

2008 SHARE Grant Awards

SHARE distributed a total of \$10,000 in grants to these very worthy organizations:

The Y.O.U.T.H. Program, Inc: A local non-profit organization that works with youth from York County Juvenile Probation Department, York, Pa. (13-18 yrs. old). The program provides educational and career oriented activities for the youth to work off their assigned community service hours.

SHARE is funding a project to teach the youth soil conservation and other means of insect control for an organic garden. They will be preparing, planting and harvesting an organic garden. Youth will be learning; how to use natural fertilizers from the farm to replenish the soil, controlling weeds by using ground cover and mulch instead of spraying chemicals, and using Bantam chickens as a means of insect control instead of pesticides. They will be also be selling the fruits and vegetables at YPI's roadside produce stand, drying flowers and gourds, and building shelters for the Bantam chickens.

Website: <http://www.youthprograminc.org>

Danzante Community School of the Arts: A local youth and community group with a mission to provide a forum for the education, preservation, development, and presentation of Latino and Spanish arts and culture through music, dance, theatre, visual arts, and literature for all children, youth, and adults of central Pennsylvania.

SHARE is supporting the recycled art classes of the Danzante After-School Arts Program. Karen Lee Newman teaches the children to make attractive, usable, practical and/or decorative pieces using found objects, empty cereal containers, plastic bags, and many other types of society's throwaways. The students gain a greater awareness about the litter problems in their environment through the understanding that throwaways can be valuable.

Website: http://www.danzante.org/about_our_organization/

Plenty New Orleans: A hurricane recovery effort which began immediately following hurricane Katrina and continues to work in communities in areas that were devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in August '05. Their efforts are focused on repairing homes for the elderly so that they can finally leave their FEMA trailers and return home, as well as documenting local conditions and grassroots recovery efforts. They are a partner in local efforts to rebuild these devastated communities.

In New Orleans, Plenty is involved in "green" building by integrating geo-thermal heating and cooling, solar power and other energy efficient technologies such as low-wattage florescent lighting and water efficient toilets into their rebuilding. They are working with partners in setting up a bio-diesel production operation that will supply fuel for all of the vehicles used in the project. Plenty is also working with the "Green Project," a local nonprofit that recycles building materials.

Website: <http://www.plenty.org/katrina/Katrina1.html>

The Mastate Charitable Foundation (MCF): SHARE will help to fund the Mastate Community Learning and Sharing Center, a project to coordinate the construction of a naturally-built, environmentally friendly community center in the center of Mastatal, Costa Rica. The structure will be erected using local labor and resources. It will eventually be the home to scores of Spanish books and a space where local entrepreneurs can operate small businesses. MCF envisions this location to become the social center of town and a place that all community members can be proud to call their own. It will demonstrate their dedication to a sustainable way of living and serve as a place to educate both the youth of the surrounding towns and visitors to the community about ways that we must live to improve the well-being of our planet and the social fabric of our communities.

Website: <http://www.mastate-foundation.org>

The Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper/ Stewards of the Lower Susquehanna: are dedicated to the improvement and preservation of the ecology and aesthetic qualities of the Lower Susquehanna and Juniata watersheds. They act as a watchdog for that area through education, stewardship, advocacy, and enforcement. One of their main programs, Pollution Patrols, has the Riverkeeper and other “stewards” out looking for sources of pollution, by land, water, and air. They explain there are some good environmental laws in Pennsylvania, but there are almost no state or local employees that are out tracking and stopping sources of pollution. By being the eyes, ears, and voice of our waterways, they are filling that need.

Their program objective is to change the way business of all types is done in Pennsylvania and Maryland. When they combine their pollution patrols with legislative advocacy and public education they feel they can change policy, the undermining of environmental laws, and the environment itself. Their programs are direct grassroots environmental activism, empowering citizens by using the Clean Water Act, and Pa. Clean Streams Law to stop polluters. Their ultimate goal is a change in business and societal behavior. This strategy combines respect for the law and the environment.

Website: <http://www.lowerSusquehannaRiverkeeper.org>

The Central PA Natural Guide: A comprehensive resource directory for natural, healthy, and earth-friendly business throughout the mid-state. Their goal is not only to accelerate the spread of sustainable business practices, but also to place an emphasis on supporting green businesses in our local community.

The Natural Guide will be published once a year and will be designed to be used as a long lasting reference guide to educate the region on environmental businesses and activities within our community. The guide will also provide informational articles educating the community on how to care for our local environment, save resources, create a healthier community and a more sustainable world. It would provide environmental education and green business references, encouraging the local community that good stewardship for the planet can be both easy and fun.

