



2022-2023

**Bulletin of the
Peace Studies
Institute**

**Manchester
University**

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Letter from the Director

Friends,

With the completion of the 2022-2023 academic year, we share several significant accomplishments of the peace studies program, each paired with a transition that bears reflection.

First, Anuj Gurung joined our faculty last fall in the endowed professorship position named in honor of Gladdys Muir. Anuj completed his Ph.D. work in peace and conflict studies within the political science program at Kent State University, continuing expertise he had developed with an M.A. in conflict resolution from Georgetown University. Anuj brings valuable experience and ability to our program, and through his areas of expertise and his warm and generous nature, he expands the connections we make with students and other departments at Manchester. Read more about Anuj here:

<https://www.manchester.edu/student-life/activities/clubs-and-organizations/oak-leaves/online/archives/2022-2023/september-23-2022/dr-anuj-gurung-named-gladdys-muir-assistant-professor-of-peace-studies>

Second, we have experienced significant changes as people have left Manchester. Most notably, we are sad to lose Suzanne Beyeler, associate professor and director of environmental studies, who has partnered extensively with peace studies in the creation of the Center for Environmental Resilience and Social Engagement. Suzanne co-led our spring '22 student/alumni trip and our '23 January trip; designed MU's '23 Discussion Day on climate change; collaborated to promote campus-wide discussions on the UN Sustainable Development Goals; and opened important opportunities for our students to work with both human and non-human neighbors. The peace studies program has been changed by Suzanne's influence, expertise, intelligence, and heart. I am grateful for the marks she leaves and for the experience of being her colleague.

Third, the commencement in May for the class of 2023 celebrated the graduation of a special cohort: students whose first year at Manchester was disrupted by the onset of the COVID pandemic. These students have persisted through conditions no one would have imagined: shifting course delivery modes, disrupted social patterns, isolation as we distanced and Zoomed

rather than congregated and put our heads together. The peace studies program intensified our efforts to create community – certainly one of the greatest hallmarks of our program. In some ways, seniors closed their chapter at Manchester as they had started, bustling through hallways and filling classrooms without masks, but that belies the great changes we have endured and the losses we have survived. The accomplishments of these students are remarkable.

Finally, we say farewell to Kendall Brown, who has enriched the peace studies program with the skill and care needed for these times. Kendall created a welcoming space in the peace studies lounge that drew in not only the regular crowd, but also campus guests, students from other programs, and even admissions tours. Her organizing skills and generous nature made her an easy target for requests for help from offices across campus. We wish her the very best as she continues peacebuilding work with Brethren Volunteer Service.

Peace studies continues to benefit from the participation and support of not only students and colleagues from across Manchester, but of a remarkable community of alumni and friends. Thank you all, for being the best part of this on-going work for a better world.

Peace,

Katy

Peace Studies Coordinator Reflection

Hello all,

One day when I was looking at colleges, my mom came into my room to show me Manchester's website and said I should read about the peace studies program. As soon as I read about the program and the classes, I knew that was what I needed to study. There wasn't a



lot of rhyme or reason to it, simply a feeling of knowing that was the program for me. Five years later, I am still happy to say that the peace studies program was definitely where I belonged. I am beyond grateful that I was able to be a student in the program for four years, and then go on to be coordinator. Peace studies at Manchester is special, and will forever hold a large place in my heart.

The opportunities the program provides are impressive. From conferences, to Jan term travel courses, unique class options, weekend trips, research opportunities, to a sense of belonging. I was fortunate enough to be able to take part in these opportunities as a student, and then help plan them as coordinator. One of my favorite times as coordinator this past year was our Jan term trip to Florida. We traveled through the entire state as a joint class with environmental studies students. It was a pleasure to be able to witness the students learning, adventuring, and making friendships. We were able to see manatees, learn about birds and conservation efforts, kayak with comb jellies, and much more (see the Jan term section!). We had a karaoke night one of the last nights of our trip where everyone gathered singing, chatting, and laughing. Being able to witness the bond the students made was one of the highlights for me as coordinator. My other favorite moment from the semester was when Toru (professor from (Hokusei Gakuen University) and students from Japan came and visited Manchester. Our students welcomed the group with open arms and the students all became instant friends. We had class together, game nights, coffee runs, and conversation hours. That week reflected the heart of the program in such a beautiful way.

