

Thank-You Notes To Scholarship Donors



Sadaqat Sardar from Pakistan

I am really thankful for your support for two sessions of SPI. It is your support which made it possible for me to attend this wonderful training. And I also got the opportunity to see the caring staff and other friends from different cultures. I have learned new experiences and skills, which will be helpful to implement in our working areas in Pakistan.

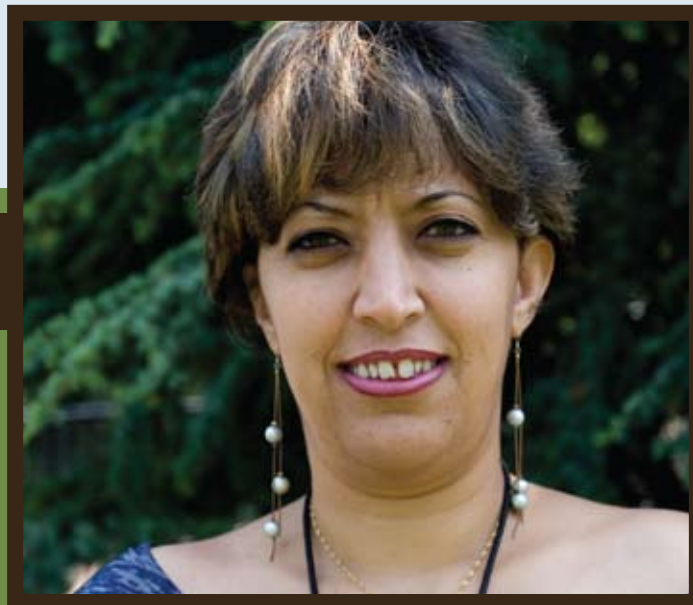
Your support made me able to see American people and culture that is really peaceful and decent.

On behalf of my organization, once again, I would like to thank you for the support.

Reem Mustafa from Israel/Palestine

I hope my letter finds you well. You will never imagine the impact that I get through participating in these SPI courses. Before going to EMU I thought myself knowing a lot about conflict since as you know I am a Palestinian living my whole life in a conflict; but all of a sudden I found myself analyzing my whole life in a microscopic way, and going through tiny details about what is going on honestly. It began to be harder but these methods are ones that can somehow apply to most of the conflicts everywhere. Therefore I was able to see the other conflicts as seeing my own; before, I could not ever think about understanding any other conflict as I understand my own.

Being part of one of the peace organizations back home, those courses help me a lot in doing my work since I began to deal with the participants in a more systematic way. I am noticing every single thing now! These courses added knowledge to myself and to my ways of dealing with my job.



Now after all these benefits I found myself obligated to thank you for your generosity and for allowing me to be part of this unique experience. Furthermore, I am with a great pleasure extending my thanks to each and every one of you who were in a way a help for me to be part of SPI.

I am looking forward to being able to finish my masters degree at EMU.

The Summer Peacebuilding Institute (SPI), held each May and June at Eastern Mennonite University, provides intensive instruction in ways to nurture justice and peace at the individual, local, national and international levels. The 12th annual SPI in 2007 attracted 180 participants from 47 countries. SPI 2008 will be held May 5 to June 13, 2008, and will consist of three 7-day sessions and one 5-day session, each with six intensive courses running concurrently. Visit www.emu.edu/spi for more information.

Jacqueline Roebuck Sakho from the United States

My name is Jacqueline Roebuck Sakho and I currently reside in Memphis. I am an Americorp VISTA volunteer serving at the Shelby County Division of Corrections as the Faith-based and Community Outreach Coordinator. The knowledge and experience that I gained during the 2007 SPI has made a tremendous impact on my life. I expected to gain skills; however, I would not have thought it possible to transform the way that I see people, myself and the world in just 10 days. It was an honor to be in the restorative justice class as it gave me the insight to achieve personal growth and allowed me to see justice through a new lens. Currently I am working with a former 1996 SPI attendee on a restorative justice model project that will be infused throughout the state of Tennessee within the juvenile justice system. Also, I am preparing my paper work to apply for the Conflict Transformation MA program at EMU.

Thank you for your graciousness, I will always feel grateful for the phenomenal experience at SPI. It truly was an opportunity of a lifetime.



Sibusisiwe Ncube from Zimbabwe

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude for funding my participation at SPI 2007. I am a woman working as a conflict transformation trainer/facilitator in Zimbabwe and sometimes in the Southern Africa region. As you may be aware, Zimbabwe is experiencing a political and economic crisis that has been getting worse since the year 2000.

Since first coming to SPI in 2005, I have found the training very enriching in terms of deepening my understanding of the field, which translates to more effective training interventions. This year, with the funding received from SPI, I took two classes: Conflict Sensitive Development and Peace Processes - Multi-track Approaches. Both courses were beneficial and very relevant to both my work and my context at this particular time. The instructors were highly experienced and helpful in shaping some of my ideas about how I wanted to apply what I was learning.

Prior to coming to SPI 2007, I was already in the process of setting up an organization called the Institute for Peace and Development in Africa. The primary aim is to provide leadership training to key leaders from different sectors of the economy and get them to re-build trust and relationships that have been broken as a result of the political tensions.

It is my hope that through the negotiation and dialogue skills gained, they may begin to look at the political crisis in a different way and work together to bring about a peaceful resolution. The institute will also train women and youth leaders so that they too can find their space in the political arena and begin to advocate for a peaceful change in the governance of our country.

Once again I would like to say thank you. As donors, you may think you have funded just one participant, but I can assure you that in most cases you will be sowing a seed that will grow and transform many lives in the various conflicted countries in which we live and do our work.

