

Wednesday

October 15, 2003

Tim Warneka, left, speaks at a dedication of a Peace Pole Tuesday at Crossroads. Warneka, a former Crossroads staff member, donated the Peace Pole to the agency. At right is Jim Baldwin, a Crossroads board member. The Peace Pole is inscribed with the message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth," in four languages.



Keeping peace in our thoughts

■ Peace Pole, donated by Wickliffe resident, dedicated at Crossroads

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It's easy to see Tim Warneka believes in peace.

Because he strongly believes it is important to recognize peaceful efforts, especially during a time of war, the Wickliffe resident donated a hand-crafted 9-foot-tall wooden Peace Pole to Crossroads.

On Tuesday, about 60 people joined Warneka in a ceremony to dedicate the pole at the agency's office on Munson Road in Mentor.

Crossroads is a private, nonprofit, community-based mental health/alcohol/drug addiction agency that specializes in services for children, adolescents and their families in Lake County.

Crossroads receives partial funding from the Lake County Alcohol Drug Addiction Mental Health Services Board.

Warneka said Crossroads' new Peace Pole was constructed by an artist from Cincinnati who spent about six weeks crafting it.

The pole has four plates inscribed with the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four languages: English, Spanish, Japanese and Swahili.

The World Peace Prayer Society, a nonprofit, nondenominational organization founded in 1955, started the Peace Pole Project in Japan.

The project was launched with a dedication to uplift humankind toward harmony and cooperation rather than disagreements and conflict.

A Peace Pole signals the public to keep peace prevalent in our thoughts.

To date, more than 100,000 Peace Poles have been dedicated in more than 160 countries around the world.

Jim Baldwin, Crossroads board president, said Warneka incorporated his skills in the martial arts during 10 years of work as a clinic counselor at the agency as a way to promote peaceful solutions to problems.

Warneka, a black-belt in the martial art "Aikido," which means "out of peace," said those skills he learned from the craft helped him relate to those affected by violence.

"I offer this peace pole to the Crossroads' community as a small token of both my thanks and appreciation," Warneka said.