

# IVP IN ACTION CASE STUDY

Applying an Innovative and  
Equitable Therapeutic Tool to  
Promote Healing

Louis D. Brown  
Peace Institute



[Louis D. Brown Peace Institute \(LDBPI\)](#) trained Boston Community Engagement Alternatives to Violence Network members on an innovative therapeutic tool called Peace Play in Urban Settings. Peace Play was adapted from Sandtray-Worldplay, a tool used by the children of the September 11 victims. It is a healing technique that allows people to reflect on their strengths and struggles using a sand tray and figurines to represent different parts of their lives. This training acted as a complement to other community activities by providing additional tools for participants to process their trauma.

## HIGHLIGHTS

LDBPI provided the three month Extended Peace Play Practitioners training to 40 individuals, including youth workers, youth program managers and directors, social workers, staff of the police department, clinicians, members of the re-entry community.

Participants not only learned therapeutic tools and how to engage in non-traditional healing techniques but they received personal healing in the process.



**40**  
Practitioners  
trained



**91%**  
Gained new skills &  
individual healing

## APPROACH

In the Peace Play Model, a “witness” or “facilitator” is an individual who observes, listens, and facilitates the interactions and narratives of the participants builder without directly engaging in the active play, without judgment or interruption. The witness approaches the process with respect and humility, guided by principles, such as love, unity, faith, hope, courage, justice, and forgiveness. A “builder” or “participant” in Peace Play is someone who actively participates in shaping and creating the scenarios, stories, and outcomes of the play. The builder is the expert in their life and leads the direction of the play and recognizes that the participant is the architect of their own inner healing.

## KEY PARTNER



**Mass General Hospital Center  
for Community Health  
Improvement's Boston  
Community Engagement  
Team**

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

- 1 Using Non-Traditional Healing Methods Creates Safe Spaces**  
Peace Play in Urban Settings is not a substitute for therapy, but it can create a safe, non-judgmental healing space for communities in trauma
- 2 Building Trust is Essential**  
Building trust and connectedness are central component of a successful Peace Play session
- 3 Reflecting Diversity in All Elements is Important**  
Participants want to see themselves in the miniatures and want miniatures that reflect more diversity (LGBTQIA+)
- 4 Establishing Relationships is Crucial**  
Having established relationships is crucial for identifying new practitioners and offering Peace Play in a variety of locations.



## LEARN MORE



Explore more and connect with the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute and their work with Mass General Hospital Center for Community Health Improvement's Boston Community Engagement Team

<https://ldbpeaceinstitute.org/peace-play-in-urban-settings/>

 **Massachusetts General Hospital**  
Founding Member, Mass General Brigham