

Welcome and thank you for taking an interest in this CD.

The following collection of words, songs and raps was made possible by the generosity of several children and teens living throughout the US. I spent a good deal of 2006 traveling across America, going state to state, town to town, interviewing kids (ages 3-19) regarding their well wishes for the people of Iraq, as well as their thoughts about peace and life in general.

The inspiration for this project came simply, without any particular warning or fanfare. The thought entered my mind one morning that a CD such as this would be a very good thing to create- as a means of helping to establish communication between younger generations around the world. This is a humanitarian project- not in affiliation with any government or political agenda. The goal of this endeavor is simply to offer and express love.

After sending out a few e-mails about the idea, word spread quickly and people from around the country began offering help. First, an 83-year-old woman from the West Coast donated money for the necessary portable recording gear. Soon after, I began receiving invitations from teachers, families and youth groups to come and interview their kids. People- mostly teachers- offered portions of their small salaries for travel expenses. Once on the road, many families invited me into their homes, providing meals, friendship and a safe place to sleep. Hotel owners gave me rooms for free. When people heard that I was running out of time and funds, they donated money for recording equipment and production, offered equipment of their own, and voluntarily interviewed kids in their regions.

The package you are now holding is the result of the love and sacrifice of many. Several people- too many to mention here- have generously given of their time and talent in *all* aspects of this production. Please visit [www.EagleVisionInc.org](http://www.EagleVisionInc.org) for details.

Most generous of all were the children and teens that volunteered to be interviewed for the CD. Their clarity, insight, innocence and wisdom shine with inspiration. The kids provided their own material for most of the musical interludes. On the first track, ten-year-old Katie wrote and performed her piano piece specifically for the kids in Iraq. The melody and lyrics: "Peace is good. Peace is beautiful. Peace is love." were created for the Iraqi people by a group of children at a Montessori school during their recess. On the second track, Omari, John, Ceasar and Eddie offer original songs/ raps. Ceasar and Eddie, both 18 years old, recorded their interviews while strapped into wheelchairs. Both are in advanced stages of muscular dystrophy and were, in fact, too weak to hold the microphone. The utter power and conviction of their Spirit is a gift to us all. Every child and youth involved in this project made a unique and irreplaceable contribution.

These kids have much to teach us and I welcome you to listen to them with open hearts. In truth, this CD is for all generations. Please enjoy it, share it with others, and remember to be yourself in a world that desperately needs you.

May all children on this earth know peace. May the children in Iraq, and in all countries, know they are loved. And may we, as adults, take every opportunity to express compassion.

In Gratitude,

-Ruth  
Founder, Eagle Vision Initiatives

*Copies of this CD are currently being delivered to families in Iraq via humanitarian channels. The adults there have every hope of recording messages back if at all possible.*

*“Well Wishes and Blessings’ is a fantastic program that is building bridges between our world’s youth. By developing dialogues between young people, Ruth and her team have given us an important tool for developing understanding and therefore lasting peace. It is critical that we act now to support programs like Well Wishes and Blessings - not only to touch individual lives, but to make this a safer world for all.”*

-Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE  
Founder – the Jane Goodall Institute &  
UN Messenger of Peace