



The Round Up

Roots & Shoots

Four Corners Seasonal eNewsletter

Winter
2009

You Can Make A Difference!



Winston Churchill made the wise statement, "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

During this time of economic uncertainty, your generous gifts of time and money have an even greater impact on the young leaders in our communities. Founded by Dr. Jane Goodall, the Roots & Shoots program inspires youth of all ages to make a difference by becoming involved in their communities. Our mission is to foster respect and compassion for all living things, to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs, and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for people, animals, and the environment. Each Roots & Shoots group plans and implements service-learning projects that promote care and concern for animals, the environment, and the human community. One recent example says it all.

Monday, February 16, 2009

Area of bosque dedicated to conservationist *By Aurelio Sanchez, Albuquerque Journal*

On a sun-dappled February day American conservationist Aldo Leopold would have loved, children replanting a fire-scorched bosque learned that, if you want to be a part of a natural "community of life," you must respect and value the land.

"We're learning that all you need in the world is a balance; that you don't need to kill off all of one kind, or kill off all of another kind," said Liam Frye-Mason, 10. He was part of an Albuquerque "Roots & Shoots" program, a group of home-schooled children who worked on planting trees along the bosque as part of a centennial celebration, marking Leopold's 1909 arrival in New Mexico.

"His message was that, if you want to be part of a natural community, respect the land and value it because of its diversity, and not just because of its economic value," explained Estella Bergere Leopold, Aldo Leopold's daughter, who was among honored guests at the celebration.

Leopold (1887-1948), often called the founding father of wilderness conservation, created the concept of a "land ethic," the idea that the land is a living organism, part of a community of life to which humans belong. After arriving here in 1909, the Iowa native served for 18 years in the United States Forest Service in New Mexico and Arizona, and later became a leading advocate for the preservation of wildlife and wilderness areas, including at the Gila National Forest in New Mexico...

We would love the opportunity to visit with you about the important work of the Jane Goodall Institute Roots & Shoots Service Learning Program. If you are interested, please contact me to start your Roots & Shoots group or classroom! As Dr. Jane says,

"Every individual matters.
Every individual has a role to play.
Every individual makes a difference."

Best wishes,
Ray Powell DVM,

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Roots & Shoots Celebrates at the Martin



Luther King Jr. Parade

Sunday January 18, over 3000 people came together in the city of Albuquerque, New Mexico to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The parade marched two miles from the University of New Mexico straight into the heart of downtown Albuquerque to the Civic Plaza. Among

them were Roots & Shoots members from various groups based in New Mexico. "What this day means to me is a time when we can all come together and discuss peace" stated Ramon V. member of Rio Grande Roots & Shoots to a local news reporter. The event also marked the unveiling of "Paloma," Roots & Shoots Four Corners Youth Leadership Council's brand new Giant Peace Dove Puppet.



Holiday Projects

Four Corners Roots & Shoots Goups celebrate the Holidays by giving to others

Holiday Service Project for the Storehouse *Rio Grande Roots & Shoots, New Mexico*

This holiday season, Rio Grande Roots & Shoots teamed up with an organization called the Storehouse food pantry, a local non-profit dedicated to providing food, clothing and basic necessities to the homeless. Together the group made a total of 128 scarves out of fleece to be donated and distributed amongst those needing warm clothing. Each group member also brought one new toy to give amounting to 63 gifts and over 20 books donated. These items were then given to kids by Santa at the Storehouse food pantry. "Group members enjoyed working for a cause they believe is important to them and enjoyed each other's company," writes group leader and Four Corners Albuquerque Coordinator Julie Velazquez "It was a wonderful way to start the holidays, there were no gifts exchanged, just good will among young people caring for their community."

