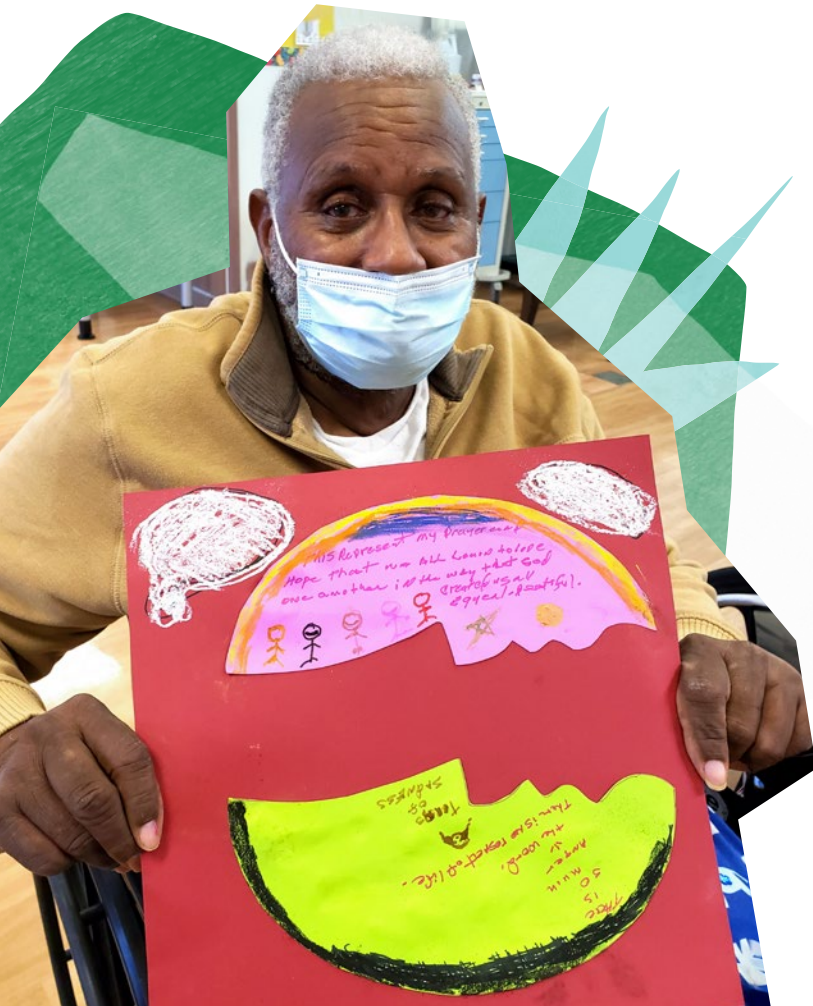


***“PeaceLove allowed us to engage in an activity to begin to dive into what was going on in this patient’s mind in a safe and creative way. This was a huge breakthrough for us!”***



## CREATORS STORY

# A Success with Veterans



One of the first workshops I facilitated was Dual Emotions. The workshop took place with an already established group of Veterans who previously experienced homelessness. The Veteran from the group I am writing about I had known for many years. I met this Veteran originally when I worked in another program at the Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital and then worked with this Veteran again in the program I currently work for. As long as I had known the Veteran I observed him to be reserved in talking about his emotions and challenging experiences in life. The day I facilitated Dual Emotions with the ongoing group he was a part of, I can't say he seemed optimistic about what he called "art class." As the group went on, I observed this Veteran becoming more "into" their piece and focusing on the elements of what they were creating. When it came time for the storytelling portion of the workshop, this Veteran shared, for the first time, about his experience entering a homeless shelter! The Veteran shared that his piece represented the three times it took him to enter the shelter as he could not believe that experiencing homelessness was something that was a part of his story. After sharing about his experience the Veteran said, "Wow, I can't believe I just shared all that!"

*Photo from CREATOR Pingkham Thornburgh of the VA Central California Healthcare System*

***"What the Veteran took away from this workshop was something that he and I had been working towards for a long time!"***

