



# Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition

POB 20085 Toledo, Ohio 43620

Dear NWOPC member,

September 27, 2005

When the Northwest Ohio Peace Coalition began weekly demonstrations to protest the invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, we had no idea that an active, outspoken peace movement would still be so essential in 2005. But today, more than ever, we must be bold in our protests of war and injustice!

Since our formation we have

- Met regularly to plan actions and educational events
- Maintained a lively and informative email list
- Staged picket lines for peace every Sunday
- Held public discussions on issues like the Patriot Act, military recruiting in schools, the Downing St. Memo
- Sponsored the "Eyes Wide Open" display at the Lucas County Courthouse. Over 1100 pairs of military boots and a thousand civilian shoes depicted the human cost of war
- Funded and staffed the Faces of Iraq, a moving photo exhibit
- Spread our message that War is Not the Answer through demonstrations, vigils, lobbying and letter writing campaigns
- Formed a Student and Family Privacy Committee to stop military access to students and their information
- Sent 2 busses to Washington for the national *End the Occupation*, demonstration on September 24, 2005.
- Created and maintained Arlington Toledo, a display of over 2,000 tombstones labeled with the names of a military person who died in Afghanistan and Iraq

Arlington Toledo is an awesome sight and a labor of love. Untold volunteer hours and months of hard work went in to cutting, drilling, painting, erecting, transporting, storing and repairing the tomb stones. You may have seen the news that the entire exhibit was vandalized during the night on September 9<sup>th</sup> at the UT campus. It took hours of work to reconstruct Arlington Toledo at UT but committed NWOPC members did just. But tombstones were damaged and broken.

This is the first time we have written our members for financial support. We have so much work to do! We need to repair and replace almost 200 tombstones. We need funds to duplicate the great literature we have for our information tables. When the government calls for a draft we want to be prepared. We have scheduled a workshop in January to train counselors. And we hope to communicate better with our growing membership. We want to reach people with a website and snail mail. All of this takes more money than we have.

Your financial help will be greatly appreciated and will go directly to the work of peace. We have no paid staff and no overhead. We have been getting by financially by using our trusty donation jar but these times call for us to be even more ambitious and active. We hope you can support us with a donation and join us at our next demonstration or meeting. For more information call 419 242-7317.

Peace, NWOPC steering committee:

**Linda See, Terry Lodge, Steve Miller, Trudy Bond, Karen Wolf, Laura and Dennis Hampton**