3ʳᵈ Place, Herber Galdamez, New Directions

In my eyes, peace is not something you are given. Peace is something we fight for. Peace is the prize after a long fight or struggle. I do not think it is fair for others to experience peace just because they were raised into that life. Peace is much better when it has been earned instead of just given. We cannot be satisfied while there are others suffering because people have given up on them. Peace is important because without peace the whole world would be at war; there would be no racial or cultural diversity and our communities would not be safe.

Peace is all races in a room having a conversation. Peace is every street in the world safe enough for kids to play with each other. Peace is accomplished by doing good things and not being hateful. Peace is earned after a battle whether with yourself or others. Peace is not given to those who just sit back and let things happen without speaking out or helping. Peace is not the hate you give people just because they have a different skin tone or act differently; it is the patience you have with other people.

We make peace happen when we stand up to those who have a negative impact on the community or oppress others. We make peace happen when we express ourselves and still allow others to do the same. Peace is accepting others for who they are and recognizing their potential for the future. Peace is accomplished. Without peace, the pursuit of happiness would not be possible. Peace is important because It helps people be free to be who they are.