Along with the multitude of beautiful moments this semester brought, there was also a fair share of difficulties. Throughout these difficulties, I was beyond thankful to be working with Katy. Katy is a kind, loving, smart, and adaptable leader. To learn from and work with her is an honor. I am also grateful to be a part of an amazing group of past and future coordinators. I had the wonderful opportunity to form friendships and learn from the coordinators that were present when I was in school. When challenges arose, I thought back to what I learned from Zander, Caraline, and Virginia. On multiple occasions I would send Caraline or Virginia a text asking for advice or support. I have also had the pleasure to get to know the next coordinator, my dear friend Libby Kreps. Libby is an energetic, caring human and will be an amazing addition to the staff at Manchester.

This past year has taught me to be confident, adaptable, how to organize a trip and speakers, and how to drive a big van all the way to Florida and back. I have made many lifelong friendships from my time at Manchester, and feel ready to take my next step in life. I am so glad I followed my gut and came to Manchester. I can't wait to see what is in store for the program in the future!

Thank you,

Kendall

2022-2023 at a Glance

Kenapoc topics/meetings:

- Ice cream welcome back
- Discussions about....
 - student loan forgiveness, Midterm Elections, Jan Term, Indiana bills, VIAs
- Kenapocs with....
 - Myron Chenault, Natasha Bragg, Denise Kettering-Lane, Bob Gilbert, Sarah Jaquette Ray, Anuj Gurung, Toru and students
- Finals Breakfast
- Many, many news quizzes
- Craft and movie nights
- Practicing for Notre Dame

Kenapoc/Peace Studies Events:

- Fall game night
- Coffee hours (games, chat time, crafts)
- Drive in movie with Church of the Brethren
- Homecoming Peace Plaque Dedication
- Halloween Party
- Kenapoc fall retreat game night
- Focus on Faith Week
- Armistice Day
- Volunteering with Joyfield
- Hosting friends from Japan
- Restorative Justice Training
- Productive Communication and Conflict Training
- Peace Week
- Picnic and Clothing Swap
- Notre Dame Conference

- Movie Night
- Student/Alumni trip with Miami Tribe
- Volunteering at Elementary School
- Volunteering at Church of the Brethren

Alumni and Friends Updates

Dinah Gilbert '22

After I graduated I started a summer position at Merry Lea Environmental Learning Center of Goshen College as a summer farm hand at their teaching farm.

This position turned into a temporary full-time employment for a year where I got to be a part of team development and strategic planning for Merry Lea as well as learn a lot about different small scale farming techniques including animal care,

orchard care, seed starting, transplanting, different varieties of veggies and much more!

By the end of my time at Merry Lea I was doing assistant farm manager tasks. During my time at Merry Lea I learned a lot, got to enjoy the beautiful outdoors and got to be a part of many projects at Reith Village Teaching Farm, including renovating the greenhouse and doing a deep organizing and labeling of the barn garage! After Merry Lea I moved to Central New York, where I am working at Common Thread CSA, which



is a community supported agriculture farm in Madison, NY. Common Thread is a 17 acre vegetable farm where I have been lucky to be a part of their farm crew; harvesting, planting, seeding, weeding, cleaning, and packaging CSA shares. In the next few years I hope to travel around the US and then abroad getting different farm and environmental peace activism experience in different environments.

Virginia Rendler '20

After graduating in 2020, Virginia worked as Peace Studies coordinator for two years. She recently completed a year of service with Brethren Volunteer Service at the Corrymeela Community in Ballycastle, Northern Ireland, working to provide programming and hospitality to local and international groups. After finishing her BVS year, Virginia was hired as the Volunteer Coordinator for



Brethren Volunteer Service and will be working remotely from North Manchester supporting new cohorts of volunteers in their terms of service.

Matt Guynn '95

Matt Guynn (1995) lives in Portland, Oregon, with his wife Sarah Kinsel and their sons Daniel (10) and Owen (6). He is an active vegetable and flower gardener, building connections in the neighborhood through a garden that his family shares with next-door neighbors. Matt is co-executive director of On Earth Peace, where he leads nonviolence training and organizing work (and where he had an internship as a Manchester student in 1993!). It's a great pleasure to work with OEP's vibrant international and multicultural group of interns and fellows. Through On Earth Peace, Matt is working with others in the church to lead a three-year study/action process for the Church of the Brethren, "Standing with People of Color." He is a co-founder of the Kingian Nonviolence Coordinating Committee, an informal space where nonviolence practitioners and trainers come together to build community, share skills, and reflect on their work.



