



# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PEACE



## Nayan K.

Central Michigan University, BA, Nonprofit and Public Administration,

As she starts a new career in a new city, a recent college graduate from Central Michigan shares her appreciation for the continuing support she received at Peace throughout her childhood and education, which made it all possible.

Nayan started attending Peace's after-school and summer programs in 5th grade and remembers, with some disbelief, that Peace would pick her up at her charter school all the way out on South Wagner Road. Peace's Alternatives for Youth after-school program and the summer Leadership Development Camp, both for middle school students, made big impressions. Nayan shared:

“ Early on Paul Johnson really believed in our potential to do great things, that we all could be great leaders. The staff welcomed having adult conversations with us, even as young kids. We tackled some big topics that others may have considered us too young to comprehend. Peace wasn't afraid to teach us how to navigate hard conversations about political issues, stereotypes, socio-economic status, and more. It all helped lay an important foundation, as well as build my confidence as an inclusive leader.

Another thing Peace did for me was believe in my creative potential as an artist. I used to have fun drawing portraits of the staff; some even proudly hung them in the front window of their offices. This small and kind gesture showed their belief in my ability . . . They also helped me go to Blue Lake Summer Camp after my 8th grade year, and helped me find New Tech High School.

Peace's College & Career Prep Club helped me with all my college applications. They helped me study for the SAT and ACTs, and helped me get a really good scholarship that paid for my first year. Though my dream school was Penn State, they helped me refocus that goal as a grad school option. I'm so glad they supported my going to Central, since I discovered I could major in Nonprofit and Public Administration there.

Bonnie gave me valuable advice about working at small nonprofits—how everyone has to take on multiple roles and responsibilities to support the organization and the rest of the staff. He shared ideas about ways to show appreciation for volunteers and staff, which I've shared in my new role. I'm so thankful I can support myself and work at a career where I can help other people. Peace showed me how.”

Changing People's Lives for 50 years.



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