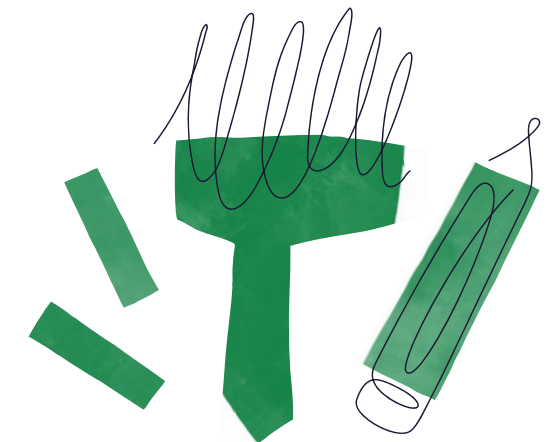
In another workshop, a Veteran attended whom I have been working with for a while to build his interpersonal skills and relations to those around him. This Veteran has always found workshops helpful; I know this because he is always asking when the next one will be. One of the things this Veteran and I were working on was how to have a hard conversation with one of the providers on his medical team. During this workshop, he shared that creating his piece helped him realize how the people around him see him and how his tone of voice can impact his interactions and relations with others! What the Veteran took away from this workshop was something that he and I had been working towards for a long time! Weeks after the workshop took place, the Veteran pulled me aside and showed me how he hung up his artwork, and shared how hanging up his piece was a reminder for him about what he learned that day. He also shared how he was able to utilize the skills he took away from the workshop to have that hard conversation with his medical provider and how it went better than he could have imagined!

During Mandala Poetry, a Veteran that I was meeting for the first time came into the group. I could hear him sharing things like, "I didn't know we were having art class today" and "I'm not

creative." I didn't see this Veteran again until months later when our program hired a new staff member. As our team was introducing ourselves to the new staff member, he noticed before I did but that was him! He looked at me with bright, excited eyes and said, "I know you! You did that art class with us downstairs! I know I told you that day I wasn't creative but that workshop sparked my love for art; I went out, bought my own supplies and I've been creating since! I don't know how you did it that day, but whatever you did, it worked!"

Though workshops typically last 60-120 minutes, their impact goes far beyond! From providing the space to process and share their stories, to guiding them in building life skills, PeaceLove workshops are changing the lives of Veterans I have the honor to serve.

*CREATOR Samantha Strachoff is a Social Worker at the VA Boston Healthcare System with the HUD-VASH Program in Brockton, Massachusetts.*

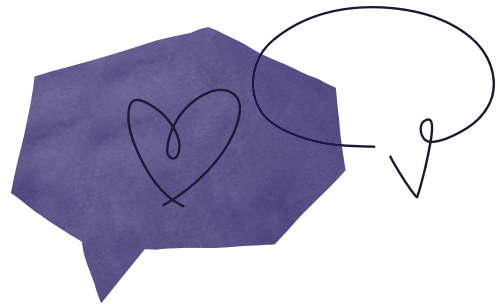




## CREATORS STORY

# Expressive Arts for All

Let me start by saying that this was my least favorite workshop during the training. However, I wanted to challenge myself by stepping out of my comfort zone to lead this workshop because I felt that this particular topic would resonate most. Recently, this group had been talking a lot more about complicated grief reactions and the complex emotions that ebb and flow simultaneously. I wasn't sure how this group would do with this workshop because they have historically been off-topic and full of the "sillies"... I'm starting to love being proven wrong!



One participant who has been struggling recently shared that nothing was bringing her peace of mind today. With a prompt

and brief silence, she was able to share about a trip she forgot she took, another she's taking in April, and that she had time to nap today!

Another memorable experience was hearing from the staff, who were also wearing participant hats tonight. They shared without hesitation, and I could see how much thought they put into their creations. One volunteer shared about her mother's advanced Alzheimer's. She explained the embellishments on the top of the mask represented her mother's brain, while the words on the mouth were things she felt she had to say as a caregiver. On the bottom side of her mask, she wrote all of the things she wishes she could talk to her mom about. The volunteer became emotional, as did everyone else in the room. Our volunteers are often responsible for others' feelings, and they don't always have the opportunity to express their own. This workshop showed me just how much of an impact expressive arts has on mental health throughout all ages.

*CREATOR Molly Minter is the Program Supervisor at FRIENDS WAY in Warwick, Rhode Island.*





## CREATORS NETWORK Publishing PeaceLove

A big congratulations goes out to our friends and CREATORS Julie Murray, R/TRO and Grace Williamson, BA from Ontario Shores! They recently published their article in The American Journal of Recreation Therapy titled,

***“It is easier to express yourself through art’: A qualitative exploration of recovery through Expressive Arts.”***

They utilized PeaceLove workshops as their method and found a variety of benefits when utilizing “expressive arts on individuals’ personal recovery and recommend recreational therapists to use expressive arts as a ‘recovery tool’ to support individuals in their recovery journey.”

Thank you so much Julie and Grace for your continued support and belief in our program, and for your extreme dedication to see this project through despite the many challenges of the pandemic!



View a preview  
of the article.





