



**MATTIE J.T. STEPANEK FOUNDATION**  
**E-PEACE UPDATE ~ MARCH, 2011**  
**WWW.MATTIEONLINE.COM**

**Hello Peace Champions, members of Mattie's Peace Network,  
and friends of Mattie's Foundation!**

**General update:**

The *Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation* continues to make progress in many areas! In the next month, our website will have a whole new look, and a number of new brochures will be available that provide information about our newest activities and programs. Because we are a small volunteer-based organization, things take a bit of time to develop; but everything we do ripples out in a good way, touching the world with hope and peace that grows from Mattie's message.

**Timely news:**

- 45 personalized gift bricks were ordered for a spring installment in the Peace Garden area of the *Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park*. Photos of the new bricks will be posted on the website when installed. Also, a list of all champions who have sponsored a gift brick will be listed on the website as a part of the revision! Incentive gifts will be mailed soon to those who participated in our 'brick special.' New brick orders are always welcome!
- *Mattie's Foundation* has partnered with the *March of Dimes* for their April 30 *March for Babies* event, which will be held in the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park in Rockville, MD. Mattie's mom, Jeni, will say a few words before the event as the Honorary Chair. *March of Dimes* is helping to spread awareness of *Mattie's Foundation* through this collaborative effort. We look forward to additional collaborative endeavors with other organizations as well, especially as we move forward with our new "Partnership Program" opportunities.

**March message of inspiration:**



**Palestinian Teen Peace Journalist, Mahmoud Jabari, with Mattie's mom, Jeni, during a 2010 visit to the Mattie J.T. Stepanek Park. Mahmoud and Jeni will both be speaking during the 2011 Just Peace Summit Opening Ceremonies later in March.**

The *Mattie J.T. Stepanek Foundation* signed a joint statement with several other peace organizations and helped spread the word about a global petition requesting the release of Palestinian teen journalist and peacemaker, Mahmoud Jabari. Mahmoud was arrested while reporting on the need for peace during the 2/25 Hebron uprising. Jeni Stepanek has mentored this young man through the *Three Dot Dash Global Teen Leadership* program since 2008 (more info at [www.threedotdash.org](http://www.threedotdash.org)). Mahmoud uses photography and words to bring Israeli and Palestinian people together through the organization he created called "*Lens for Change*." Mahmoud was released and found innocent of all charges after six days of imprisonment in an Israeli jail. Since his release, he is even more passionate about his role as a peacemaker, and he has plans to encourage Palestinians and Israelis to work collaboratively in efforts to secure peace. Mahmoud and Jeni will both be presenting during the 3/25 Opening Ceremonies for the *2011 Just Peace Summit* in NYC as 32 new international teens gather to learn about peace, choices, and balancing the basic needs of all people.

**NOTE:** You are receiving this communication because you signed up as a *Peace Champion* or as member of *Mattie's Peace Network* on Mattie's website ([www.mattieonline.com](http://www.mattieonline.com)), or because you have sent a communication to Mattie's mom about how Mattie's message of Heartsongs, hope, and peace have made a positive impact on your life. Please feel free to pass this communication along to others. If you do not wish to receive additional monthly e-Peace updates, send a request for your name and address to be removed from our mailing list to [heartsongbooks@aol.com](mailto:heartsongbooks@aol.com).