

Every month since February 1987 the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation has produced one-hour TV programs on issues related to peace, social justice, economics, the environment, and nonviolence.

The Olympia FOR's program airs several times every week for the entire month on Thurston Community Television (TCTV), channel 22 for Thurston County's cable TV subscribers. You can see TCTV's schedule at [www.tctv.net](http://www.tctv.net).

You can also watch the program described below (and more than 90 of our previous interview programs and special programs) at the Olympia FOR's website, [www.olympiafor.org](http://www.olympiafor.org). Simply click the TV programs link to reach [www.olympiafor.org/tv\\_programs.htm](http://www.olympiafor.org/tv_programs.htm), scroll down, and click the program you want to watch.

Many of our website's TV program listings also include a .pdf document describing the program.

## JANUARY 2010

# "AFGHANISTAN'S YOUTH PEACE VOLUNTEERS"

by GLEN ANDERSON, PRODUCER AND HOST OF THIS TV SERIES

The Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's January 2010 TV program begins with short video coverage of some young people in Afghanistan. A 3-minute video is titled, "Afghan Youth Face a Nobel Peace of War," and a 4-minute video is titled, "Afghan Children Smile for Love"

This is very different from the mainstream news coverage that misinforms Americans. A group of young people in Afghanistan, the "Afghan Youth Peace Volunteers," are learning and promoting a sweet, but serious call for nonviolence and reconciliation rather than violence and the kind of dysfunctional political manipulation that has killed some of their family members.

These young people in the Bamiyan Province of Afghanistan have created a series of short videos to express their deep desire for peace. Some people in Olympia, Washington, are supporting their work for peace.

Bamiyan Province is near the center of Afghanistan, but you can see from their videos that the area seems very remote. These kids live in a harsh climate very high in the mountains. You might remember Bamiyan Province as the location where the giant and ancient Buddhist statues existed until the Taliban destroyed them in 2001.

Our three local guests are Dennis Mills, Jasmine "Jazzy" Ramsey, and Doug Mackey. Dennis, Jazzy and Doug have been inspired by these young people in Afghanistan. All three of our guests have been sharing these young Afghans' message of peace and understanding to our community and beyond. Both Dennis and Doug are very active with the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation. Jazzy attends The Evergreen State College.

We show another 4-minute video, “Our Journey to Smile,” and a 3-minute video, “Love is How We’ll Run.” These young Afghans are grounded in humane values and insights from Gandhi and King.

To publicly share their yearning for peace, they vigiled in their local community from October 22 to October 27, and people in Olympia vigiled in solidarity here.

Local folks have been sharing their message with young people here. A 7-minute video covers part of a teleconference at Olympia High School, and ends with Principal Matt Grant speaking supportively.

These Afghan kids began a “Journey to Smile” and invited people to join with them. Now people from Olympia and other communities have joined with them on their “Journey to Smile.” These Afghan kids are really on a journey to peace.

The old adage says, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” So perhaps a journey to peace begins with a few young people’s smiles.

We invite you to connect with them. Please visit [www.OurJourneyToSmile.com](http://www.OurJourneyToSmile.com) and [www.youthpeacevolunteers.org](http://www.youthpeacevolunteers.org) Later they started additional websites on similar themes. People from Olympia and around the world meet with them and other global peacemakers once a month through [www.globaldaysoflistening.org](http://www.globaldaysoflistening.org)