## PARTNER FEATURE

# Visual Eyes Eyewear

In 2023 we rolled out our second collection of PeaceLove eyewear and accessories in partnership with the Visual Eyes Eyewear family. To date sales from the collections have directly provided over \$200,000 to support the CREATORS program. The PeaceLove collection is available in over 1,000 retail locations across the US, Canada, and the Caribbean. VE Eyewear is leading the way to helping create awareness for mental health and wellness on an international scale. Thank you to the Hyman Family for being advocates and champions for creativity and mental well being.



## PARTNER FEATURE

# MacPherson's

In 2023 MacPherson's joined us as our official art supply partner. Quality art supplies are essential to providing quality programs in our communities. MacPherson has allowed us to equip our growing network of 283 CREATORS with the supplies they need to change lives. In support of World Mental Health Day, MacPherson's stepped up and launched a matching donation campaign generating an additional \$10,000 to support our work. Thank you to Dave Schofield, Molly Johnston, and the entire team at MacPherson's that keep our CREATORS going.







## PARTNER FEATURE Hasbro

Thanks to Hasbro's support we have been able to focus on and invest in our local communities here in Rhode Island. In 2023 we provided 6 scholarships to educators and health care professionals, expanding our reach and impact to an additional 1,950 individuals per year in Pawtucket, Providence, Portsmouth, and Warwick. Thank you to Kevin Colman and the entire Global Philanthropy and Social Impact team.

## PARTNER FEATURE Pinterest

We are beyond grateful to have been selected as a Pinterest Purpose Partner in 2022. Thanks to Pinterest's support we were able to provide 12 CREATORS scholarships to front line professionals who directly support 3,500 individuals across the US, Canada, and Jamaica. Special thank you to Kathy Gu, Meredith Arthur, and the entire Pinterest community for helping expand PeaceLove's arts-based emotional wellbeing programming to more people in marginalized communities, providing an alternative to traditional or clinical mental health care.





## PARTNER FEATURE Corium

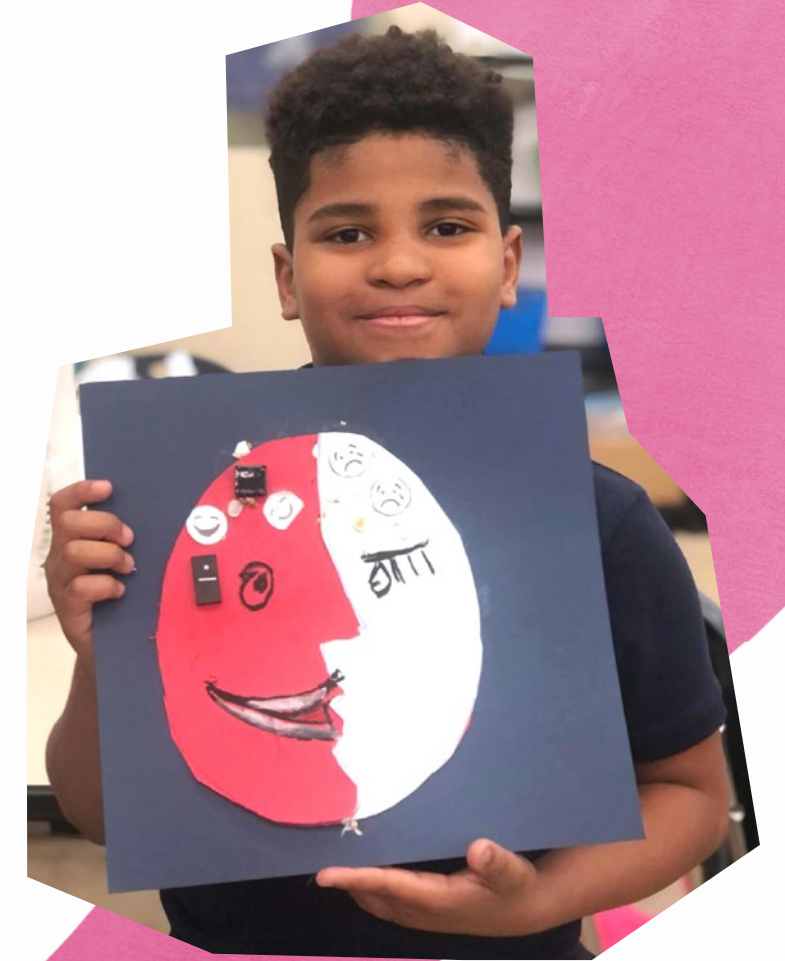
In 2023 Corium increased their support for PeaceLove by providing 25 CREATORS scholarships, helping to introduce our programs to 7,700 individuals across schools, healthcare, substance use, and Veteran communities. Corium also supported new curriculum training to 12 of our existing CREATORS, bringing new tools and workshops to the communities they serve. Much love to Perry Sternberg, Steven Gersten, Jamie Spaeth, Tracie Meyers, Patrick Sullivan, and the entire Corium family for believing in and investing in our work. We cannot wait to see what 2024 has in store for our partnership.