Chloe Leckrone '22

I've spent the last year since I graduated working at Manchester in the Office of Strategic Communications. I am responsible for most of the written communication for advancement and alumni relations, putting together the alumni newsletter and

magazine, as well as the day-to-day communication. Our most recent edition (which you can find on the MU website!) celebrates the 75th anniversary of peace studies. I was so glad I got to write about the program that influenced so much of my time as a student and genuinely changed my life. Some of my very favorite people in the world are featured in those stories. In my personal life, I'm finding much more time to read and write for pleasure than I had as a student. Several works are in progress—we'll see if any of them go anywhere!

Tina Rieman '94

Tina Rieman is the Office Manager and Mediation Case Coordinator for Education for Conflict Resolution in North Manchester, IN. She loves living in North Manchester, close to family (especially sister Cheri), and being involved at Manchester Church of the Brethren, on various committees, and in several book groups. Tina enjoys being connected to current students and frequently attends Monday night Kenapoc at Katy's house and the spring Peace Studies / Alumni trips.



Chris Francois '20

I am currently in my second year of a master's in international development at York University in Toronto, Canada. I am also working on the Haiti Team of the Center for Economic and Policy Research in Washington D.C conducting research on US foreign policy towards the country as well as day to day Haitian politics. My current research is focused on the experiences of belonging of LGBT Latino immigrants in Canada.



Toru Kataoka, Professor, Hokusei Gakuen University

This February, I took my students to Manchester University. It was my first visit since 2019 (before COVID-19). Peace studies students, including the peace studies coordinator, Kendall Brown, had such a wonderful time taking courses on campus as well as deepening their interpersonal relationships.



At the end of July, Hokusei Gakuen University is nearing the end of 1st semester, and I have been teaching peace studies (one of the general courses) . This time 180 students are in the class and this year I focused on "Disarmament of nuclear weapons" and "Ukraine-Russia war". 2023 is also the 75th anniversary for Manchester University peace studies program, which started in 1948. When atomic bombs were dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, the world witnessed the tragedy, but we need more efforts not to make this happen again. So, I would like to do the collaborative disarmament project with Manchester University peace studies program together.

*Visiting Research Scholar at Manchester University (2016-17)

*An exchange student Manchester from Hokusei Gakuen University in 1995



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Manchester University's long-standing connection to the United Nations has influenced the goals and actions of the Peace Studies Department, especially since the 2017 publication of the UN's Global Goals for Sustainable Development. There are 17 of these goals which tackle poverty, education, health, gender equality, sustainable industry, and the environment. These goals all contribute to a safer and more peaceful world by 2030. In order to ensure we are acting in accordance with these goals, we can analyze our activities as a collective in terms of how they fit within the goals. By categorizing our actions within the SDG framework, we can understand our strengths as a community, and where we have room for improvement. This goal framework allows us to understand where we are devoting the most energy, and where we can increase our focus. It also reminds us that we are consistently working in line with the mission of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: a better world by 2030.

Click the link to see a full record of Peace Studies events from 2022-2023, categorized by the Sustainable Development Goals.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1N5U9J4aO0dENw0g1jqwcdqbaC10FclW4QUkhkpdjCJQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Graduation Pledge



Manchester's Graduation Pledge says that signers "pledge to explore and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job I consider and will try to improve these aspects of any organization for which I work." Seniors are given the opportunity to sign this pledge before walking at graduation, and demonstrate that they

have signed by wearing a green ribbon on their robe. This year, 183 graduating seniors, both undergraduate and masters, signed the pledge.

Senior Reflections

Reflection by Shayla Welch '23

When I first visited Manchester University, I had never heard about peace studies before, and Manchester's program registered as nothing but a fun fact to me. I ended up choosing Manchester with the intention of majoring in math while fulfilling all the requirements to apply for med school, giving no thought to the possibility of another major or minor. I had my plan set and nothing was going to distract me from my lofty goals. My past self would not have been able to imagine how much my plans and passions leant toward an entirely different future.

Shortly after realizing that my struggles in my first college chemistry course were not a good sign for my long path through a pre-med program, I decided I wanted to take a travel Jan-term course to take a break from science and try something new. When the math trip to Ireland I had wanted to attend was too costly, my good friend, Libby Kreps, suggested I check out the peace studies travel course to New Orleans that she was planning to attend. I had never considered taking a peace studies course, but the professor she told me to contact let me talk with her about the trip right away, so I signed up on the spot. I had no idea how much this quick decision would alter the path of my life.

