

## WFWP Chicago, IL Hosts Community-Building Through Bridges of Peace

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In the spirit of unity and the pursuit of a more peaceful and harmonious community, the Bridge of Peace event on October 7, 2023, at Life Center COGIC in Chicago, IL, served as a shining example of the power of collaboration and shared values. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the passionate leaders of The Barrio Foundation, Dr. Robert Renteria, and The Chicago Hispanic Community of Peace, led by Mr. Jhon and Ms. Marina Acevedo, for joining together in this meaningful endeavor.

With 45 participants coming together, guided by our Emcee, Rev. Fannie Smith, and inspired by the vision and leadership of our Founders, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, rooted in the logic of love, this event illuminated the path toward building bridges of peace.



*Dr. Robert Renteria and Dr. Marina Acevedo hold up their Bridge of Peace pledges.*

Ambassador Ms. Mary Swopes, founder of the Mahogany Heritage Foundation also shared remarks and introduced Ms. Senabella Gill, a gifted, dynamic composer and soloist who delivered a heart-moving song entitled: "Pray." This prepared us for the interfaith "Prayer and Water ceremony." Ten women of various faith backgrounds stepped forward and formed a circle, offered individual prayers and then poured their containers of water into one large bowl, symbolizing unity, peace and healing. Each met with a partner and five pairs of new sisters were formed and created the opportunity to get better acquainted.

The Bridge Crossing ceremony, led by Dr. Robert Renteria and Dr. Marina Acevedo,

marked the first step in our collective journey towards bridge building.



As we concluded the event, participants were encouraged to find a partner and contemplate their individual steps towards peacebuilding, ensuring that the spirit of the Bridge of Peace continues to inspire positive actions in our community. With unity, shared purpose, and determination, we embark on a path of lasting peace and solidarity.