Corium

## PARTNER FEATURE JLSS Family Foundation

The Goldstein Family continues to be PeaceLove's fiercest advocate and champion. For 14 years they have stood by our side and made countless contributions to help sustain and scale our work with the purpose of helping individuals and communities struggling to find peace in their minds and lives. Thank you to Larry and Jill, your friendship and guidance have made a meaningful and measurable impact on tens of thousands of people. You inspire our team each and every day.







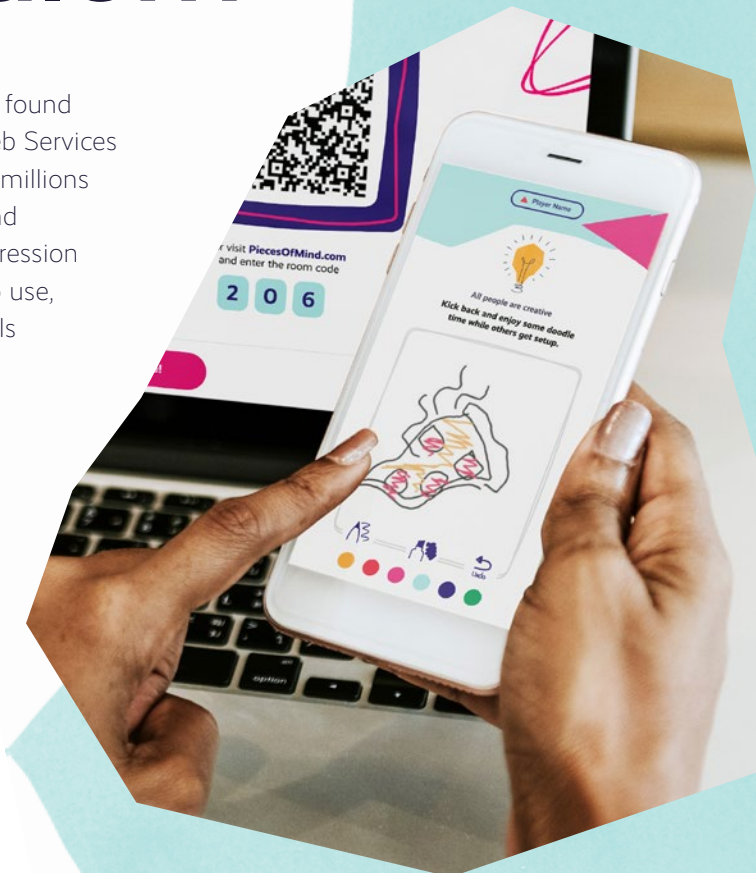
## PARTNER FEATURE American Express

Over the last 2 years we have had the privilege to partner with American Express's Healthy Minds program. American Express has taken broad steps to integrate behavioral health and emotional well-being into its health and wellness offerings, including expanding its employee assistance program, addressing stigma and providing a wealth of resources for employees. PeaceLove has delivered live, virtual workshops to hundreds of AMEX employees and teams across the globe including the US, UK, India, Spain, and Australia. Together we are helping employees foster meaningful connections, empathy, and belonging in the hybrid workplace. Thank you to Charles Lattarulo, Georgia Hedley, Erin Oehler, and the entire Healthy Minds team for investing in our work.

## PARTNER FEATURE Amazon & Slalom

Where to begin!? Through a series of serendipitous events we found ourselves at the table with the brilliant folks from Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Slalom with the goal of delivering our modality to millions of people. Scribl was designed to improve how we connect and collaborate as teams. By harnessing the power of creative expression we have developed a web-based game that is fun and easy to use, and supports the social and emotional well-being of individuals and teams. Using data and insights we strive to quantify how Scribl builds and fosters meaningful connections, emotional intelligence, empathy, and belonging in the hybrid workplace and beyond.

Infinite gratitude to Ellen Cowan, Sanju Sunny, Kris Gedman, Shirley Davila, Ceileidh Siegel, Charis Loveland, Rich Hua, Marty Young, Nicole Peterson, Liam Shaughnessy, Jason Paycor, Rachel Schott, Russell Norris and all of the incredible team members from Amazon Web Services and Slalom for investing your time, talent, and resources to bring this program to life. We can't wait to share Scribl with the world in 2024.





