

childrenofpeace®

THE NEWS DESK



In this article, Children of Peace Goodwill Ambassador Mahmoud Jabari reports on a successful Children of Peace event held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA on April 14th 2013, just hours before the terrible attack at the Boston Marathon.

Mahmoud was a Guest of Honour at this event which was hosted by Dr Ofer Levy, his wife Dr Sharon Levy and Rabbi Victor Reinstein.

The Trustees and Patrons of Children of Peace recognise the hard work and dedication of all involved in making this event such a success and they hope it will lead to wider awareness of our work for peace between Israelis and Palestinians and perhaps be the catalyst for a US Friends of Children of Peace to emerge.

BOSTON EVENT A SUCCESS

Mahmoud Jabari (pictured centre) tells us...

"Dr. Ofer Levy welcomed the guests and introduced the audience to the event's schedule. He shared his family's connection to the Middle East and to Israel, which dates back to his grandfather's immigration from Yemen to Israel. He recalled the story of his uncle; a commander in the Israeli army, killed in 1970 during a conflict with Jordan. The story showed the sense of suffering that Dr. Levy's family had gone through as a result of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict - as he likes to call it - more than an Arab-Israeli one because he is originally Yemeni. Dr. Levy recalled his connection to Children of Peace, which is a result of his daughter Orly Levy's decision on her Bat Mitzvah to do something for peace between Israel and Palestine. He applauded the organisation's non-partisan position.

Dr. Levy introduced a song that his mother (who is an artist) had recently written called "I have a Friend" (In Hebrew: Yesh Li Haver). The song was sung by Children of Peace Youth Ambassador, Orly Levy. It was a moving and memorable performance which touched all of our hearts."

Mahmoud took centre stage and shared a story from his own childhood in Hebron - growing up in the area that is under the Israeli Army control and how that influenced him at an early age. For Mahmoud, the experience generated a sense of responsibility toward his peers, people and country. He went on to share this experience at Seeds of Peace which was to change his thinking about the conflict, to exemplify the importance of such programmes which bring Israeli and Palestinian youth into direct contact with each other.

Mahmoud focused on the impact of Children of Peace and how it gave him the opportunity for his voice to be heard - to share his opinions and ideas with a worldwide audience of Children of Peace supporters.

Mahmoud continues...

"I introduced the story of how Children of Peace was founded and I mentioned some projects that Children of Peace had fostered and implemented in Israel and the Palestinian Territories. Above all, I reaffirmed Children of Peace's firm policy of not taking sides - of protecting and supporting children from all sides - equally and

respectively. And, I invited the audience to support the Charity in the way they can; even by joining the mailing list.

Finally, host Rabbi Victor Reinstein was an invaluable asset to the event, informing the guests of his visit to the region in the 1990s with a group of Rabbis to support the family of a Palestinian man, who was killed in Hebron by Israeli army.

Rabbi Victor applauded the work of Children of Peace. He spoke of the story of Prophet Isaac and the Philistis as an example of tolerance and how this quality is rooted in Judaism, For Rabbi Victor is born with peace and peace comes with every child.”