

Nuclear weapons are designed to kill huge numbers of people. Civilians are the targets. Mothers. Fathers. Sons. Daughters. Grandparents. Grandchildren. Babies.

We can protect these people. We can save lives by eliminating the threat.



FOR RELEASE: January 1, 2008

NEW GRASS ROOTS CAMPAIGN:
SANTA BARBARA, A PEACE COMMUNITY

WANTED: 30 Santa Barbara County residents willing to become local peace leaders.

That's the goal of a new program run by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, a 501 (c) 3 charity which works for a world free of nuclear weapons.

Martin Luther King, Gandhi and Archbishop Desmond Tutu are examples of leaders who actively espoused peace and made the world a better place. They are the inspiration for our own efforts. We want to recruit at least 30 residents to become volunteer peace leaders serving our own communities.

They will be trained by the Foundation and then use our new (and free) DVD, "Nuclear Weapons and the Human Future" to inform at least 100 people each over the course of 2008. We'll help these leaders create strategies for raising awareness and then offer support throughout the year. The idea is to create a face-to-face educational campaign.



A successful program in Santa Barbara could then act as a model to spread peace and information on nuclear disarmament in other communities around the country.

Our experience is that most people don't know important facts about nuclear weapons – facts which could affect their future.

The opportunity for education is great – especially because it doesn't take long to inform someone. Here are four numbers and four questions that tell the story:

- How many nuclear weapons are there right now in the world? *26,000*
- How many nuclear weapons are there on high alert, meaning they can be fired within minutes and detonated at the target site in less than an hour? *3,500*
- How many nuclear weapons does it take to kill a million people? *One.*
- The last time nuclear weapons were used *more than 200,000 people died in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.* **So when should we use nuclear weapons again?**

The answer to the last question is deliberately left open. We want to encourage people to engage with this issue on a personal basis – to really consider what is the best path for the United States and the world.

A nuclear explosion would be a disaster – most people agree. Most people would also agree that preventing such a disaster is desirable.

So what we're talking about is really public safety. Not radical. Not partisan. Just common sense. But how can we decide if we want to do anything about such weapons if we aren't aware of the facts? That's where education is an essential step.

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Our local project will be connected with our new national campaign: "US Leadership for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World – An Appeal to the Next President." This campaign identifies clear, practical steps to a safer world – each one bringing us closer to abolishing nuclear weapons. .

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors, *CASA Magazine*, Steven Crandell will be writing a column every week of 2008 as part of our *Santa Barbara, A Peace Community* project.

Santa Barbara County residents who are interested in becoming a peace leader can call him at 805 965-3443. Or email: scrandell@napf.org.

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The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation -- The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation initiates and supports worldwide efforts to abolish nuclear weapons, to strengthen international law and institutions, and to inspire and empower a new generation of peace leaders. Founded in 1982, the Foundation is comprised of individuals and organizations worldwide who realize the imperative for peace in the Nuclear Age. The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan international education and advocacy organization. It has consultative status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council and is recognized by the UN as a Peace Messenger Organization.

For more information about the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, see www.wagingpeace.org/menu/about

For More Information please call Director of Public Affairs, Steven Crandell at 805-965-3443 or email scrandell@napf.org

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