## 2023 TRAVEL MAP

# PeaceLove on the Move

■ **CREATORS Training** ● **Presentations** ◆ **Employee Experiences**

### LAS VEGAS, NV

CareSolace ◆  
July

AWS Re:invent ●  
November

### PALM SPRINGS, CA

Stand Together ◆  
February

### CHICAGO, IL

Slalom R4 ●  
October

### TEXAS (Virtual)

GoHealth ◆  
June

### CONNECTICUT

Family & Children's Aid ■  
May

### OHIO

Franklin County Jail ■  
November

Ohio Department of Youth Services (Virtual) ◆  
February

### AMELIA ISLAND, FL

IPMI Corporate Wellness Institute ●  
November

### PAWTUCKET, RI

PeaceLove ■  
March (Virtual)  
August (Virtual)  
September  
October (Virtual)

### WARWICK, RI

Tri County Community Action Program ◆  
June

### LINCOLN, RI

Blue Cross Blue Shield RI ◆  
June

### RHODE ISLAND (Virtual)

Blue Cross Blue Shield RI ◆  
September

### VIRGINIA

VA Whole Health Initiative ◆  
October

### UNITED KINGDOM (Virtual)

American Express ◆  
May

### GLOBAL WORKSHOPS (Virtual)

ProAmpac ◆  
May  
October

Corium ◆  
August

TimelyCare ◆  
November

### SPAIN (Virtual)

American Express ◆  
May

### INDIA (Virtual)

American Express ◆  
May  
October



BOARD MEMBERS

# Making it Happen



**Larry Goldstein**  
Board Chairman  
Partner, Goldstein Associates



**Edward Gates**  
Vice Chairman & Treasurer  
President & Managing Partner,  
Wolf Greenfield



**Matt Lowe**  
Secretary  
CEO, Performance.io



**Sara Jane Harris**  
PeaceLove CREATOR  
BA and MA Children's Theatre  
and Directing



**Dr. Patrice Palmer**  
PeaceLove CREATOR  
Co-founder, Chosen4Change

MAJOR DONORS

# Thank You

Brian & Sara Jane Harris  
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Stephanie Prechter  
Lida Orzeck

**SPECIAL THANKS**  
Tobias Lederberg  
Kevin McNellis  
Steve Dawson



# CREATORS NETWORK

## Rockstars of the Show

◆ *Trained in 2023*

**Abigail "Abby" Gouveia** - Boys and Girls Club  
**Adrianna "Adri" Mejia** - Women & Children First  
**Aimee Shinall** - Peoria County Sheriff's Office  
**Aine Mulligan** - Whitney Academy  
**Alexis Montag** ◆ - Children's Health  
**Ali Clements** - JusticePoint  
**Allison Giuliano** - Private Practice  
**Allison Rennie** ◆ - Notre Dame Healthcare  
**Amanda Ferrari** ◆ - Reliance Health Inc  
**Amanda Malone** - Howard County Public School System  
**Amanda Warren** ◆ - Montana VA Healthcare System  
**Amara Riccio** - Riccio Pick Me Ups Charity  
**Amber Cifelli** ◆ - Veterans Affairs NJ  
**Amber Havens** - North Little Rock Parks & Recreation  
**Amber Jamieson** ◆ - Social Services/Franklin County Sheriff's Office  
**Amy Bratsos** ◆ - Bristol Warren COZ  
**Amy Niezrecki** - Nashua School District/New Searles Elementary  
**Andrea Durant Deming** - Covenant Case Management Services  
**Andrea Erickson** - Wareham Middle School  
**Andrea Hernandez** - Veterans Affairs Medical Center Fresno  
**Andrew Wolff** - Granite State Children's Alliance  
**Angie Cain** - Winchester Public Schools  
**Anne Elizabeth Peterson** ◆ - VA Montana Health Care System  
**Annette Dominguez** - Compdrug  
**Anthony LaFauci** - B.U.I.L.D program

**Ariana Dembro** - YMCA Beverly PASS Program  
**Ashley Mazejko** - Sojourner House  
**Ashley Palmer** - St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton  
**Ashley Perry** - Project Weber/Renew  
**Ashley Quan** - Boys and Girls Club Boston  
**Bailey Hilliard** - Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office  
**Becca Taylor** - New Hampshire Hospital  
**Bel Thayn** - Castleview Hospital, LLC  
**Bethany Sinn** - Bournedale Elementary School  
**Bethany Taylor** - University of Michigan  
**Beverly Perez** - Family Service of Rhode Island  
**Brianna Aquino** - The MET School  
**Bridget Sullivan** - Veteran Affairs Indianapolis  
**Brittany Driscoll** ◆ - UnityPoint Health  
**Brittany Hook** - Indianapolis VA Medical Center  
**Caily O'Connor** ◆ - Veterans Health Administration FL  
**Carla Beattie** - Bradley Hospital Pediatric Partial  
**Carla De Lemos** - Kaiser Permanente Oakland  
**Carolyn Coleman** - Spectrum Health  
**Carrie Stohler** - Montana VA Medical Center RTP  
**Ceceley Chambers** - Hope Health  
**Charity Elliott** ◆ - UNC Health Blue Ridge  
**Charlee Sparr** ◆ - Partnership for Providence Parks  
**Chelsea Chesson** ◆ - St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton Ontario Canada  
**Chelsea Rudomen** - Blue Sky Abilities, Inc