Website: www.centralpanaturalguide.com

Conscious Consuming: An organization based in Boston which seeks to increase awareness of the impact of buying decisions on our health, happiness, and environment. Through their website, blog, and community potlucks, they encourage people to buy less, buy secondhand, and buy in line with their values. They promote education and discussion to encourage people to live in line with their values by better prioritizing time, money, and material things.

SHARE will be funding a project to expand their platform by promoting local organizers to launch Conscious Consuming potlucks in their own communities. They have developed Discussion Guides and brochures to that end, and plan to expand their website to allow users to post events in their own communities.

Website: <http://www.consciousconsuming.org/>

Project Dream Peace: A website created by local artist, Kathy Maxwell with a purpose of providing an online gathering place for people from all over the world, so that they may utilize the power of mass consciousness to create positive change on the planet. The website will foster a sense of global community, in which all are welcome. People will join together online to pray, meditate, and/or visualize a happier world. They will come in response to wars and hatreds, natural disasters and climate change, terrorism, political and corporate corruption, disease, pollution, and all manner of ills which we now face on this planet as never before. The objective is to empower people to take back their planet, and to teach them that there is great strength and power in joining together in common purpose. The intention for this project is to grow the movement, and to provide a round-the-clock forum for it to take place. The projected outcome is a better world.

Website: www.projectdreampeace.com

Plenty Belize: A registered non-governmental organization based in Punta Gorda Town in the Toledo District, with a goal to assist indigenous Mayan, Garifuna and other local community-based groups in their efforts to create and maintain economically viable and environmentally sustainable activities from organic farming to crafts production to ecotourism. They also implement a small number of their own projects in health, nutrition and other efforts, in close liaison with local agencies.

SHARE will be helping to fund the Garden-based Agriculture for Toledo's Environment (GATE) program in the Toledo District of southern Belize. Plenty's GATE program strategy is to create a replicable model of local sustainable livelihood and environmental benefit focused on organic school gardens.

Properly developed and maintained organic gardens reduce the need to clear new lands for agricultural crops by building fertile soil and thereby maximizing land productivity, which contributes to environmental protection. Such *local sustainable agriculture* can also decrease malnutrition and poverty levels by increasing nutritious food supplies for consumption and sale and reducing costly chemical inputs. The GATE program currently includes gardens at 30 primary schools in the area.

Through the GATE program, Plenty is encouraging the schools to promote environmentally friendly, sustainable agriculture practices, and assist those schools who choose to take an active role in this activity.

Website: <http://www.plenty.org/belizeprojects.htm>

Camp Kaleidoscope at Common Ground Center: Common Ground Center is a family camp and retreat facility on 715 acres in Starksboro, Vermont. The historic farm has been developed with a respect for past and a vision for a sustainable future. They have 15 years of experience hosting family centered programming with an emphasis on environmental education and recreation, sustainable building, living off the grid, eating in a mindful way, education, healing arts, drumming and music.

Camp Kaleidoscope is a summer camp style retreat for families who are experiencing the autism spectrum. It's an innovative way of supporting and encouraging families who are living with autism. SHARE will be helping to provide materials for the families to make nature based art, and to provide a permanent collection of visual schedules, hiking maps, song books and scripts to be used at Camp Kaleidoscope.

Website: www.cgcv.org

Susquehanna Water Gap Coalition: A coalition of individuals, organizations and agencies formed to help protect the Susquehanna Water Gap. They have a goal to protect the natural, scenic, and cultural resources of the Susquehanna Water Gap through:

- Working to minimize the impact of future development;
- Serving as a clearing house and communication network for information about proposed developments and other threats;
- Uniting citizens, groups, and agencies that share a common interest in the Susquehanna Water Gap;
- Helping citizens and governments take appropriate action to protect the resources of the Susquehanna Water Gap.

Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swgcpa/>

The Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC): A local organization whose mission is to conserve natural resources and open space for the benefit of current and future generations through the acquisition and protection of land in the Central Pennsylvania Region. CPC is dedicated to preserving Central Pennsylvania's natural beauty. Through their efforts, the support of their members, and generous community foundations they have preserved thousands of acres of land for future generations.

SHARE is supporting their Save South Mountain Initiative, which will identify and educate local residents, municipalities, corporations, and local officials on the importance of preserving this unique natural area. The South Mountain has been made a priority initiative by the PA Department of Conservation of Natural Resources because it is recognized as having extremely unique geological features, and provides much needed watershed protection to multiple surrounding communities' potable water sources as well as the Yellow Breeches Creek.

Website: <http://www.centralpaconservancy.org/>