Adopt Two Families for the Holidays *Flagstaff Roots & Shoots, Arizona*

To share their kindness this year, Flagstaff Roots & Shoots decided to adopt two families for the holidays, both of which were living out of hotels. Each family in the group signed up to donate specific items including clothing, blankets, towels, gifts for the children, non-perishable food items, toiletries, gift cards to grocery stores, Wal-Mart and a used clothing store, stockings filled for the children, a crock pot and an electric skillet. After gathering at a local park to organize donations, the items were delivered directly to the families, rewarding Flagstaff Roots & Shoots with their thanks.

Christmas Tree Recycling *Johnstown Roots & Shoots, Colorado*

Following up on their previous project to bring Christmas tree recycling into their community, Johnstown Roots & Shoots wanted to provide this service for a second year. Their aims were to create awareness about the importance of recycling and to give residents an alternative to taking their trees to the landfill, all while giving their group the opportunity to raise funds for future Roots & Shoots projects. Their group started by contacting a local newspaper who printed two announcements for their tree collecting event held in January. Two tree lots also agreed to hand out flyers. On the day of the event, younger members of the group made signs and waved to passing cars, talking to the curious passers-by. After the trees were collected they were hauled off by the adults of the group to a recycling site where they would be mulched and used in landscaping, all the while everyone enjoyed cookies and hot chocolate to fight the cold. The project was a major success nearly doubling the number of trees they received the year before!

Four Corners Mini Grant Awards

Last year groups applied for a Four Corners Mini Grant Award to help with their service projects. The following stories tell of their successes!

Tree Planting

Johnstown Roots & Shoots, Colorado



On May 22, 2008 the town of Windsor, Colorado was struck by a tornado which devastated approximately 500 homes. Windsor is a community of approximately 20,000 residents of which about 2,000 were affected by the tornado. During the storm several hundred trees were ripped from the ground and a major park in the center of the town was devastated.

Our group was determined to help replace the lost trees. We learned about the importance of trees to a community, including how they help regulate temperature, provide

animal habitats and enjoyable environments for people. We went on a walk in our own community and counted our trees and then imagined that hundreds of the trees were gone. Immediately the group realized how bleak our community would be without trees.

We contacted the city of Windsor and applied for a Four Corners Roots & Shoots Mini Grant to help with our procurement of trees. We received the grant and had several nursery pledges of trees to plant in Windsor. The Town of Windsor advised

our group that ours and many other groups would be planting on October 18. Because of the outpouring of support, the town was able to have a massive tree planting day which included over 300 people.

We were so excited to be participating on the actual planting day. Our group included seven children and four adults. We were one of the largest children's groups there!

It was a much larger event then we had originally thought. The town had received t-shirts, water and lunch donations for the event, an unexpected surprise. An arborist worked with our group describing the types of trees that we were planting, how to properly plant a tree and how to protect it with mulch after the planting was done.

The children loved being a part of something so big. I would look across the park and see some of the kids running with wheelbarrows or coming back to the mulch pile with empty buckets ready to be filled. One boy

was helping a man with staking the trees and two others went to City Hall to plant additional trees there with Windsor office holders.

I had envisioned planting small trees at homes, and instead we planted huge trees in the City Park. Because our group was in the City Park, our trees will be there for decades to come visited by thousands of people at the various events held in that park. I myself was married in that park ten years ago. Because Windsor is a small town, this is their primary park for city, community and family gatherings. We will have the chance to see our trees again!

I have never been so proud of the children and spirit of Johnstown Roots & Shoots. They represented themselves and the organization with enthusiasm and spirit. They took such pride in the event and I now see them wearing their t-shirts to school, wanting to remember the special day of which they were a part of.

-Sari Gartner, Johnstown Roots & Shoots Group Leader

Bear Hugs

Resources for Health Roots & Shoots, Arizona



Resources for Health Roots & Shoots applied for a Roots & Shoots Four Corners Mini Grant to help their group realize their project "Bear Hugs" planned by youth leader Jacob G. Jacob had previously participated in a project called "Bears from Kids Who Care" where youth built teddy bears for children in hospitals.

