

From Websites to School Lunches

The daily routine of a German volunteer working in an US-Peace organization

Eirene, a German organization for international volunteer services sent me to Creative Response to Conflict in Nyack, New York to do my volunteer year as an intern in NY. CRC's focus is on Conflict Resolution Education, and since conflict is an inherent component of life, CRC tries to build peoples' skills to solve life's conflicts peacefully and constructively.

One way CRC does that, is through offering resources for people via CRC's workshops, training and website, bookstore and mailings. Our Materials reach a wide audience and are used all over the world. Further, we offer material in German, French, Hebrew, Russian and Spanish.

Not only does CRC provide a large variety of resources, we work hands on with different people.

We also offer Non-Violence Education College Classes at the State University of New York New Paltz, for all different kinds of teachers. Another hands-on and interactive experience that CRC leads is the HYL A Project (Hudson Youth Leadership Academy). HYL A helps teenagers and young adults build social skills in general and leadership skills in particular.

Yet another interactive program that CRC provides is

the Lunchtime Listeners. Currently this program has two volunteers Valentina DiLoreto and Johannes Glatz. The Lunchtime Listeners was first founded when local principals expressed the need for students' conflicts with one another to be heard. From then on, CRC offered the Lunchtime Listeners program, which means that the volunteers help the elementary students during their Lunchtime and mediate and use other conflict resolution tools to help the children solve their conflict and problems peacefully.

The Re-Entry is another important program in CRC's curriculum. It is held in the Haverstraw Community Center and its mission is to help formerly incarcerated women and their children. To do so, we teach non-violent conflict solution skills and peaceful social skills in general. A special focus is on the kids; because of their mother's history they often stand out different from their peers and are more likely to become a victim of bullying than other children. Therefore we teach them how to avoid bullying and how to protect themselves and others if bullying occurs.

The work with Creative Response to Conflict and everybody involved in their program is really fun and offers me a lot of possibilities to teach and learn.

- Johannes Glatz, Intern at CRC