On this trip, I got to learn what peace studies was, not just from looking over definitions and reading theory, but by living out the practice. I had spent a lot of time doing volunteer work before college, but the work we were doing was different. We didn't just show up, build things, pray, and leave. We spent time learning about the area, the people, and how their situations came to be. Sure, I spent time digging under a house to install plumbing, but I was doing it while learning about the structural changes we need to work toward to help people on a larger scale. Peace studies may have seemed like a side note when choosing a college, but it ended up helping me find my passion and purpose.

I quickly realized the social aspect of the program when we returned home from Louisiana. I started attending Kenapocomoco Peace Coalition meetings and hanging out in the peace studies lounge. I got to know many students who were older than me and happy to share their experiences and answer my questions. I got to attend more Jan-term travel courses where I grew deeper relationships with my peers while deepening my knowledge of various issues. I even got to attend conferences and presented at the Notre Dame Student Peace Conference my senior year. Being involved in peace studies shaped my personal experiences and growth just as much it shaped my academic experiences and growth.

Peace studies taught me some of the most important skills I now possess like the ability to see issues from various perspectives, question what I learn, analyze with empathy, and act on the issues that matter. I read important literature that still impacts how I see the world and dedicated time to researching and writing on topics that are important to the communities I am a part of and the world. My senior year, I completed my honors

thesis on the topic of community gardens and how a garden in Fort Wayne could act as a model to help combat food deserts. Without a peace studies lens, I likely never would have pursued such a topic.

I am so fortunate to have been connected to the amazing faculty, staff, and students in the peace studies program that have shaped me during my four years at Manchester and honored to have graduated with a major in peace studies. I will miss them all dearly and can't imagine what my life would look like now if I hadn't made that split decision to try out a peace studies class four years ago.

Reflection by Libby Kreps '23

During my first year at Manchester, I wandered my way into becoming a Peace Studies major, and I'm extremely thankful that I was led down that path. At the beginning of the year, freshmen at MU are given the opportunity to explore the different clubs and extracurricular activities that the campus offers. Both of my parents had attended Manchester and fondly talked about a club where they hung out at the house of one of their favorite professors, ate popcorn, and spent time with an adorable dog while talking about important topics and issues. When I stumbled upon the Kenapocomocho Peace Coalition table, I recognized the club from my parents' stories, and decided to sign up. Throughout my first semester I began to get to know the amazing community that is peace studies, and I was inspired to join their January Trip to New Orleans. After four weeks studying the structural racism that remains after hurricane Katrina and the power of grassroots organizing that exists today, I was officially in love with peace work and its ability to connect people through their shared

love and compassion. I've been happily stuck ever since.

Throughout my time in college, Peace Studies has given me experiences both inside and outside of the classroom that have strengthened my personal passions. Entering college, I was challenged by the concept of choosing one field of study because my interests were broad, and it seemed impossible to commit myself to one future career path. As an interdisciplinary field, Peace Studies offered an opportunity to lean into what issues I was most interested in, while equipping me with a toolbelt of skills that would help me to grow as a person and as an adult entering the job field. Classes such as environmental philosophy, nonviolent social change, and mediation and conciliation has helped me to develop skills in communication, problem solving, planning, and developing strategies for navigating conflicts in a variety of spaces and contexts.

Peace Studies has also allowed me to expand my knowledge and perceptions of the world around me. After my first trip to New Orleans, I took a Peace Studies January Term class every single year. While COVID changed the format of some of these classes, I had the opportunity to dive intensely into current issues, including immigration, voter suppression, and environmental justice. Conflict and issues that our world faces today is evidence of the deep complexities of humanity, and Peace Studies has taught me the importance of recognizing my role as both a learner and a leader within my local and global community, and to be open to new perspectives in the process.

My time in Peace Studies, both as a major and as a participant in the many programs that the department offers, has truly shaped my college experience. It is

where I have met some of my closest friends and cheerleaders. It has given me a space to grow and to be courageous. I am lucky to have the Peace Studies family as part of my story, and I am thankful that this community is here for the next Manchester student to stumble into.



(From left to right: Shayla Welch, Katy Gray Brown, and Libby Kreps)

Peace Posts

Homecoming: Sam Hupp '26

As has been Manchester tradition for twenty years now, this Saturday's homecoming was marked by the dedication of a new nameplate in the Muir Peace Garden honoring someone who worked for nonviolent change. The new plaques

alternate yearly between international activists, teachers, and leaders and those closer to Manchester. Professor Katy Gray Brown of the peace studies department gave a short speech recognizing the life and works of Archbishop Desmond Tutu in front of the wall of peacemakers.

