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MAKING WAVES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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Young activist and famous friend promote peace

By Yvonne Pesquera

CARLSBAD — Frances Fisher, an acclaimed actress (she most famously played Rose's mother in the movie, "Titanic") was invited to stay at 9-year-old Hana Craft's home in Carlsbad for a slumber party Sept. 21. Fisher was in town to attend San Diego's Walk for Peace in Balboa Park on Sept. 22.

Hana is a member of Kids for Peace, a local group comprised of kids ages 3 to 16 who participate in activities to promote peace. Hana met Fisher in Washington, D.C., at the Peace Alliance Conference in February. The two became fast friends and have been e-mailing each other ever since.

Kids for Peace nominated Fisher for a Peace Hero award and she graciously accepted. Hana then invited Fisher to stay at her home for the night. A few days before Fisher's arrival, Hana had the evening all planned out. "We're going to make pizzas, sundaes and bottle cap necklaces," she said. "I doubt she's done that before." For the Peace Hero presentation, Hana planned on singing Christina Aguilera's song, "Beautiful" to Fisher.

"I have come to realize that being 'against' anything only creates more of the same conflicting, polarizing dynamic," Fisher said. "In my opinion,



CELEBRITY SLUMBER PARTY Acclaimed actress Frances Fisher had a slumber party at Hana Craft's house in Carlsbad the night before the Walk for Peace rally in Balboa Park. The two met at the Peace Alliance Conference in Washington, D.C., in February. *Courtesy photo*

being 'for' diplomatic communication and conflict resolution through understanding is a much more constructive way to live — and peace would seem to be a natural byproduct of

this way of thinking and being."

Hana's mother, Jill McManigal, co-founded Kids for Peace in 2005. She had been a schoolteacher in Chula Vista

and was very active in the Scouts. "I started Kids for Peace because I wanted to empower kids to feel their best and make the world a better place. I felt there was an

urgency to do something as I had children. The group just started with my daughter Hana and my son Bodie."

Jill McManigal said Kids for Peace has local chapters in coastal North County and meets once a month. They also take field trips, such as visiting patients at a Veteran's Administration Hospital and cleaning up a beach on Earth Day. "Last year, 26 of us visited an orphanage in Baja, Mexico. We gave the orphans 'peace packs' (knapsacks filled with toys and goodies), played games and put on a magic show."

At the peace conference in Washington, D.C., Hana gave some local congressmen a book that Kids for Peace had created. "Peace Through Our Eyes" is a collection of drawings and statements by kids addressing the topic of what peace means to children.

"The driving force of Kids for Peace is peace on earth so all children can sleep safely and pursue their dreams. It is a lifelong mission we have. We want to empower our children to reach out beyond themselves," Jill McManigal said.

Hana, who is a student at Jefferson Elementary and involved in many sports, said "Peace means a lot of things to me. It means no war and play with my dog."