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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ANNOUNCING OPENING of TUCSON'S FIRST NONVIOLENCE RESOURCE CENTER FEBRUARY 1, 2016 – NATIONAL FREEDOM DAY

The Culture of Peace Alliance (COPA) announces the opening of Tucson's first Nonviolence Resource Center, including the new office for COPA's two youth leadership and violence-prevention programs:

- Nonviolence Legacy Project (NVLP)
- Annual Youth & Peace Conference (YPC).

The Nonviolence Resource Center is located at Tucson Youth Development's ACE Charter High School, 1929 N. Stone Ave. NVLP is currently teaching a Kingian Nonviolence Community Leadership Class at ACE, with the help of several certified youth nonviolence trainers.

You are invited to join us at an Open House scheduled for next Monday, February 1st, from 4 to 5 PM, to celebrate the creation of this Nonviolence Resource Center. You will have a chance to see our new space, obtain information about current and upcoming youth leadership and nonviolence training classes, enjoy some refreshments, and help us celebrate finally having an "official" office in the community from which to run these programs.

In extending this invitation to friends and colleagues in the Tucson community, Palo Verde High School Senior Cruz Verdugo, who has been involved with NVLP since getting certified as a youth nonviolence trainer in 2010, stresses how important it is for more people in Tucson to recognize the value of nonviolence as a courageous way of life and commit themselves to settling conflicts and handling problems using the principles and steps of Kingian Nonviolence. "That's what it's going to take to really bring about significant change in our community!"

Ann Yellott, Grants & Program Coordinator for COPA, explains that February 1st was chosen as the day to open COPA's first Nonviolence Resource Center in order to call attention to National Freedom Day and the beginning of Black History Month. National Freedom Day commemorates February 1, 1865 when President Lincoln signed a joint House and Senate resolution that proposed the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to outlaw slavery in the United States.

The Nonviolence Resource Center contains reference and curriculum material about Kingian Nonviolence, the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, and historical information about the formation of the Nonviolence Legacy Project and Tucson's Annual Youth and Peace Conference as unique, community-based youth leadership and peace-building programs.

NVLP Program Manager Hassan Clement points out, "This Nonviolence Resource Center and our Kingian Nonviolence training classes offer a lifeline for youth by providing a method and a language for young people to problem solve and communicate nonviolently and effectively. Our mentor, Dr. Bernard LaFayette Jr., has an expression that we often share in our classes...that when we hate, it's like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die. When people realize the negative impact on themselves of their anger and strong negative emotions, it helps inspire them to make changes in how they react and communicate."

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