



United Nations Association of the United States of America

GREATER PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER



The BLUE NOOK Project

An educational service of the UNA-GP for Philadelphia Schools and Libraries

The United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia seeks to build a cosmopolitan mindset among the citizens of our region, seeing ourselves as global citizens and seeing our city as “our” center on our earth. We believe that improving and augmenting the knowledge of the United Nations System, its ways of operating, its mandates and its importance in humanity’s history is a great way of building that mindset.

The blue nook project is our attempt to create a visible, attractive “corner” in a library, a cafeteria, a social room or any other shared space, where there is a display of what constitutes the UN System. A billboard so to speak to call attention.



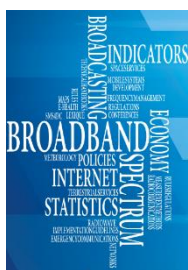
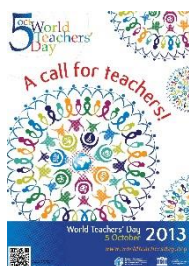
Ideally, the blue nook consists of four components:

- a. United Nations Flag, either draped against a wall or hanging from a flagpole.
- b. An inflatable globe
- c. A few posters, brochures, and an invitation to join the membership of GenUN, the youth section of the UNA-USA.
- d. A dedicated computer, where the screen is set up to show the UN System and the icons of the organizations that make up the UN. Each icon is linked to the website of that organization.

The UNA-GP will provide the flag, globe, and posters, as well as the programming of the computer. Volunteers of the UNA-GP will replace the posters every other month. The UNA-GP will react to any call or request for more information that may be generated by these displays.



In the vision of the UNA-GP, the Blue Nook will be “occupied” by students interested in forming a club or team or group that wants to do “something” international. We envision Model UN clubs, International Student clubs, Urban Farm groups, H2OforLife chapters, Interact clubs of Rotary, GenUN chapters, Habitat for Humanity groups, etc. to become engaged with this Blue Nook. Our hopes are to see students developing their own posters and UNA-GP will print them; students creating programs of action and UNA-GP will advise and support them; students picking a topic for a senior writing thesis from the material that the Blue Nook provides through the easy access computer and UNA-GP providing mentoring.



We call on principals, teachers, librarians, parents to help us build a Blue Nook in every school. Let’s do away with the horizons of one’s learning and belonging. If we soar high enough there will be no more horizons.

