

ADRI HAMAEL BIO

Adri Hamael is a proud Canadian citizen. He is 39. He was born in Jordan 5 years after his family was displaced by the 1967 War between the Jewish and Arab Armies. His family currently lives near Ramallah-Palestine under Israeli occupation.

Adri is currently the Founder and Executive Director of One Team United for Development and Peace Soccer Society (ONETEAM) www.oneteamunited.ca

(ONETEAM) is a not for profit, non partisan Canadian Society. ONETEAM exists to promote social change and global peace through Soccer (football).

ONETEAM currently runs four soccer programs: An Annual International Soccer Tournament, an Annual International Soccer camp for women from war torn regions, a local and International Soccer equipment program, and a Vancouver -Based feed the athlete program catering to disadvantage soccer communities.

Adri is an avid soccer player and organizer. Adri played soccer since he was able to walk. After years of dedication, he graduated from the Al-Arabi Football Club Soccer Academy in Jordan. His dedication and hard work earned him a spot on the Al-Arabi Football Club Premier team. The club is currently one of Jordan's top 10 premier teams. In Canada, He played for Westward United FC (WWU FC). WWU FC won the North Shore Men Soccer League 5 years in a row.

For the past 16 years since Adri Hamael has immigrated to Canada from Jordan, he has continued to demonstrate a passion for promoting intercultural relations through creative mediums close to his heart; a passion that started long before making Canada his home.

In 2003 Adri started a multi cultural dialogue group aiming to promote intercultural understanding, and to bridge the gap of hatred between Canadians of Arab and Jewish backgrounds. Adri was so inspired by the power of the discussions that were happening within this group that in 2004 he co-founded Peace it Together Society www.peaceittogether.ca. The aim of the society was to empower Palestinian and Israeli youth from the Middle East and Canadians here in Canada to promote peace through filmmaking and dialogue. During the program here in Canada, the youth were taught dialogue and filmmaking techniques. In culturally mixed groups (Palestinian, Israeli and Canadian), the youth were asked to make films about the conflict using their recent teachings. After the program, Adri travelled throughout Canada with many of the Canadian youth supporting them to show their films with the rest of the country in over 200 screenings. The Canadian youth, of a multitude of cultural backgrounds, and Adri delivered a powerful message during these screenings of peace and tolerance. To date the Canadian youth have continued to be inspired and many have travelled to other areas of the world promoting these messages, begun university with focuses on peace education, and continue to use the films as a tool to promote cultural understanding. Under his leadership at Peace it together, the organization was awarded the Vancouver Cultural Harmony Award and United Nation Association and BC human Rights award. Adri served as Peace it Together Co Executive Director from 2004-2009.

Adri's knowledge of the intercultural relations and history of Middle Eastern affairs has positioned him as a local resource for Canadian media and groups and individuals interested in Canadian, Jewish, Arab affairs. He has been asked to speak on radio and television programs, to news media.

Since he immigrated to Canada, Adri has raised more than half a million dollars in cash and in-kind contributions to multicultural, and humanitarian causes. Most recently he was asked to speak at the Global Civic forum where he was selected as one of the fifteen most interesting contributors to the cultural life of Vancouver.

Adri has contributed many volunteer years since coming to Canada. For 5 years he served as a big brother for Big Brothers and Sisters Canada, where he mentored a child from a male absence home. Adri Joined big brother because Big Brothers embodies the principles of diversity and welcomes participants regardless of race, religion, and culture.

For an additional 5 years, he served as a wish granter for the Make -A- Wish Foundation where he granted wishes to children with life threatening illnesses. In his years with this inclusive organization, Adri granted wishes to Canadian children from different religions, races, and cultures diverse backgrounds.

Adri is married to Melanie Hamael and they are currently expecting their first child.