PRESS RELEASE

Students join together in unity for Winter Park's 20th Annual "Trees for Peace" event

WINTER PARK, FL, *an internationally recognized, award winning city with multiple accredited agencies* **(February 6, 2023)** The City of Winter Park and Multifaith Education Project are proud to announce the **20th Annual Trees for Peace Interfaith Tree Planting Project, Tuesday, February 14, at 11:15 a.m.,** in Mead Botanical Garden, located at 1300 S. Denning Drive. The program will be led by Debbie Medina, Director of the Multifaith Education Project, and include remarks by a city official and Urban Forestry Manager Stefano Alvernia.

Over 30 Christian, Jewish and Muslim students and faculty, representing The Geneva School, Jewish Academy of Orlando, and Leaders Preparatory School, will join together to plant trees for peace. In recognition of their commitment to work together in the spirit of unity, the students will plant native trees and bless them in traditional manner according to each faith.

The City of Winter Park's Urban Forestry Division will supervise the students in planting the trees. In addition, the division will donate a tree to each school so the students can hold their own tree-planting ceremony on their respective school properties to remind them of this event for years to come. The City of Winter Park's Sustainability Division will also be in attendance to engage and educate the students on sustainability efforts.

This unique tree-planting project represents a continuing effort to encourage children to appreciate diversity while building positive relationships with people of other faiths. The Trees for Peace project is also dedicated to teaching students to be stewards of the earth by learning lessons about environmental responsibility from each faith and sharing them with one another.

For more information regarding the city's **20th Annual Trees for Peace Interfaith Tree Planting Project**, please contact 407-599-3495. ###