

# The 2010 North Carolina State Fair Peace Booth

October 7, 2010

Dear Peacemakers -

More than 18 months have passed since Barack Obama's election, but our hopes for an end to the war on terror have been dashed. These wars we have worked so fervently to stop just go on and on. Sometimes it seems like no one can slow down the military industrial complex as it runs roughshod over our nation and the world. That's why it's so important that we continue to support the Peace Booth at the North Carolina State Fair.

Few things we do as peacemakers can reach as many people as we do during those 11 days we spend at the Peace Booth. Since 1951, Peace Booth volunteers have discussed alternatives to war and the hope of nonviolence with thousands of fair visitors. Many stop to sign petitions, take stickers and religious statements, or just to talk. Thousands of children have stopped to enjoy our peace coloring sheets. Our petitions — opposing torture, calling for an end to the death penalty, supporting a just immigration policy, and many more — have especially served as a tool to educate people about myriad justice issues.

Since the terrorist attacks of 9-11-01, the United States has engaged in a what has become an endless war on terror. It is our belief that Americans are growing tired of the suffering and death resulting from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Now is an optimal time to approach folks to talk about working for a lasting peace. We must keep the pressure on our leaders to work for alternatives to war.

"We are One," the theme for this year's Peace Booth, is our message. Let us embrace that hope of a world without war. The Peace Booth offers the hope of a better way to resolve conflict in the 21st century.

The State Fair, which runs from October 14-24, will last 11 days. The Peace Booth will be open Thursday, Oct. 14 from 3 p.m. to 9:45 p.m., and from 9 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. the other 10 days. We need 126 volunteers working in pairs to staff the Peace Booth for the duration of the Fair. The Peace Booth is a big and expensive undertaking, but it's worth it. But we need your help. Here's what you can do: Please send a generous personal donation, and ask your church or group to contribute so the Peace Booth steering committee can maintain this crucial effort. Booth rental, design, materials and insurance will cost more than \$2,700 this year. *This once-a-year fund raiser is our only source of income.*

Volunteer as an individual to work a two-hour shift at the Peace Booth, or coordinate a day or half day. On each day of the Fair, we need a daily coordinator and 12 volunteers (6 on Oct. 14) . Weekday mornings and weekday afternoons are always the hardest shifts to fill. Join the Peace Booth steering committee, and share your creativity and ideas to make the booth even better.

If you can help, please return the form below as soon as possible. On October 11 and 12 at 7:00 p.m. we will offer orientation meetings (you need only attend one) for all volunteers who plan to work at the Peace Booth. The orientation will be held at Raleigh's Community United Church of Christ (814 Dixie Tr.) As a bonus, all volunteers who work a two-hour shift receive a free fair admission ticket — a \$7 value.

Shalom,

Bill Towe

Sandy Irving



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- Yes, I would like to help continue this great work. Enclosed is my donation of \$\_\_\_\_. Please list my/my group's name on the donor list as follows: \_\_\_\_\_
  - My church/peace group would like to staff the Peace Booth for a day. Please contact me, \_\_\_\_\_ to make arrangements. Phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_.
  - I, \_\_\_\_\_, can personally volunteer to staff the Peace Booth for two hours on the following date(s) in October 2010: 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24. I understand a free pass to the fair will be available. Phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_.
  - I, \_\_\_\_\_, can be available for:  Set up on Wednesday, October 13 (evening)  
 Take down on Sunday, October 24 (10 PM). Phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_.

To learn more about the Peace Booth go to [www.ncpeacebooth.org](http://www.ncpeacebooth.org)  
Please return to: **The Peace Booth**, 3325 Bentwillow Dr. Fuquay-Varina NC 27526