**Chris Forsyth** - Family Service of Rhode Island  
**Chrissy Brault** - Hartford Hospital/Institute of Living  
**Christina Getz** - Caron Treatment Centers  
**Christina Grimshaw** ◆ - Watertown Urban Mission  
**Claribel Crews** - Charette Charter School  
**Clarissa Byrd** - Mattel Children's Hospital UCLA  
**Cole Robinson** - The MET School  
**Colleen Chiki** - St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton  
**Colleen Hayes-Costello** - Family Service of Rhode Island  
**Cornelius Lawrence** ◆ - Department of Youth Services  
**Dana Hillman** - Family and Children's Aid  
**Danielle Mellor** - NH Dept. of Corrections  
**Danielle Petrozelle** - Akron Children's Hospital  
**Darren Ellison** - Family and Children's Aid  
**David Leicht** - Butler Hospital  
**Dea Vernott** - Nurturing Families  
**Delores Farrow** ◆ - City of Providence Recreation Department  
**Diane Dioguardi** - Shannon's Place Family Counseling  
**Donna Brady** - Pawtucket School Department  
**Drewlyn Simone Chessa** - North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Broughton Hospital  
**Elizabeth Brissette** ◆ - Eleanor Slater Hospital  
**Elizabeth Holder** ◆ - VA Indiana  
**Ellice Park** - Counseling Care Circle  
**Emily Gardner** - WellBridge Healthcare  
**Erin Albanese** - Family Service of Rhode Island  
**Erin Ortega** - Manchester Public School  
**Eve Weatherspoon** ◆ - Ohio Department of Youth Services  
**Fatiema Brown** - Nurturing Families  
**Frankie Stovall** - Methodist Behavioral Hospital  
**Frieda Ibarra** - Circle De Luz  
**Gayle Canary** - Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation Fairview Hospital  
**Gaylisa Carr** - ALHH Inc.  
**Gerald Ford** ◆ - Ohio Department of Youth Services  
**Grace Nelson** - Nurturing Families  
**Grace Williamson** - Gateway Recovery Centre - EHN  
**Haley Gerstein** - Comprehensive Community Action Program  
**Hayley Watman** ◆ - Crescent Park Lodge

**Heather Coen** - Lowell House, Inc.  
**Heather Harris** - Chesterfield County Sheriff's Office  
**Ida Arslanian** - Pawtucket School Department  
**Ilia Chavez** - Nurturing Families  
**Jaimee Green** ◆ - Department of Defense Education Activity  
**Janice Sanchez** - Boys and Girls Club East Providence  
**Jayne Kubicek** - Natick Public Schools  
**Jelly Feliz** - Whitmarsh Corporation  
**Jenna Reinke** - REACH Inc.  
**Jennifer Moreno-Ramos** - Veterans Affairs Medical Center Fresno CA  
**Jennifer Poma** - Corium Inc  
**Jenny George** - Jewish Big Brothers and Big Sisters  
**Jessica DeCastro** ◆ - Zambarano Hospital  
**Jessica Raymond** - Family and Children's Aid



### MOST WORKSHOPS

*Simone Chessa*

Simone ran 103 workshops in 2023, across Broughton Hospital, The Gastonia's Potters House, and other organizations in North Carolina.



