

Past Projects

Following is a brief description of the Rasur Foundation's activities since its initiation in 1997 and formal establishment in 1998.

- Implemented a program in 1997 for the “whole brain” development of babies called *Balanced Beginnings for Babies*. Kits for this program are available for sale. [Click to store](#)
- Developed and implemented the *US/Costa Rica Teen Honor Exchange Program* which included a module at the University for Peace and an eco-tour in 1997 and 1998.
- Sponsored an *International World Core Curriculum Conference* in 1997.
- Founded the *School of Rasur*, a primary school with emphasis on social and emotional learning in 1997.
- Sponsored three teacher training workshops in 1997-1998 presented by international educators Dr. Peggy Jenkins, Rene M. Querido and Dennis Robillard
- In 2000, Rita Marie Johnson wrote and published the book, *The Return of Rasur: The story that holds the answer to education in our time*. The book was translated and published in Spanish in 2002.
- Presented a workshop for the academic advisers of the Costa Rican Ministry of Education to introduce “pro-peace” schools to Costa Rica in 2001.
- Sponsored and produced the musical production of *RASUR*, which was decreed by the President of Costa Rica a cultural event of national interest; it was shown at the Melico Salazar Theatre in March 2002. Rita Marie Johnson wrote the libretto.
- Presented “The Return of Rasur: Educating for Social and Emotional Intelligence” for Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports during a series of conferences on the *Permanence of the Thought of Roberto Brenes Mesén*.
- Sponsored *Educating in the 21st Century: An International Certification in Social and Emotional Learning and Inner Life Skills for Educational Leaders of Countries*, at a meeting of international and Costa Rican peace educators held in March 2002 at the Real Intercontinental Hotel.
- Purchased, renovated and set up Rasur Foundation headquarters at

Quizur in 2002. Facilities include three offices, a training room and dining area for 50 participants, kitchen, parking area and garden on a 2-acre property in Piedades de Santa Ana. A temporary training hall for 150 participants has been erected, and will be replaced by permanent training facilities in 2008.

- Developed and implemented a peace skills program for *The Week of Values* in two public schools in October 2002.
- Recruited volunteers and held the first training retreat of the *Peace Army of Costa Rica* in October 2003 for the practice of the *Peace Army Way*, a synergistic combination of HeartMath for “feeling peace” and Nonviolent Communication for “speaking peace.”
- Initiated a Peace Army pilot project in February 2004 at the Elías Jiménez Castro School in Desamparados. An evaluation was conducted in December 2004 which yielded very positive results. Completed a second year at that school in December 2005 and worked there again in 2007, with an emphasis on using the *Peace Army Way* for mediation.
- Offered two *Nonviolent Communication (NVC)* workshops in May 2004 and two more in October 2004, presented by Sura Hart, certified *NVC* trainer and author of book, *The Compassionate Classroom*.
- Offered *Nonviolent Communication* workshops in 2005 with certified *NVC* trainers, Alan Seid and Jim and Jori Manske, and a *HeartMath* workshop with the certified trainer, David McArthur.
- Initiated a Peace Army pilot project in February 2006 at the Honduras School in Pozos de Santa Ana and added a student mediation unit to the training course.
- Carried out Peace Army pilot projects at Elias Jimenez Castro School and Honduras School in 2007
- Changed the Peace Army’s name to the “Academy for Peace of Costa Rica” and the name of the methodology it teaches to *BePeace (SerPaz)* in September 2007.
- Provided Ministry of Education-certified training to close to 250 teachers in Santa Ana County, through a 40-hour *BePeace* course in late 2007 and early 2008.