



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

"Bettering Ourselves, Our  
Communities, Our Future, &  
Our World."

Presented by

**Cullen  
O'Donnell**

**–Founder and  
President of Peace  
by Piece Foundation**



**Peace by Piece Foundation 2025**

# A MESSAGE OF GRATITUDE

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we close the chapter on our very first year, we are filled with immense gratitude. Because of donors like you, the Peace by Piece Foundation has transformed from a vision into a life-changing reality for youth in Harrisburg, PA, and Ecuador.

This year was a year of "firsts." For many of our youth, it was their first time on a plane, their first time going abroad, and their first time realizing that their potential stretches far beyond their neighborhood borders.

Thank you for being the foundation upon which these young people are building their futures.

## OUR VISION AND MISSION

Our mission is to empower youth to bring about peace and positive change in their own lives and their surrounding communities, by providing them with the skills and resources necessary to do so successfully. Our vision is to provide a unique experience that assures a successful future for every young Peacemaker who participates in the program, and to teach them to provide similar opportunities for others they interact with.





**"MAKING THE  
WORLD A BIT  
BETTER,  
PEACE BY  
PIECE."**

## **YEAR 1 AT A GLANCE: HARRISBURG COHORT**

Our inaugural cohort consisted of six incredible young adults (ages 17–21) from the Harrisburg area. Our mission was to remove financial barriers to opportunity, and thanks to your generosity, 100% of our programming was completely free for these low-income youth.



## **THE HOME FRONT: LIFE SKILLS & LEADERSHIP**

Before traveling, we laid the groundwork at home. Over the course of 12 meetings, we tackled the practical skills necessary for adulthood that are often overlooked. Some examples include.. Financial Literacy: Understanding the finances behind buying a car and budgeting. Leadership Development: Learning to lead with empathy and confidence. Civic Engagement: Understanding their role in their community.



## GLOBAL IMPACT: THE CANOA INITIATIVE

Our work is not limited to Harrisburg. We are planting seeds of change in Ecuador, as well.

## CULTURAL EXCHANGE: THE JUNETEENTH EVENT

One of the most powerful moments of the trip was our cultural exchange. Our cohort hosted a Juneteenth event for over 200 Ecuadorian high school students. They explained the history and significance of Juneteenth. The groups discussed difficult topics, including discrimination and the Black American experience, fostering deep empathy and cross-cultural solidarity.

### THE JUNE SERVICE TRIP: ECUADOR

In June, all six participants embarked on a 10-day service trip to Ecuador. In the small fishing village of Canoa, and the mountain town of Latacunga, our youth rolled up their sleeves. For 5 out of the 6 participants, this was their first time ever traveling outside of the United States.

**6** Harrisburg youth successfully completed programming

**200+** Ecuadorian students attended Juneteenth programming

**30+** pounds of trash collected

**75** man hours of community service completed

# SUCCESS STORY: A NEW PATH

We have begun life skills discussions with youth in Canoa, and the results are already tangible.

One young man in the village has been participating in our discussions on financial planning and career stability.

The Result:

- He secured his first stable job.
- He moved into stable housing.
- He saved enough money to buy his first phone, connecting him to further opportunities.

This is the power of the Peace by Piece method: practical skills meeting genuine mentorship.

## EXPLORATION & GROWTH

Beyond service, our youth stepped out of their comfort zones to witness the majesty of the world. Traversed the Amazon Rainforest. Witnessed the scale of the Andes Mountains. Experienced the Pacific Ocean. Practiced Spanish in real-world settings. "We watched them learn to speak new words, make new friends, and step outside their comfort zones to realize how big the world truly is." – Cullen O'Donnell, Founder & President of Peace by Piece Foundation



# LOOKING AHEAD: OUR GOALS FOR 2026

We are entering the new year with ambitious goals to deepen our impact.

- **Expand the Harrisburg Cohort:** We aim to grow our group to at least 10 participants, continuing to support both new and returning members.
- **Launch Canoa Programming:** We plan to officially launch structured programming for Ecuadorian youth in Canoa, mirroring the success of our Harrisburg model.
- **Sustain Accessibility:** We remain committed to keeping our programming 100% free for low-income youth.



## THANK YOU!

To our donors, volunteers, and community partners: You made this happen. You helped six young people from Harrisburg and a young man in Ecuador see a brighter version of their future. Happy Holidays to you and your families. We look forward to keeping you updated as we continue this work—peace by piece.

With gratitude,

The Peace by Piece Foundation Team

## KEEP IN TOUCH

- <https://sites.google.com/view/peacebypiecefoundation/home>
- Harrisburg, PA | Canoa, Ecuador

# IF YOU'RE LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED, YOU CAN:

- Spread the word and invite any youth who might benefit from programming
- volunteer to teach specific life skills sessions you are passionate about, or Volunteer at Giant Center events if you are in the Hershey area.
- Donate on our website or participate in our 2nd annual 50/50 raffle.