**Jessica Young** - Family and Children's Aid  
**Jillian Moriarty** - Forest Grove Middle School  
**JoAnne Waite** - Whitney Academy  
**Johanna Shriver Halligan** - TaraVista Behavioral Health Center  
**Jose Rosario** - PhD Student  
**Julie Murray** - Ontario Shores  
**Juls Johnson** - Mystic River Residential Care  
**Kala Raynor** ♦ - Walter B Jones Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center  
**Kameron Harrington** - Westwood YMCA  
**Kara Ronayne** - Shea High School  
**Katelin Trinidad** - Girls Inc. of Taunton  
**Katherine McPhillips** ♦ - Eleanor Slater Hospital  
**Kathleen "Kathi" Burkhart** - VANJHCS  
**Kathleen "Kathy" Bixby** - Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
**Kathleen Good** ♦ - Providence Public Schools  
**Kathryn Howard** ♦ - Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility  
**Katie Elliot** - Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre  
**Katie Haidemenos** - Joe Andruzzi Foundation  
**Katina Hilliard** - Whitaker PRTF  
**Kellie Sheridan Gauven** - Town of Manchester Youth Service Bureau  
**Kelly Bulley** - St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton  
**Kelly Hartley** - Reliance Health Inc.  
**Keri Giacomini** ♦ - Gateway Healthcare  
**Kitzia Lopez** ♦ - Keller Independent School District  
**Kristie Nothnagle** - VA Finger Lakes Health Care System Canandaigua  
**Kristina Ritter** ♦ - Department of Veterans Affairs  
**Kristine Arons** - Manchester Middle Academy  
**Kristy Camilli** - Family and Children's Aid  
**Krystine Smith** - Salem VA Medical Center  
**Krystle Bell** - Addiction Recovery Institute  
**Kyri Allison** - Bradley Hospital  
**Landy Blackmore** - Hickory Trail Hospital  
**Latisha Eaves** ♦ - Veterans Health Administration  
**Laura Banko** ♦ - New Jersey Veterans Association  
**Laura Buss** - Family Service of Rhode Island



## MOST PARTICIPANTS IN A WORKSHOP

*Jillian Moriarty*

Jillian ran Story Shoes with 60 participants at the Boys & Girls Club of Worcester in Massachusetts.

**Laura Cotto** - Nurturing Families  
**Laura Shannon** - VA Medical Center - Manchester  
**Laura Shulman Brochstein** - Touchstone Neurodevelopmental Center  
**Laura Stevens** ♦ - Ontario Shores  
**Lauren Brooke-Yattaw** ♦ - Parent Support Network RI  
**Lauren Gold** ♦ - Family and Children's Aid  
**Lauren Richardson** - DayOne  
**Lavonda Nettles** ♦ - State of Ohio Circleville Juvenile Correctional Institute  
**Lea Thompson** - Providence Sacred Heart Children's Hospital Spokane  
**Leah Kortman** - Parent Support Network  
**Leigh Silveira** - ALEX AND ANI  
**Liane Roberson** ♦ - Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility  
**Linda Craig Aguiar** - Newport Hospital

**Lindy Walch** - Nashua High School South  
**Lisa Cardoza** - City of Providence  
**Lisa Hoffman** - Family and Children's Aid  
**Lisa Pease** - Reach for the Stars Child Development Center  
**Lori Janik** - Cactus Flower Healing  
**Lorraine Helfand-Garcia** - Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters  
**Luke Sternberg** ♦ - St. Jude Leadership Society  
**Lynn Michaelson** - Family and Children's Aid  
**Lynn Tidgwell** - Lynn Tidgwell, LCSW  
**Madeline North** ♦ - Texas Army National Guard  
**Madison Dorman** - The Center for Youth and Families  
**Makaylah Downour** - Franklin County Sheriff's Office  
**Mallory Cooper** - Veterans Affairs Medical Center Fresno  
**Marc DeBlasio** - Hockomock YMCA  
**Marcela Lee** - Natchaug Hospital- Joshua Center Thames Valley  
**Maria DiNobile** - Central Falls High School  
**Marieli Hernandez** - The MET School  
**Marilyn Radatz** - Salem VA Medical Center  
**Marlena Davis** - Project FRIENDS/ Town of Coventry  
**Mary Ann Quinn** - Bristol Parks & Recreation  
**Mary Lil Moses** - New Horizons Regional Education Center  
**Matthew Katon** - Justice Resource Institute MA  
**Maureen Patterson** - Ontario Shores  
**Meg Frisco** - Burke Rehabilitation Hospital  
**Megan Amaya** ♦ - Ohio State University  
**Megan Nason** - Curley K-8 School  
**Melecia Granville** ♦ - Family and Children's Aid  
**Melissa Hoyer** ♦ - Rutland Northeast Supervisory Union  
**Melissa Hyer-Mitchell** ♦ - Omni Psychotherapy  
**Melissa Quinn Roy** ♦ - St Mary's Home for Children  
**Michelle Cintron** ♦ - Family and Children's Aid  
**Mikayla Lindquist** ♦ - Family and Children's Aid  
**Mindy Solomon** - Family and Children's Aid  
**Molly Hayslett** - Salem VA Medical Center  
**Molly Minteer** ♦ - FRIENDS WAY  
**Molly Perham** - New Hampshire Hospital  
**Monika Larson** - Family Service of Rhode Island  
**Myriah Sipperly** - Family and Children's Aid  
**Nahdee Sharpe** ♦ - Pawtucket School Department

