

Mattie's Peace Tree 2014

From the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation



Mattie's Peace Tree 2013 with peace expression ornaments from children and adults representing 32 global countries.

It's fun. It's free. It comes with prizes. And it's for people of all ages, abilities, faiths, and nationalities – all over the world! Yes, it is time for the 3rd Annual *Mattie's Peace Tree* activity offered by the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation.

In previous years, thousands of peace expression “ornaments” have been submitted by children and adults from countries all over the world. We are hoping for another global celebration this year -- many people working together on one project – for peace!

The 2014 theme for the activity is one of Mattie's most popular quotes: *“Peace is possible... choose peace!”*

PEACE TIP: Mattie said that peace can begin within each of us when our basic needs are met – so we can be *okay* with who and how we are as a person. Peace can then grow as we choose to consider and tend to the basic needs of our neighbors – around the block and around the world – so that they, too, can be *okay* with who and how they are as people.

Peace is not about being *like* others, or even *agreeing with* others – instead, Mattie wrote that peace is about choosing to be *with* others, and choosing non-violent ways to express our disagreements. Peace is about choosing to celebrate our similarities – which naturally bring us together, and also our differences – which Mattie called *“unique treasures in the mosaic of humanity.”*

Participation in this activity is quick and simple, and follows Mattie's *“Three Choices for Peace”* concept.

1. **Reflect** on the theme (*Peace is possible... choose peace!*) and discover the peace expression you want to share for the peace tree, and that could become an “ornament.” What image, person, place, keepsake, doodle, words, craft or other creativity might express your reflection?
2. **Respond** to the theme and design your peace expression through art or word, doodle or craft, keepsake or photograph – so that it becomes an ornament. Consider working with others – your family, your school, your co-workers – and making a small peace tree of your own, with many peace expression ornaments (actual items or photographs of the items).
3. **Reach out** with the theme by displaying your peace expression ornament(s) in your home, yard, school, office, or community – and by e-mailing (HeartsongBooks@gmail.com) or social media sharing ([#MattiesPeaceTree14](https://twitter.com/MattiesPeaceTree14)) a photo of your expression and/or display to us. We will post your peace expression on our activity page, and add your “ornament” to the global peace tree that will be featured on our website throughout the month of December.

Peace ornament photos **received by November 30** will be posted on the global *Mattie's Peace Tree 2014* that will be throughout December. Also, all participants who submit photos by the deadline will be entered in our free, random drawing for prizes – such as a signed Mattie book, peace wristbands, inspiration cards, and more.

In addition to being eligible for prizes, families, teachers, after-school organizations, and community leaders who turn this activity into a group project can earn a free *Peace Activity Certificate* and recognition by Mattie's Foundation.

Please share your photos (**include your name and country or nationality**) by e-mail: HeartsongBooks@gmail.com or by Twitter/Facebook post with #MattiesPeaceTree14
Learn more about Mattie, this activity, and our peace certificates at www.MattieOnline.com.