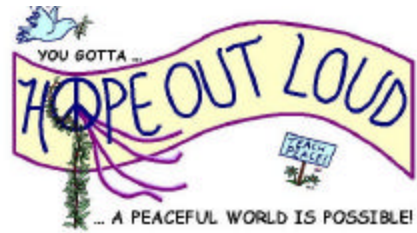


Hope Out Loud

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Dear Friend -

Hope Out Loud needs you. At a time of promise and hope the Peace movement is in danger of letting go even as the wars continue, military spending overshadows our ability to meet the real human needs of our brothers and sisters, banks and financial institutions become the priority for saving and the fight to rescue the environment competes with the corporate agenda.

Is now the time to stop advocating for peace and social justice? We say no – now we must roll up our sleeves and find renewed energy to make peace happen – hope isn't enough, it's just the beginning. It will take hard work to make peaceful world possible. As the peace movement has dissipated and grass roots activists have become complacent there is an even greater need for a day set aside to focus on the many challenges that remain. The wars go on, violence destroys our communities, poverty continues to oppress people here and abroad, and our planet's survival is at stake. Now, more than ever, is the time to bring activists and advocates together. Join us and make the 8th Annual Hope Out Loud Peace and Arts Festival happen on September 20, 2009.

There are many ways to be a part of Hope Out Loud. Make sure you find your place so we can continue what we began so long ago. Discover the power of Hope while continuing to work to make our world the place you want to live in.

Attached is a list of the how you and the organizations and groups you work with can be a part of Hope Out Loud. We have made progress with the changes of the past year but we can't stop now. Plan to be in Bushnell Park on September 20th – plan to be a part of making this the loudest and most profound call for peace ever.

Visit our website, come to an organizing committee meeting, join us at the Hope Out Loud Coffeehouse at La Paloma Sabanera – be sure you are going beyond Hope and actively working to make a peaceful future for us all.

Hope Out Loud 8 Organizing Sponsors

*The Connecticut Coalition for Peace and Justice and The American Friends Service Committee
Supported in part by the Greater Hartford Arts Council and the City of Hartford*