**Nancy King** - COPE Network  
**Nancy Lyon** - Middlebridge School  
**Nancy Styron** - The Children's Room  
**Nathan DoRosario** ♦ - ASTRO  
**Nellie Falk Ayamga** ♦ - Ohio Department of Youth Services  
**Nicole Millick** - Family Service Rhode Island  
**Nicole Pace** - Family and Children's Aid  
**Nike Kendall** ♦ - Women & Infants Hospital  
**Nordia Williams** ♦ - Food for the Poor Jamaica  
**Olga Alvarado** - Austin Independent School District  
**Olivia Cohen Milligan** ♦ - Newton Public Schools  
**Olivia Rauschenbach** - Indiana University Health Arnett Hospital  
**Olivia Rubio-Chimal** - Richard Donovan Correctional Facility  
**Paige Caballero** - Positive Alternative to Student Support (PASS)  
**Pam Atanasoff** - Musical Journeys



## MOST PEACELOVE SPIRIT

*Nurturing Families team*

Fatiema Brown, Laura Cotto, Ilia Chavez, and "Flat Dea" Vernott presented at the Parents as Teachers International Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.





# MOST ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH


*Veterans Affairs*

7 VA-based CREATORS trained in 2023, adding to our total of 28.  
Pictured is Latisha Eaves of the VA New Jersey Healthcare System.

- Pam McGrath** - Peoples Academy Middle Level
- Patrice Palmer** - Chosen4Change
- Paula Brinkman** - Spark After School Program - The Avielle Foundation
- Peggy O'Neil** - The Wheeler School
- Pingkham Thornburgh** - VA Central California Healthcare System
- Rafaela Moraes** - Cape Coral Charter School-Oasis Elementary North
- Rebeckah Garcia** - REACH Inc.
- Rheannon "Rhea" Lovell** - Crossroads RI
- Rico Marshall** - RISE OH
- Robertha Bourne** ♦ - Family and Children's Aid
- Rose Moore** - Portsmouth Regional Hospital
- Ruthie Charendoff** ♦ - Cook County Health John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital
- Samantha Marrocchio** - Franciscan Children's

- Samantha Strachoff** - VA Boston Healthcare System, HUD/VASH Program
- Sandy Nolan** - Veazie Street Elementary School
- Sara Jane Harris** - National Center for Child & Family
- Sara Lesko** - VA Medical Center - Manchester
- Sarah "Sadie" Bassett** - Inova Fairfax Hospital Inpatient Rehabilitation
- Sarah Cahill** - KIDS NEED MORE
- Shannon Kneafsey** ♦ - Veterans Affairs Hospital AZ
- Shannon Sciortino** ♦ - Family and Children's Aid
- Shari Mendler** - Boston Children's Hospital
- Siddi Kallon** - YMCA Beverly PASS Program
- Silvio Delgado** ♦ - PeletonU
- Stacey Schneiderman** - Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Stacy Perin** - Mental Health Association of Central FL (MHACF)
- Stephanie Lanzi** - Eleanor Slater Hospital
- Stephanie Pezzone** - Skills In Motion
- Sunnie Ennis** - HELP of Southern Nevada
- Susan Jewel** - The Autism Project
- Tamara Havlik** - Corium Inc
- Tamira Abney** ♦ - Family and Children's Aid
- Tammy Hayes** - Kaiser Permanente Roseville
- Taylor Hooker** - St. Cloud VA
- Toni Carosi** ♦ - Eleanor Slater Hospital- Zambarano Unit
- Traci Aoki-Tan** - Kaiser Permanente Roseville
- Tracy Jones** - C.W. Bill Young (Bay Pines) VA Healthcare System
- Travis Dutka** - 360 Insights
- Travis Moore** - Rockwall Juvenile Services
- Tresalyn Butler** - Franklin County Sheriff's Office
- Tricia Mansfield** ♦ - Herren Project
- Trisha Stapley** ♦ - Back Door Mission
- Valerie Carter** - VA Medical Center- Manchester
- Vanessa Cubellis** - Waterman Pediatrics
- Veronica Wadley** - Hickory Trail Hospital
- Victoria Palmisano** - Family Connections
- Viviana Zendejas** - Family Service Rhode Island
- Yashimet Robinson** ♦ - YouthBuild Preparatory Academy
- Yordalys Dilone** ♦ - Family and Children's Aid
- Yvonne Galloway** ♦ - Ohio Department of Youth Services



The background of the entire page is an abstract composition. It features a variety of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of green, orange, red, pink, blue, and purple. Some shapes are solid, while others are layered, creating a sense of depth. Thin, black, hand-drawn lines are scattered across the composition, some forming loops and others as straight strokes, adding a dynamic and expressive feel to the design.

PeaceLove Foundation designs expressive arts  
programming that makes talking about  
mental health easier.

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