

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 00-196

Structuring the Multnomah County Peace Task Force and Thousand Cranes Award within the Health Department's Violence Prevention Program

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. In recognition of the threat of violence to the community and citizen efforts to promote peace, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners passed Ordinance 693 in August 1991 (amended by Ordinance 736 in October 1992), which created the Multnomah County Peace Task Force and the Thousand Cranes Peace Award.
- b. The Thousand Cranes Peace Award is given annually to residents of Multnomah County whose commitment to peace is exemplified by their actions. The Award commemorates the hope and actions of a Sadako, a Japanese girl who contracted radiation poisoning from the nuclear explosion in Hiroshima. According to Japanese legend, whomever folds 1,000 paper cranes is granted one wish. With unflagging spirit, twelve year old Sadako -- who wished for health and world peace -- folded over six hundred paper cranes before she died. Friends and classmates finished her quest.
- c. Over the past six years, Multnomah County has honored more than 500 students with the Thousand Cranes Peace Award. High schools throughout Multnomah County nominated students who contributed to peace in their communities. The Multnomah County Peace Task Force encouraged schools to nominate students whose on-going efforts merited recognition and served as a model for other students. Schools often nominated students who facilitated non-violent conflict resolution on campus through peer mediation. Some peacemakers were nominated for their efforts to promote respect for diversity. These young people were frequently active volunteers locally, and some worked to improve conditions internationally.
- d. Communities need clarity in understanding of the problem of violence, a vision for a more peaceful community, and to take action to realize that vision. The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners endorses this vision and supports actions that prevent violence and promote peace in every setting throughout the County. The Violence Prevention Program of the Multnomah County Health Department is working to improve the health of communities by supporting their efforts to solve the problems that contribute to violence, helping to establish concrete actions toward peace, locally, nationally and internationally.
- e. There are individuals and communities in Multnomah County who are involved in positive efforts to reduce violence in all its forms. These individuals should be recognized for their efforts and encouraged to continue. The community should be informed of the significance of their contributions and others should take steps to assume similar challenges.

- f. The Peace Action Zone Coalition (PAZ Coalition) is comprised of Peace Action Zones, Resource Teams, and Violence Prevention Program Staff. A Peace Action Zone is a group of community members joining together to address common issues around violence. A Resource Team provides these vital services to the PAZ Coalition: information and data collection, technical expertise, best practice research, support and connections with resources and the community.
- g. A PAZ Steering Committee leads the efforts of the PAZ Coalition. It includes, but is not limited to, recognized local leaders of peace efforts, representatives of community Peace Action Zones and resource teams, business, faith communities, and service providers (public and private).

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. Multnomah County will continue to recognize community peacemakers through the annual Thousand Cranes Peace Award. Multnomah County will present the Thousand Cranes Peace Award to individuals, groups or organizations who are leading our communities toward a peaceful future. By so doing, it will also call attention to the destructive capability of violence.
- 2. Multnomah County recognizes the Thousand Cranes Resource Team as part of the Peace Action Zone Coalition as the successor to the Multnomah County Peace Task Force. This Resource Team will select the annual award winner(s). Multnomah County will continue to provide assistance to the resource team in the form of staffing, printing and mailing through the Violence Prevention Program of the Health Department, but assumes no other liability for expenses incurred by the Resource Team.
- 3. The Violence Prevention Program will sponsor an annual Community Celebration as a forum to recognize Thousand Cranes Peace Award recipients, encourage communication among Coalition members, and promote community wide understanding. Award recipients will be further recognized by the Board of County Commissioners and in other settings such as school or community gatherings, as appropriate.

ADOPTED this 7th day of December, 2000.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Beverly Stein

Beverly Stein, Chair

REVIEWED:
THOMAS SPONSLER, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By *Sandra Sponsler*
Thomas Sponsler, County Attorney