



www.thegivingcircle.org

Annual Report 2010

The Giving circle is pleased to announce that as of 2010 we have branched out. Our circle of giving no knows no boundaries. We are now working locally, nationally and internationally to help communities in need.

Local: Working In Our local Community

In Saratoga County, the Giving Circle volunteers were busy raising money and awareness for local charities like Saratoga County EOC's Latino Community Advocacy Program and the Franklin Community Center's Adopt a Family Holiday Program.

We held our 4th Annual Saratoga Mardi Gras Parade in April of 2010. We had a myriad of wonderful events such as an Arti-Gras Parade on Beekman Street, Cajun Cooking Competition with local restaurants, and live music "Under the Big Tent" at the Saratoga Downtowner Hotel. Hundreds of revelers lined Beekman Street for the big parade and ate great gumbo and Cajun creations served up by Saratoga Springs finest restaurants. The event raised thousands of needed dollars for SCEOC's Latino Community Advocacy Program and for the Giving Circles continued rebuilding efforts in Waveland, MS.



In May of 2010 the Giving Circle put together a work weekend at the Black Elks Club (Frederick Allen Lodge) on Beekman Street. Over 40 volunteers from our Giving Circle community, the Elks and Skidmore College came to help give this gem of a historic building a facelift. We were able to replace windows, doors, siding, and sheetrock most of the upper floors. It was a great weekend and much was accomplished. The building looks better than ever.

In October of 2010 the Giving Circle had another work weekend at the Children's Museum of Saratoga. We were able to repair decaying brick walls and stair wells, paint and repair the front porch, trim trees, remove debris and clean out the basement. Again some 30 volunteers from the Giving Circle worked non-stop over two days to spruce up the Children's Museum.

In December of 2010 we joined with the Franklin Community Center to help make sure that local families in need would get adopted this year. Through the Saratoga Adopt a Family Program we were able to make sure that nearly 100 children in need were able to enjoy their holidays this year by providing them with gifts. The Franklin Community Center runs many great programs and we were happy to partner with them again for the fourth year.

National: Working in Waveland/Bay St. Louis

The Giving Circle volunteers organized a trip to Waveland/ Bay St. Louis in November of 2010. With a small but committed team we drove to Mississippi to continue our work in Martin Luther King Jr. Park.

Martin Luther King Jr. Park is located in the Middletown section of Waveland. Middletown is a predominately poor and African-American section of Waveland (often overlooked when it comes to repairs) and we were able to transform this drab, forgotten park into a vibrant community gathering spot for children.

With the help of some local businesses and Giving Circle supporters we were able to build an addition on to the existing community center and set up a media center. We brought four computers, 2 TV's and DVD players as well as educational software and family friendly movies to help create a local gathering spot for the children of Middletown. The Giving Circle plans to return in March 2011 to build a stage for children in the park as well

International: Ugandan Children's Orphanage - Koi-Koi House

The Giving Circle family is happy to announce it is growing. The newest members of our family: Uganda Children's Hope Foundation (Jinja Uganda) and their 26 orphans.

The Uganda Children's Hope Foundation supports a grippingly poor AIDS Orphanage whose needs are great. They struggle daily with trying to house, feed and keep safe over 26 orphans whose parents have died of AIDS and many of whom themselves are born with HIV. The most profound need is to get these children into a safe home of their own so they never again need fear eviction.

Since the project began in the beginning of 2010 we have managed to transform the lives of these orphans for the better. The Giving Circle was able to purchase a plot of land, drill a fresh water well, plant crops, buy animals, start a women's crafting cooperative (workers get all of the proceeds from the sale of goods) and much more. A group of Giving Circle and Team Rafiki volunteers went to

Uganda for two weeks at the end of July 2010 to meet our new family and work the land. By the time they left they had built animal pens, latrines, planted a grove of Moringa Trees and built a small home for the lands caretaker. It was a transformational experience for all of those that went and we will be returning again in July 2011 to help with yet more activities. For more info go to: <http://www.thegivingcircle.org/uganda.html>



Our work throughout this year would not have been possible without people like you. Whether you gave your money or your time we value every bit of help we get. I thank you for your support and look forward to working with you again in the future to make the world a little bit better one family at a time.