



Unite against Gun Violence—“Beating Swords into Plowshares” Saturday, May 11, 2013

Pasadena Area Gun Buyback Committee and supporters:

Dr. Melissa Hofstetter
(co-chair)

Dr. Jill Shook
(co-chair)

Rev John Bledsoe,
Interdenominational
Ministerial Alliance

Randy Christopher and
Kimberly Medendorp
(Peace & Justice
Academy)

Rev Matthew Colwell
(Knox Presbyterian)

Thea DeGroot (Palm
Sunday Peace Parade)

Randy Ertel
(El Centro de Accion
Social)

Pastor Paul Kim (One
Voice Church)

Steve Madison (City
Councilman, District 6)

Dr. Anthony Manousos
(Quaker)

Yvette McDowell
(Ambassadors for Peace,
Community
Intervention
Organization)

Bert Newton (Palm
Sunday Peace Parade)

Rev Pat O'Reilly,
(Friends Indeed,
Pasadena Area
Interfaith Council)

Pastor Joe Roos
(Pasadena Mennonite
Church)

Juliana Serrano
(All Saints Church)

Prof. Glen Stassen
(Pasadena
Peacemakers)

Mike Veerman
(Knox Presbyterian)

Pastor Allen Williams
(Clergy Community
Coalition)

Christy Zamani
(Day One)

Dear Business leader,

Peace to you! We invite you to unite with Pasadena area congregations to get guns off the streets and create a safer environment for your customers and business. The faith community is taking the lead to partner with the City of Pasadena, the Pasadena Police Department and the Flintridge Center to arrange a gun buyback event and a “Peace-Source” Fair that will address gun safety and education and give your business the opportunity to share non-violent initiatives you are doing. Your support is needed.

Nationally more than 3,000 children and teens die each year as a result of guns—either by murder, suicide or accidents. Four tragic deaths have occurred in Pasadena since Christmas 2012.

It doesn't have to be this way.

After a tragic mass shooting in Australia in 1996, the government organized a mass gun buyback program and the national murder rate dropped in half, and there have been no more mass shootings.

Gun buyback programs have resulted in a significant response by the public with thousands of firearms relinquished in exchange for gift cards. In order for the Pasadena Area Gun buyback event to offer the same incentive, your financial contributions are needed.

Your participation would send a powerful message to the community and to our young people that we will not stand for gun violence and demonstrate that the power of love is greater than the power of a gun.

How to get involved—Fill out the enclosed card in response to the following six ways that we are asking for your participation:

1. Contribute money that will purchase gift certificates that will be given in exchange for a gun:
 - \$50 for non-working firearms
 - \$100 for handguns, rifles or shotguns
 - \$200 for assault (military style) weapon
2. Invite members of your nonprofit and anyone you know to surrender their guns to the Police Dept on **May 11th from 11-3pm**. Guns must be returned unloaded and stored in the trunk of your car. Officers will remove the guns from your trunk and dispose of them properly.

3. Reserve space (\$25) at the Peace-Source fair, also on **May 11th, from 11am to 2pm** on Thurgood Marshall Street (just north of the City Hall, a safe distance from the buyback event) to promote any of the following seven non-violence intervention and prevention initiatives that your nonprofit may be doing: conflict resolution training; after school initiatives including mentoring; mental and public health; parenting and family service; prisoner reentry; economic causes of violence such as the lack of jobs and affordable housing; legislative & policy issues. **We need your response by April 15th.**
4. Volunteer to help make the Gun Buyback and Peace-Source Fair happen on May 11th, contact the PAGBB committee: info@pasadenagunbuyback.org
5. Post a prayer or testimonial to our Facebook page: "Pasadena Area Gun Buyback."
6. Support policies advocated by Mayors Against Illegal Guns, which our Mayor Bogaard has endorsed.

www.mayorsagainstillegalsguns.org

Our plan is to "beat swords into plowshares" (Is.2:4) by melting the guns into a public art-piece symbolizing our unity and commitment to a peaceful community. We ask for a heartfelt commitment to fund and support this campaign.

To contribute financially as an individual or as a business, send a check made out to:

Flintridge Center (with "Gun Buyback" noted in the memo line). Mail or deliver to:
Flintridge Center
236 W. Mountain St., suite 106
Pasadena, CA 91103
[626-449-0839](tel:626-449-0839)

Donations are tax-deductible. You can also contribute via a secure online link at <http://www.Flintridge.org>. **Please send donations by April 15, 2013.** Your business will be recognized for your participation on our promotional/outreach materials and at the Gun Buyback event.

With peace and joy,

Melissa Hofstetter [\(626\) 344-9609](tel:626-344-9609). Jill Shook (626) 675-1316
(Co-chairs of the Pasadena Area Gun Buyback Committee)

If you have questions, please email: info@pasadenagunbuyback.org

"They will beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nations will not raise swords against nations, and they will not learn warfare anymore." – Isaiah 2:4

The Pasadena Area Gun Buyback is an outgrowth of the Peace Parade Coalition. The Peace Parade strives to follow in the footsteps of the Jesus, the Prince of Peace, opposing all forms of violence—including gun violence, the international weapons trade, drones, torture, and war itself. The Peace Parade Coalition believes it is possible, with God's help, to create a peaceful community and a peaceful world. Love is more powerful than any weapon.