Tutu was well known for bringing attention to the injustices of the Apartheid system in South Africa and for campaigning for racial, social, and queer equality. His Anglican faith greatly guided and influenced his desire for change. Tutu won the Nobel Peace prize in 1984, and in 1986, he became the first black archbishop of Capetown. In 1996, he was designated to be the chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Despite his lofty achievements, Tutu remained a grounded and empathetic person and is well remembered for the humor, love, and joy that he brought to every room he entered. As Dr. Gray Brown said; Tutu was a true advocate for restorative, not retributive justice.

In addition to the dedication of the plaque, new peace studies professor Anuj Gurung was formally introduced to the community. Gurung originally hails from Kathmandu, Nepal, and he studied at Hiram College in Ohio before attaining his Ph.D. in political science at Kent State University. He specializes in refugee studies and says that he is looking forward to expanding on opportunities to teach it at Manchester.



Visitors from Japan: Sam Hupp '26

A little over two weeks ago, Manchester University said goodbye to a very special group of visitors. Toru Kataoka, a professor of education and peace studies, brought four students from Hokusei Gakuen University in Sapporo, Japan. This visit is a



reminder of a decades-long friendship that began when Toru was a student at Manchester. Since then, he has visited a number of times. He even lived and worked in Manchester for a year, bringing his family to the United States with him. For their week-long visit, Toru and his students sat in and observed classes on campus, attended meetings and events, and got to know students, especially those in the peace studies and environmental studies programs. The group attended the Kenapoc Coalition meeting on Monday night, a few days after they arrived, where Toru was the guest

speaker. Over the week, the 5 of them revisited old connections and forged new ones. They will be missed, and they paved the path for even more visits. Due to the impact of COVID-19, Manchester has had significantly fewer international visitors in the past few years. Historically, MU has had deep connections with the international community and foreign universities. The hope for the future is that Manchester can make a return to its longstanding tradition of hosting visitors from around the world.

Drew Hart VIA: Sam Hupp '26

With the spring semester just coming to a start this past week, we also saw our first VIA take place last Wednesday evening. Our visitor was Reverend Dr. Drew Hart, a professor, theologian, and writer at Messiah College. Hart was also the recipient of the 2017 Peacemaker Award from BCM Peace, and is the author of several influential books, including *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* and *Who Will Be a Witness*. He specializes in connecting and contextualizing Black theology and Anabaptist tradition with concepts of white supremacy within the church.

Dr. Hart's speech, "Dr. King's Blue Jeans", started off with an anecdote about an experience working with a white church. While discussing civil rights bus tours taken over the past year by members of the congregation, an older white man stood up and asked why they couldn't just get over it (civil rights history). Returning to his speech, Hart used this story as a perfect example of how Dr. King's memory has been domesticated to the point of being non-threatening, and how the concept of segregation has been watered down to simply having to use different bathrooms. In the decades since his death, many of King's social and political views have been swept under the rug in order to mislead young Americans by suggesting that the civil rights movement

was popular and supported by most whites. Hart also delved into the history of the church, from the oppressed, to the oppressors, to a possible future working for change. As Dr. Hart said, to truly begin the path for change and restoration, we must follow Dr. King's lead, put on our blue jeans, and get to work.

Model UN: Sam Hupp '26

Led by Professor Gabby Tafoya, the Manchester Model UN group participated in a conference at IU Southeast late last week. The conference included multiple schools from Indiana and Kentucky and was split into 5 simulated Security Councils. The seven students that attended were Madalyn Miller, Savana Case (Seniors), Maddie Jagger (Junior), Sam Lamey, Josie Kiser, Mel Marques, and Sam Hupp (Freshmen). Mark Hart (Freshman) is also a member of the Model UN Club but did not travel to the conference.

The format of the conference was five isolated rooms in which students represented countries in the UN Security Council. Each room contained only one delegate per country, so participants were forced to work independently of their clubmates. Each student individually wrote, debated, and voted on policies to solve international crises. Manchester was awarded 3 countries for students to represent: Russia (Jagger, Lamey, and Hupp), India (Kiser and Marques), and the UK (Miller and Case).

