

# Current Projects

## 1. The Academy for Peace of Costa Rica

**Vision:** To see the Academy for Peace building the social and emotional intelligence of the citizenry of Costa Rica so that lasting peace will be attained at all levels of society

**Mission:** To empower every Costa Rican child to pass the practice of *BePeace* to the next generation.

**Core Value:** To model social and emotional skills for peace in every moment

**Methodology:** Practice of *BePeace*, the synergistic combination of HeartMath for “feeling peace” and Nonviolent Communication for “speaking peace” discovered by Rita Marie Johnson

**Programs:** Academy for Peace trainers are training facilitators to teach the practice of *BePeace* in the public school system to teachers, students and parents.

**Current Status:** In 2008, the Academy for Peace will work with the Ministry of Education and the Association of Businesses for Development (AED) to create Santa Ana as the first *BePeace* County.

## 2. Advocacy for Governmental Infrastructure for Peace in Costa Rica

**Vision:** To see Costa Rica become a model of governmental infrastructure for peace

**Mission:** To work with Costa Rican government in creating a *Ministry of Justice and Peace*

**Core Value:** To build permanent, cooperative systems for lasting peace

### **Initiatives:**

1. *Change the name of the office of Prevention of Violence and Crime to the office for Peace Promotion* – this initiative has been accomplished
2. *Ministry of Justice and Peace* – this initiative was embraced by the Arias administration and introduced as a bill to the Legislative Assembly. The Ministry of Justice and Peace will carry out the National System for the Promotion of Peace.

3. *Costa Rica Pro Paz* – this initiative for an alliance of national and international NGOs to strengthen Costa Rica's model of peace will be pursued after the above bill has passed.
4. *Global Alliance for Ministries and Departments of Peace Summit in 2009 in Costa Rica* -the Rasur Foundation will facilitate this summit in cooperation with the government

**Current Status:** The Ministry of Justice and Peace bill is being studied by the Commission for Human Rights and will then be voted on by the Legislative Assembly. There is no opposition to the bill.

**Next Step:** The Rasur Foundation will work with the Commission for Human Rights to move the bill forward.

### **3. Peace Promotion**

**Vision:** To see Costa Ricans deepen their value of peace as a way of life

**Mission:** To collaborate with the government and other NGOs in events that reinforce the national identity with peace and educate toward nonviolence

**Core Value:** Peace as a way of life that can be learned and celebrated

**Initiatives:**

1. *International Day of Peace, Sept. 21* – the Rasur Foundation initiated and participated in the first national celebration of this day in 2006. This special day, intended as a worldwide cease-fire, was established by the United Nations as a result of two resolutions, the first sponsored by Costa Rica and the second sponsored by Costa Rica and the UK.
2. *The UN-sanctioned Season for Nonviolence, Jan.30-April 4* was introduced by Rita Marie Johnson and her husband, Juan Enrique Toro. Now government agencies sponsor its celebration each year, supported by participation of the Rasur Foundation.

**Current Status:** Plans are in the works for the 2008 celebration of these events.

**Next Step:** Improved collaboration with the government and other NGOs in producing these events each year.