



150 Stories for 150 Years

Friend of the College Praises the Work of the Peace Resource Center

Submitted By: Anne Anderson

I decided to write to you with the story of my experience of hearing from the Wilmington Peace Resource Center in the 1980s when I was serving as coordinator of Psychologists for Social Responsibility (PsySR). It was established in 1982 as a sister organization to Physicians for Social Responsibility. I became their coordinator in 1984, so it would have been probably in the late 1980s that I received a request at the office from the Wilmington College Peace Resource Center asking to be added to our mailing list and requesting back copies of our newsletter for their archives.

As a struggling, relatively new organization, whose members were being laughed at (what do psychologists know about nuclear weapons? Are you going to psychoanalyze the bombs? etc.), It was delightful to receive a serious request for ongoing connection from the Peace Resource Center. It helped legitimize the questions that psychologists were asking about the nuclear weapons race: How is it that policy makers can ignore the inherent dangers in developing more and more nuclear weapons? What are the psychological mechanisms underlying psychic numbing? How are children reacting to the threat of extinction from nuclear winter and how can we help them cope? Are there ways that psychologists can help people understand the issues so that they can act productively rather than function reactively? As far as I know, the Center continued to be on the PsySR newsletter mailing list until the newsletter ceased being published in this century.

So, although I have never been to the Peace Resource Center, please know that your continuing existence and active outreach can make the small differences that underscore Gandhi's comment:

"Almost everything you do will seem insignificant, but it is very important that you do it."

Thanks for being there.

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