



# 13<sup>th</sup> annual Mothers' Walk for Peace

As members of the **Louis D Brown Peace Institute** Interfaith Committee, we are writing to invite your Faith Community to join us in the upcoming 13<sup>th</sup> annual Mothers' Walk for Peace.

Early on Mother's Day, May 10, 2009, we will unite to honor mothers, families and all those who have lost loved ones to violence in the annual Mothers' Walk for Peace. Together in common faith and support for peace, we will stand in solidarity with communities who have been affected by homicide. By building bridges of caring and understanding across faith traditions and geography, we will demonstrate that we are one-community in peace. As we walk and raise-support for the Peace Institute's on-going work, our efforts will join with thousands of others as we put our faith into action.

Faith communities' support and enthusiasm has proved-critical to the Mothers'-Walk's success. Last year, over 5,000 people walked to support the uniquely effective services the Peace Institute provides families, young people and urban neighborhoods. The Peace Institute supports the families of homicide victims through grief support and practical information during the most difficult moments of crisis. To prepare young people to deal with trauma and grief, build non-violence and conflict resolution skills and commit to restorative justice and sustainable peace, the Peace Institute also offers a fully integrated curriculum and training for families and groups; who are committed to rebuilding sustainable peace in our communities.

There are many ways that your faith community can show interest and support:

- Join with other faith communities and sign the Interfaith Statement of Support for the Mothers' Walk and in support of the Peace Institute's Mission.
- Organize-teams to walk.
- Commit pledges to support walkers and teams.
- Dedicate a local faith community contribution to the Peace Institute's work.
- Promote awareness among members about the Peace Institute's work..
- Pray for the Peace Institute and its work with families, youth, and the community.

This year, a goal of \$200,000 to support the Peace Institute programs was established. If each of last year's walkers raised \$40 in pledges this goal will be realized. We hope that you and many more will join us in our walk and support this year's efforts. We ask that you support The Mothers' Walk for Peace in a way that is meaningful both to your faith community and to the families and neighborhoods the Peace Institute serves.

The Mothers' Walk Registration forms and Interfaith Statement of Support are available online at [www.louisdbrownpeaceinstitute.org](http://www.louisdbrownpeaceinstitute.org) or by calling 617-825-1917. We look forward to walking with you on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, and to uniting in our support of victims and survivors of homicide and the vital work of the Louis D Brown Peace Institute.

Peace and Blessings,

**Connie Afshar**, Second Congregational Church of Cohasset

**Natalie Austrian**, United Parish of Auburndale, Newton, MA

**Clementina Chery**, Founder, Mother's Walk for Peace

**Kathleen M. Kelly**, Friends Meeting at Cambridge

**Rev. Michelle A. Walsh**, Affiliate Community Minister, United First Parish Church, Quincy, MA