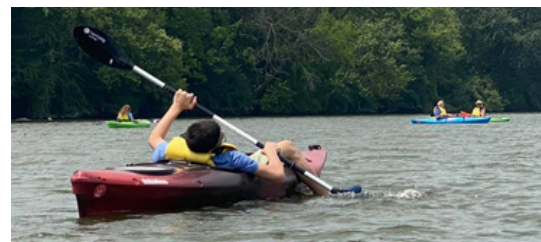




# OPPEACE NEWS

how we minister in times such as these

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## A QUICK LOOK

Martin de Porres  
Center Summer  
Camps Build Peace  
in Central Ohio

Grant and Donors  
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## Martin de Porres Center Summer Camps Build Peace in Central Ohio

In the May issue of the OPPeace News, we told you about summer camps being planned at the Martin de Porres Center in Columbus, OH. Now the middle of July, we have hosted 5 weeks of summer camps as part of the City Council's Reimagine Safety Initiative.

Our Rising Youth Summer Experience hosts about 25 local youth every week. Under the guidance of Martin de Porres Director Yahaira Rose and Rising Youth Coordinator Mayra Betances, boys and girls aged 11-17 spend five busy days creating art, learning new skills like videography and cooking, learning about the legal

system, financial planning, safe relationships and more, and enjoying a beautiful Ohio summer hiking, biking and kayaking.

Team building and emotional and mental health are an important part of each week's activities. Whether it's trying to pass a hula hoop through 20 people holding hands or conducting a "virtual cleanup" to encourage healthy use of phones and tablets, Rising Youth campers are learning new ways to interact with others their own age and with their community.

*"The first step to building peace in our neighborhoods is teaching our youth to respect themselves. The second is to teach them to respect each other, and then to respect their community. We hope that the lessons that these young people are learning will begin to build a more peaceful community here in Central Ohio,"* said Martin de Porres Center Director Yahaira Rose.

We are so grateful to The Columbus City Council, CommonSpirit Health, the Columbus Foundation, the United Way of Central Ohio, and the Catholic Foundation, as well as to the many volunteer speakers and presenters who made these camps possible.

# Grant and Donors Help Peace Center Kids Enjoy Summer Fun

Summer Peace Camp is a tradition at the Peace Center in New Orleans. But out of an abundance of caution because of the pandemic, the Sisters decided to help their regular campers attend local camps being held in the city rather than conduct a camp this year.

Thanks to a grant from CommonSpirit and support from the Gert Town Fund - Greater New Orleans Foundation and donors from GiveNOLA and the Give Catholic giving day of the Catholic Community Foundation Archdiocese of New Orleans, the Peace Center sponsored 8 children at local summer camps in June. Three boys attended day camp at Jesuit High School in New Orleans from June 1-July 9. Five girls were able to attend camps at our founded school, St. Mary's Dominican High School, from June 7-25. The grants covered the cost of each week of camp, T-shirts, meals, and snacks. The Peace Center also provided transportation with assistance from the families.

At the St. Mary's camps, the girls enjoyed arts and crafts, cheerleading, cooking and sewing lessons, movies, games, and much more. The boys' camp gave them time for soccer and basketball, swimming, and a field trip or two per week.

We are grateful to CommonSpirit and to our many generous friends who helped make summer more fun for our children.

*Below Top: Sr. Suzanne Brauer with two St. Mary's Dominican High School campers, Jalia Dukes and Amaya Williams. Below Bottom: Sr. Pat Thomas with Jesuit High School campers Jaden Jones, Tamajh Scott and Jordan Dukes.*



## Summer Short Stories

At founded high school **Dominican Academy** in NYC, six students were part of a summer course on inclusion. Over four days, students from Dominican Academy and Regis High School, a Jesuit college preparatory school, discussed how they could better welcome students from marginalized populations in both their academic and personal lives. Dominican President Sr. Margaret Ormond says that the Regis staff and students greatly appreciated the input from our female students and the Dominican perspective on this important issue.

At **Our Lady of the Elms** in Akron, OH, students and staff came together to hold five summer day camps for children in the area. Campers enjoyed arts and crafts, treats, and tours of the farm on the campus. One of the most popular events was the Summer Princess Storytime, when student "princesses" gave young campers a royal experience, including a tea party, dress up and photo ops.

**St. Agnes Academy/St. Dominic School** day camps in Memphis, TN, feature Arts, Athletics, Adventure, and Academics – as well as a warm welcome for campers from the Missionaries of Charity Summer Camp. Campers from the Missionaries of Charity participate in sports, games and crafts, assisted by student volunteers from St. Agnes Academy and St. Dominic School.



Dominican  
Sisters of Peace  
Sisters and Associates  
in Mission