

Taking Back April: Relay for Nonviolence

As April is historically a very violent month, the Peace Center organizes an event each year to promote nonviolence and to memorialize the victims of violent events. In April 2014, the Peace Center, Social Justice League, and the City of Muncie jointly planned a relay similar to “Relay for Life” to honor the victims of violent events. All teams and participants walked/ran in honor of an organization that supported victims affected by specific violent events: Oklahoma City Bombing, Columbine High School Massacre, Virginia Tech Massacre, and the Boston Marathon Bombing. Throughout the event, there were free activities for all ages of participants as well as an informational fair with social justice related organizations from both Ball State and the surrounding community.

The Center adopted a relay as the theme for this event out of our belief that sports can provide communities with an environment in which individuals can come together to work towards a common goal while showing respect for each other. Numerous participants joined us in using physical activity to bring together the college and the community in an effort to achieve our goal of promoting nonviolence that also mirrors the long marches to freedom, both literal and metaphorical, that peace workers and activists have undertaken to end oppression and violence.

Event Details:

Day: April 13, 2014

Opening Ceremony: 12:30

Relay: 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

Location: Muncie Fieldhouse and Track

About Us

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is an interdisciplinary, university-based unit that pursues research on structural and direct forms of violence and conflict; implements nonviolent strategies to resolve conflict; offers mediation services to individuals, groups, and organizations; and trains people in conflict resolution, mediation, peace-building, leadership, meditation, and sportspersonship skills. It also pursues public diplomacy, sports diplomacy, and cultural exchange as part of local, regional, national, and international projects designed to promote mutual understanding, appreciation, cooperation, and respect.

To stay up to date with news and information about the Peace Center, call (765) 285-1622, [email us](#) to sign up for our discussion list, follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), and sign up for our [newsletters](#)! We welcome hearing from you!