Dear friends,

We do not need to be reminded that 2020 was a difficult year, on many fronts. But nonviolence should never be without some way to come forward with a different set of eyes that can see helpful alternatives. Such was the faith — and the challenge — of Mahatma Gandhi. And indeed, a distinct shift of mindset is occurring that brings the work of nonviolence into greater prominence. A critical shift!

2020 saw Metta, in particular, taking up if anything a fuller slate of nonviolent activities; all of them aligned with our educational mission, grounded in principled nonviolence, and quite rewarding even in the midst of many challenges. As soon as the pandemic was clearly on-course, we began greater promotion of our online courses, which we’ve been developing over the past several years. Our first response was our Family Program, because in surveying the needs and fears of families, we understood that supporting parents and children with content focused on nonviolence: respect, collaboration, shared-humanity, it would help to lessen the challenges that would inevitably rise when people are under growing stress. Later in the year, we offered a special version of our Metta Mentors program, with an emphasis on 1-1 learning, supporting individuals who were seeking mentorship and support in their practice and application of nonviolence.

The Metta Center works with a small staff, all of whom share the tasks of work related to fundraising and administration, making every dollar that much more effective in terms of what it accomplishes. We are very proud to share that it is no exaggeration to say that most everything we do at the Metta Center is directly related to programs - from every letter we write to every material we create and every conversation we have. This is how the message of nonviolence spreads.

If you are interested in learning more about making a charitable donation or getting involved in our mission, please contact us at info@mettacenter.org.

Box 98, Petaluma CA 94953 • 707-774-6299 • info@mettacenter.org • www.mettacenter.org

Fiscal Year: April 1, 2020 thru March 31, 2021
Our Mission

To promote the transition to a nonviolent future by making the logic, history, and yet-unexplored potential of nonviolence available to activists and agents of cultural change (which ultimately includes all of us). We help practitioners use nonviolence more safely and effectively, and anyone interested to understand and articulate its power more fully.

While the pandemic offered a challenge for our big Third Harmony project (which includes a film, a book, and a board game) to offer in-person anything, be it screenings or play-groups for the game, we adjusted with the rest of the world to focus with creativity on the shift to online. The film premiered at the Illuminate Film Festival with an amazing panel including Clay Carson, Erica Chenoweth, and Marianne Williamson, and later was shared at the United Nations film festival, gaining greater recognition each month. The film is moving people’s hearts and minds, and we’ve heard more than a few times that people cannot stop crying when they attend a screening. None other than Joanna Macy had this to say: “Hi Michael! I just watched The Third Harmony. I am exhilarated and grateful to you for bringing forth such a fine gift for the future of life on Earth. Hurray! and deep bows.”

We were also pleased to be able to continue our collaboration with KWMR Community Radio and continue offering our radio show, Nonviolence Radio, even without going into the studio. Show guests in 2020 covered up-to-date concerns and movements and reached beyond our local FM airwaves to people around the globe thanks to our collaborations with Waging Nonviolence and Pacifica’s audioport. In fact, we hear from more and more people on a regular basis who justify our on-going attention to our show (now close to 7 years going) by telling us that they found the Metta Center through it, and that they listen regularly. We hope that you do, too.

New friendships and new contacts are always among the most if not the most gratifying development. It is always a blessing to have your support, and we look forward to a not-too-distant future of more sanity, less violence, and greater opportunities still for work in the Mahatma’s spirit of constructive programme.

With Metta,
Michael Nagler, President
Stephanie Van Hook, Executive Director

Board Members and Staff

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Founder/President
Stephanie Van Hook
Executive Director
Matthew Watrous
Project Assistant

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