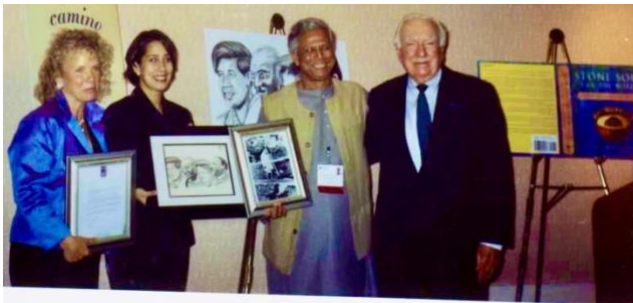


Tribute to Arun Gandhi

It has been a privilege to work with many humanitarian legends and their families. This year we lost a dear friend, Arun Gandhi. A member of the Institute's International Advisory Council, we're grateful for his leadership and support. It was an honor to work with him on writing the stories about him and his grandfather for both Stone Soup books.



In 2003 we created the Institute's Gandhi Award to recognize Dr. Muhammad Yunus for his groundbreaking micro-enterprise programs. Walter Cronkite was pleased to present the award to Dr. Yunus at our Celebration of Heroes event in New York City. It was a special moment to revel in the glow of their mutual respect when they first greeted each other. "You are my hero!" exclaimed Dr. Yunus. And he was moved when Mr. Cronkite read Arun Gandhi's words on presenting the Award. *Much like Gandhi's Salt March, which freed India's poor, your microcredit movement is freeing the world's poor so we can all work together to build a more peaceful world.* President Bill Clinton had also sent a letter: *As you receive this meaningful award, you can take great pride in knowing that your efforts have made a real difference in countless lives and will continue to be felt*

for many years to come -- and you deserve all the accolades you get.

Just three years later, Dr. Yunus received the Nobel Peace Prize. At this prestigious event business, government and global leaders representing millions of people signed Our Pledge.

Our Pledge

We accept Walter Cronkite's challenge for a new kind of engaged activism, to be a force for positive change in the world. We will join with the Global Hero Award recipients and carry on the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi, Eleanor Roosevelt, Cesar Chavez and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to improve the conditions of our neighborhoods, our countries, and the world through individual action and working with others. Together, we will forge new directions for the global economy, bridge the gap between the haves and have-nots, and strive to build a more peaceful, sustainable world.

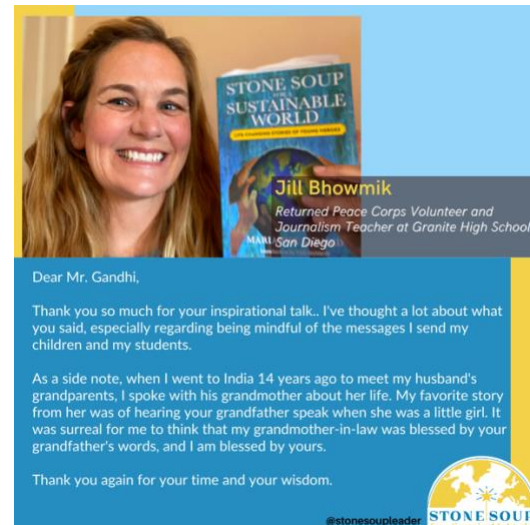


Then in 2015, Arun traveled to Martha's Vineyard to fulfill his promise to join our youth leaders for our 15th Sustainability Summit. Young people from the Vineyard, Hawaii, and other island communities were deeply touched by his presence. They gathered around him, sitting on the floor, curled up on couches, intently listening in awe to his every word. They loved hearing of how as a 12-year-old, he went to live with his grandfather. This precious time together left an indelible mark on their souls. They continued talking about it for years to come.



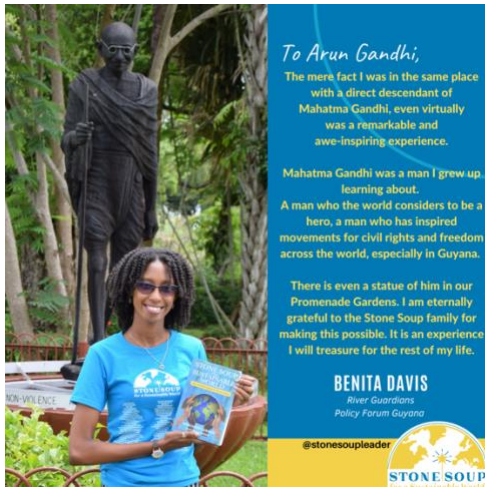
For 15-year-old Chris Aring Sharkovitz, it was a life-changing experience. As we shared in the story “[Be the Change](#)” in *Stone Soup for a Sustainable World: Life-Changing Stories of Young Heroes*, Chris was inspired to use his tech-savvy knowledge to shape the Institute’s online platform in order to fulfill Arun’s dream of bringing our educational tools to his schools in South Africa and India. For the next eight years Chris worked with our team to develop the *Stone Soup Climate Education Curriculum & Platform*.

The Institute’s International Advisory Council features Dr. Yunus and other dignitaries and several Emeriti (Deceased) who have passed. Led by Walter Cronkite they include Marietta Primicias Goco, recipient of the Institute’s Eleanor Roosevelt Award, for her leadership with microcredit/microfinance in the Philippines, and Avon Mattison, founder of Pathways to Peace, and a champion at the United Nations to amplify young people’s voices.



Chris was thrilled to see Arun again in 2022 at our virtual book launch, along with the other young leaders from 38 countries featured in the book. [Video](#)

Last summer, Chris joined us virtually for our 19th Sustainability Summit from his hospital room while waiting for a double transplant. “It’s crazy looking over the last 8 years,” he said. “To see how the Institute’s Curriculum is now a fully-fledged curriculum - and I got to be part of it all these years.” Sadly, Chris passed this week from his long-term health condition. But his spirit lives on in our shared vision- joining hands with Arun Gandhi and our other legends who have passed.



In my dreams, I see these brave, good souls gathered together, creating a circle of positive energy around our earth - sending us their blessings. Giving us the wisdom, strength, and courage to do whatever we can to support all our young people so we can care for this fragile planet and look forward to a better day.