

2009 SHARE GRANTS

SHARE awarded \$12,000 in grants for 2009 to the following worthy organizations:

Inner City Outings (ICO) is a community outreach program of the Sierra Club, which provides disadvantaged youth and adults with positive outdoor experiences. Their certified leaders (all volunteers) work in diverse areas of Harrisburg with local agencies, churches and neighborhood groups to provide wilderness/outdoor experiences and environment education to youth who would not otherwise participate in wilderness activities and education. Their goal is to share their expertise and love for the outdoors in the hope of inspiring the youth participants to develop their own connection to the environment and become good stewards and activists.

<http://ico.sierraclub.org/harrisburg/pages/home.htm>

Ngozi Eco Village is a new economic development initiative to nurture the growth of a diverse and equitable community food system in the Harrisburg area, which will promote access to affordable nutritious food as well as create local economic opportunities. The site location will be within the existing Broad Street Market at 3rd and Verbeke in Mid-town Harrisburg. They plan to operate a Wednesday Market Day, and provide activities focused on natural resource issues, urban farming, youth development, entrepreneurship, civics, and economic concepts. Their goal is to address and reduce health and poverty disparities in an underserved area.

<http://agmap.psu.edu/Businesses/4674>

Green Urban Initiative (GUI) is a newly formed non-profit organization in the Harrisburg/Steelton area. GUI was created to increase awareness within urban communities of issues adversely affecting our environment and to try to encourage residents, businesses, and neighborhoods to reduce their impact. To accomplish its goal, GUI plans to utilize educational materials and workshops in conjunction with the development of eco-conscious programs. Our programs are designed to not only reduce stresses on our environment but to also exhibit other benefits that relate to participants more directly, to show that being conscious of our environment is not about sacrifice, but about creating a better, more sustainable lifestyle. SHARE will be contributing to the Community Vegetable Gardening Program. <http://www.greenurban.org/home.htm>

Joshua Farm is a program of Joshua Group, a non-profit organization that works with at-risk youth in the city of Harrisburg. It was started in 2006 on a one acre vacant field in the Allison Hill neighborhood of Harrisburg in order to provide employment opportunities for youth; make local, organically grown produce more affordable and accessible to neighbors in our low-income community; and offer service-learning experiences related to agriculture and sustainability to students of all ages. Joshua Farm is an approved vendor for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program and a member in good standing of both the Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture and the South Central Pennsylvania Buy Fresh Buy Local Campaign. SHARE will be funding 2 projects: an environmentally themed mural, and a native plant species experiment.

http://www.joshuagroup.org/joshua_farm.html

The Yaak Valley Forest Council is an organization formed by residents of the Yaak Valley in Northwest Montana to advocate and implement conservation, and restoration programs focused specifically upon the valley's critical wildlife habitat for the myriad sensitive, threatened, and endangered species inhabiting the valley's landscape. SHARE will be contributing to their Conservation Education Program, formed in partnership with the Troy School District. The project focuses on nature, the environment, and community as central themes introduced to the school through a variety of projects designed by the conservation education coordinator with the teachers and administrators. <http://www.yaakvalley.org/>

Sandpoint Waldorf School Biodynamic Greenhouse: SHARE will help to purchase a greenhouse for the Sandpoint Waldorf School for a plan to raise at least 100 pounds per year of organically grown produce that will be donated and distributed to the local foodbank or other similar organization. The greenhouse will be volunteer driven, eventually with one part time paid project manager, and will be used as part of the curriculum for each grade (K-8) at the school. Students, faculty, and volunteers will all take part in the continuum of sowing the seeds, nurturing them into seedlings, transplanting them at sites within city limits, tending the gardens, and then harvesting the produce, and distribution of the produce to those in need within the community. <http://www.sandpoint.org/waldorf/>

Plenty International Belize GATE Program: Since 1997 Plenty Belize has assisted poor, grassroots Mayan, Garifuna and other local groups in the Toledo District of southern Belize who are working to improve the condition of their families, communities, and environment. Plenty Belize is known for being an honest, dependable, "no frills" organization. Its flagship program -- Garden –Based Agriculture for Toledo's Environment (GATE) - promotes garden-based learning and organic agriculture. The GATE program is in line with the recently elaborated Food and Nutrition Security Policy for Belize which include: teaching of agriculture, nutrition and food utilization in school systems; supporting sustainable agricultural practices, organic farming and preservation of natural resources; and stimulating self-sufficiency. Overall, the GATE program aims to use and develop locally available human and material resources, thus helping to ensure a sustainable and replicable impact. <http://www.plenty.org/belizeprojects.htm>

Student Environmental Action Coalition is a plan for students at St. Mary's College of Maryland to host a symposium on environmental action that involves lectures, panels, workshops, speeches, tables, movies, and a letter writing campaign. The goal is to educate the college population on activism and national politics and inspire them to become active and make a change in the world. They hope the symposium will become an annual event involving activism in democracy. <http://www.seac.org/>

The Omaha Summer of Solutions is a youth organized summer program that seeks to harness the power and energy of youth and students in helping to facilitate a process of environmentally and socially sustainable community development. The program seeks to bring ten to fifteen youth and students together in Omaha to live in a shared space, enabling them to use their time to organize in a specific community, the Gifford Park neighborhood in central Omaha, around specific global warming solutions while building a space that is conducive to youth community organizing, revitalizing the Gifford Park community and empowering Gifford Park residents to take local action to fight climate change. <http://www.grandaspirations.org/apply/omaha.html>

The Unity Music Festival is a one day event founded to promote peace, hope and acceptance through great music, great surroundings, and tantalizing natural foods, enjoyed in the setting of the beautiful Appalachian Mountains at the Farm of Peace. They are planning to build a permanent stage with toxic free materials that will limit the damage to the earth each time they set-up a new stage. They will also host speakers on environmental issue and eco-friendly activities for the kids. They encourage good stewardship and chose the entertainment based on their ability to create hope for responsible living, advocate for social equity, or unite people through music.
<http://www.theunitymusicfestival.com/home.html>

Plenty International Gulf Recovery Program: This hurricane recovery effort 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, as well as documenting local conditions and grassroots recovery efforts. They are a partner in local efforts to rebuild these devastated communities. They use green building by integrating geo-thermal heating and cooling, solar power and other energy efficient technologies 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.
<http://www.plenty.org/katrina/Katrina1.html>