Following the culmination of a semester's work, the Model UN club plans on meeting occasionally to brainstorm possible informational events. The club provides a very valuable perspective on the workings of international cooperation and problem solving that can be directly applied to real-world issues. One thing that makes the

Manchester Model UN club especially stand out from the sea of other colleges is its connection to the peace studies program. Around half of the members have a peace studies major, bringing unique thinking and solutions to the council table. With all said peace studies students slated to return next year, expect nonviolent solutions to make a splash in future model diplomacy.

Discussion Day: Jisaly Romano '25

The tradition of Discussion Day returned to Manchester University January 15th, 2023, 10:00am-3:00pm. To engage and unite the community of student, staff and faculty; through deep discussion about significant issues around the world. This year's discussion topic was climate change and climate justice. During this day there were a series of presentations/VIA's led by students and guest speakers. Global warming is a worldwide problem that affects all of the Earth, it has been increasing for years due to fossil fuel emissions, greenhouse gas emissions, and carbon dioxide emissions.

This matter is highly serious due to the repercussions the Earth and its habitants face. Natural disasters occur more often due to these emissions, to the point where whole islands will begin to sink. Communities of people in developing countries lack the resources to combat the effects of Global warming, due to this many of them encounter great health declines. Some individuals argue that global warming is not a real world problem for the simple fact that it is not affecting them, in comparison to those who lack the resources to survive the disasters of global warming. The United States, and China alone are the main contributors to carbon dioxide emissions, China emitting approximately 10 million tons of carbon dioxide, and 5 million emissions coming from the USA.

Furthermore, ideas to better climate change were presented by the VIA speakers and students. I attended the Expansion of Green Landscaping by James Corgan, and Trey Hicks (1:00-1:45 pm), and International cooperation on climate change, Gabriela Tafoya, Uma Ganesan, and Model UN students (2:00-3:00 pm). The expansion of green landscaping brought up ideas to better Manchester University by increasing biodiversity, bringing animals to campus as a way to relax students/ increase natural resources such as chickens; as well as creating an abundant garden. The presentation International cooperation on climate change went over the obligations the United Nations carryout, and how they have failed to carry out their duties. I believe that if each nation/country would assume their responsibility climate change could drastically change. The reality is that many of us have the resources to make a change but the majority does not want to contribute to these changes because they are fortunate enough to not have to accommodate.

In conclusion, the planet Earth is at the brink of mass deterioration if we as the people do not change the way we care for the Earth. This is a problem that affects everyone including animals and plants. They're many sources we can use to aid those who lack them, as little as using our voices to spread the disasters that are happening.

January Session 2023: Peace Studies and Environmental Studies trip to Florida

This January, Peace Studies and Environmental Studies traveled to Florida for Jan Term. We traveled to Koinonia Farm, Gainesville, Fort Myers (with side trips to Babcock Ranch and Immokalee), Fort Pierce, Camp Ithiel, and Atlanta.













Community Partner Reports

Second Harvest Tailgate

In 2021 we felt it was crucial to get involved with our community through direct service and volunteering, this was continued in 2022 and 2023. We were thrilled to have the opportunity to volunteer with Second Harvest through the Manchester Church of the Brethren. One or two Wednesdays a month, the Second Harvest trucks would pull up to the Manchester Church of the Brethren full of donated food from local stores. Hundreds of cars would fill the parking lot, ready to be loaded up with bags of groceries. Volunteers directed traffic, recorded numbers, and filled cars with food. It was an incredible opportunity to get food into the homes of families who need it most, while still being safe and protected from the pandemic. We are so lucky to have community partners in the area who give us opportunities like these to engage in direct service, whether that be for volunteer hours, for a class, or just for a fun Wednesday afternoon!

Manchester Church of the Brethren

Manchester Church of the Brethren is a close partner with the Peace Studies Institute, collaborating on programs and supporting our independent work. PSI works to connect MCOB with campus events, including VIAs, Peace Week, short-term experiential education opportunities, and other special programs. We have benefited from the diversity of intergenerational perspectives and the community that has grown from this collaboration.

Manchester Elementary School

This year we volunteered at the Elementary school with Joel Eichenauer,

Elementary STEM Specialist to help mulch the trails behind the school. We had a great time learning about the program, and we hope to volunteer again in the future!

Joyfield Farms

We are excited for the collaboration Joyfield and Manchester had this year, and we look forward to strengthening our collaboration next year. Students volunteered this year at Joyfield helping with their compost, getting ready for a conference, and learning about the farm. We are grateful for this farm in our community and plan to continue working with Joyfield!

Student Work Submissions

2022-2023 Photos





























