

Sponsored by the Alicia Titus Peace Fund and supported by Urbana University and “Urbana City of Peace”, the fourth annual "Season for Nonviolence" will kick-off **January 30 and run through April 4**. This program honors the lives and legacies of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatmas Gandhi. "The Season teaches that every person can move the world forward in the direction of peace through daily nonviolent choices and actions."

The theme this year for the week-long "Great Kindness Challenge" is *Bully Prevention*. The program encourages our youth to perform as many acts of kindness as they can between **January 22 - 26**. In 2017 we had over 4500 students from the entire Urbana City School District, Graham, West Liberty-Salem and Mechanicsburg schools participate. On January 20, 2017 the West Liberty-Salem School District experienced an active shooter incident and postponed their participation in the "Great Kindness Challenge" for 1 week. The week immediately following the shooting, the students, faculty, staff, first responders, and community members near and far, demonstrated the most organic and precious acts of kindness, their compassion and courage remain an inspiration to me and others who know the story.

There were over 10 million students in over 15 thousand schools, in over 90 countries that performed over 500 Million acts of kindness in one week!!! Joining in the spirit, Urbana University students also engaged in random acts of kindness on campus and within our community!!!

Through the Alicia Titus Memorial Peace Fund, sponsor of the "Great Kindness Challenge", we provide "Kindness Matters" items such as pencils, bracelets, posters and stickers for the schools and students. We will also be donating the newest edition of the "Kids for Peace" book to each of the libraries in the schools and the county.

During the "Season for Nonviolence" plans for many ongoing programs (dates and times to be announce) will focus on finding inner peace through yoga, meditation and prayer.

Another FREE 6 week "Nonviolent Communication" Class is scheduled for March 19 - April 23 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in the Moore Conference Room in the Urbana University Student Center. This program is also sponsored through the Alicia Titus Memorial Peace Fund - and remember it is **FREE** to all students and community members.

The entire month of April our Urbana University students will engage in the *Cooperative Service Volunteer Program* we started through Alicia's Peace Fund and the City of Urbana. If there are projects that in our community that could use some assistance, please let us know. The students have a special app called **Helper Helper** that logs their service volunteer time for specific projects, and they receive credit for their service.

We will continue to keep you posted with updates as we move into the "Season for Nonviolence".

Our thanks to everyone for your support and encouragement, we appreciate all that you do in our community to create a culture of peace in our city, our county, and around the world!!!

Peace,

John and Bev Titus