Rondine Cittadella della Pace

We choose young people who reject war to become tomorrow's leaders

The Association Rondine Cittadella della Pace plays an active role in promoting a culture of dialogue and peace, with the International Student Hall acting as its focal point. Located in the medieval village of Rondine (Arezzo), the International Student Hall is a residence for students from countries in conflict, such as the Balkans, the Caucasus region, the Middle East and Africa. Here students thrive and enjoy a unique life experience of living together while participating in training and study. Once the project youths have completed their course of studies (a Bachelorâ€™s or Masterâ€™s Degree) they will return to their countries of origin. To their professional and civilian lives, they will take with them the skills, knowledge and commitment to find real possibilities for dialogue and a peaceful coexistence. All artistic, cultural and spiritual activities which are promoted at the Cittadella are interwoven within the training of the young people at the International Student Hall. This makes Rondine a permanent "European School of Peace" which is open to everyone. The activities are divided into diverse forms and given at different times to allow maximum participation. In November 2007, a new foundation, Fondazione di ComunitÃ per Rondine, was created to support the Association, in order to give strength and stability to the projects of the International Student Hall. Rondine recommends a method of conflict resolution, demonstrating it with a tangible concrete experience at its International Hall of Residence. Rondineis a small medieval village in the Italian Tuscan province of Arezzo. Here, young people, from various war-torn parts of the world, who have been identified by history as "enemies" or who have different cultures and traditions, study and live together, to become tomorrowâ€™s leaders. Everything sustains their suspicions, mistrust, resentment, revenge and hatred. They come to Rondine, to strip off some of their preconceptions, to touch their enemy and look into their eyes. They live, not for a time of emotion, but for a time of academic training. They begin to change. Something transforms within the inner soul of each student. This in turn changes relationships, changes the consciousness of their personal and work history and changes their lives. A change that reverses the way in which they see each other and how they perceive the world. From Rondine, in Tuscany, they return home with their own history "upside down," ready to reverse the history of the world where they live. Our Mission: Promoting conflict resolution through the experiences of young people who are able to uncover a real person within their enemy.

Project author or developer:
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Where:
IT / Italia / Provincia di Arezzo

Website:
www.rondine.org/

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