

## Considering a Gap Year? Consider the *House of Peace*

The House of Peace in Ipswich, Massachusetts, welcomes applications from Waldorf high school graduates who would like to help support our mission: to provide refuge and hospitality to victims of war and people with disabilities. We are committed to the ideals of social therapy and healing community which were inspired by Rudolf Steiner (founder of Waldorf education) and which have been developed worldwide in Camphill communities.



The work of the House of Peace is multifaceted, and as a co-worker you can choose an area of emphasis (while participating in all aspects to some degree):

- **Work with refugees of war**—get to know and help meet the diverse needs of refugee children and families. During the 25 years of our work, we have served refugees from more than 30 countries, from Vietnam in the 1990s to Iraq and Syria today.
- **Work with people with disabilities**—support and learn from the gifts and challenges of people with developmental and other disabilities.
- **Peace and justice work**—take part in the meetings of peace and justice groups, travel to other peace communities, support events and presentations, etc.

Living and working at the House of Peace provides the chance for personal interaction and dialogue with a wide range of practitioners connected with our work, such as peace activists, advocates for the disabled, Waldorf educators, artists, biodynamic farmers, and others. You can also learn about all aspects of work in a small nonprofit organization—collaboration with other agencies, legal issues, referrals, finances, Board of Directors work, etc. Your work will give you experience invaluable in a variety of careers such as social work, occupational therapy, physical therapy, international relations, international communications, law, nonprofit management, peace and justice work, and special education.

The House of Peace is located in historic Ipswich, Massachusetts. We are a short walk to downtown Ipswich, just several miles from the sea, and a short train ride to the cultural riches of Boston. The House of Peace can offer room, board, and a small stipend for your gap year work. For more information, please email or send a letter of interest to:

The House of Peace  
1 High Street  
Ipswich, MA 01938  
[thehouseofpeace@yahoo.com](mailto:thehouseofpeace@yahoo.com)

(see next page)

## What Do Co-Workers Do at the House of Peace?

Depending on your skills, interests, and areas of emphasis, your tasks as a co-worker may include (but are not limited to):

- Care of the people, house, and land as part of the rhythm of daily life—meeting needs of refugees and people with disabilities, cooking, chopping firewood, cleaning, beekeeping, assisting with handcrafts and artistic activities, etc.
- Communication, outreach, and other organizational support—working with the archives and our Peace and Justice library, newsletter, mailing list, outreach, publicity, bookkeeping, etc.
- Event coordination and support—helping with festivals, lectures, workshops, fundraisers, retreats, study groups, welcoming of school and youth groups for volunteer work, etc.

## Ruta and Krista Smith's Gap Year Experience at the House of Peace, 2013-2014

"As we entered the second half of our senior year at the Denver Waldorf High School, we were unsure of what our next year would look like. We knew, being close twin sisters, that we would like to stick together and that we would like to explore our rather undeveloped interests in "helping others." Interning at the House of Peace was presented to us as an option by our then high school coordinator and friend of the House and it turned out to be the perfect place for us.



We stayed at the House of Peace from September to May. We came to know the special light of people with developmental disabilities who were living at the House. We got to know the wisdom and strength of refugees from Nigeria, Uganda, and Iraq. We became involved with the peace and justice work of the house through the North Shore Coalition for Peace and Justice, joined the Buddhist Walk for a New Spring, and attended a national conference on drone warfare in Washington D.C. We also worked in kindergarten at nearby Waldorf School at Moraine Farm.

Daily life at the House of Peace is full of rhythm and routine. At times it is crowded and bustling with activity; at times life seems to move slower. There are always dishes to be done, floors to sweep, outdoor projects to attend to, and meaningful conversations waiting to happen. For us, it was an opportunity to practice the art of loving, of putting the self aside to attend to the other and to the whole, not just in word but in daily work. This is not always easy, but few things that are truly rewarding are. Beyond this, it was a chance to look into ourselves and try to identify the work that made our hearts sing, which is best done through experience.

We are now sophomores at the University of Bridgeport. Inspired by the diversity and service we encountered at the House of Peace, we are both double majoring, Krista in World Religion and Politics and International Political Economy and Diplomacy, and Ruta in World Religion and Politics and Social Sciences. We visit the House of Peace as often as we can, and have had many wonderful experiences there since our gap year. Indeed, the fact that we can so easily return to be touched by the next lives that pass through has been one of the greatest rewards of our year there.

We highly recommend the House of Peace as a gap year location for anyone with an open heart looking to experience an intimate, challenging, and profound encounter with both the pain and darkness and the love and goodness of this world, on the global, interpersonal, and internal levels."

—Ruta and Krista Smith