Remembering their enthusiasm and the sense of accomplishment he felt, Jacob decided to plan a similar project with the goal of providing the hospital with 100 asthma-free teddy bears. In addition to making teddy bears, Resources for Health Roots & Shoots also wanted to give the hospital the gift of 1000 paper cranes. They set up fundraising tables where group members taught people how to fold origami cranes and sold other items to raise funds. Their group also received grant

funding from Pay It Forward Foundation to make stories attached to each of the bears as well as a Plum Grant from www.dosomething.org, and a Disney Minnie Grant from Youth Service America.

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America also contacted Resources for Health Roots & Shoots and offered them a matching gift of another 100 teddy bears to the Phoenix Children's Hospital and 25 bears to the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC. The group set out to gather as many volunteers as they could to help what was soon becoming a very large project. By contacting other Roots & Shoots groups, speaking with home school groups and posting information online, they elicited help from about 60 children ages four to fourteen to volunteer making teddy bears. Only a couple weeks before the project, a home school group called Valley Home Educators, rallied behind the project with a massive group yard sale that raised another \$829.

With so much generous support, Bear Hugs turned out to be an enormous success! A total of 325 hospitalized children benefited from the project, far surpassing their original goal. They were also able to get a lot of new families involved volunteering with their Roots & Shoots group. "Everyone who participated had a tremendous sense of pride and accomplishment when the project was over," Anne Goldfeld commented. "Roots & Shoots youth leader Jacob, experienced a great deal of personal growth, skill development and a sense of empowerment."

Native Seeds Garden

Resources for Health Roots & Shoots, Arizona

By planting a garden of native plants, Resources for Health Roots & Shoots wanted to offer their group members the experience of eating their own fruits and vegetables native to their local environment, while giving them the tools and skills to grow their own food. Thirteen youth members and five adult leaders from Resources for Health Roots & Shoots helped to plan and begin a native seeds garden in Scottsdale, Arizona. "The children have learned care and concern for animals, as toads abound in the garden and the children spend a



lot of time observing and playing with them," group leader Anne Goldfeld commented. Neighbors of the Native Seeds Garden, the Scottsdale Community College Garden Club also shared their experiences and tips for gardening in the southwest desert. They were also able to offer the unanticipated benefit of a multi-generational learning experience and expressed pleasure in seeing the children learning how to garden. "Our Roots & Shoots members are very excited to see our garden growing. They are always eager to go there to water, see what else has sprouted, play with the toads and visit our gardening neighbors. They are proud to see the fruits (and veggies) of their labor and have become outspoken gardening activists, practicing seed saving at home and "guerilla gardening" wherever they can sneak some seeds into the ground."

Community Garden

Rio Grande Roots & Shoots, New Mexico

With the help of a Four Corners Mini Grant award, we wanted to help the Barel Community Center to get their community garden up and running. The job required cleaning out a previously designated area, setting up their irrigation, planting plants and building a picnic table for the community to be able to come and enjoy the garden. Many of the seniors enjoy walking over to check on the plants from time to time. We felt that providing them with a place to sit and rest while enjoying the garden would encourage more people to take advantage of this free community resource. We went to the community center and cleaned out the area of all debris. There was a lot of glass, trash and litter to be gathered and taken care of. We had one group of



parents and kids work on the vegetable beds, including setting up their irrigation and planting plants that we bought using the grant funds from our Four Corners Mini Grant. Meanwhile another team of kids and parents built the picnic table, which was also purchased using our grant funds. We then stained and sealed the table to help preserve it.

The kids enjoyed this project very much and felt a real sense of satisfaction having helped turn what was previously a litter filled dump area into a nice community garden for everyone to enjoy. They loved walking away from the area having it look so nice and watching such a dramatic transformation of the space in a matter of hours.



-Kari Barrera, Rio Grande Roots & Shoots Group Leader

Save the Bears

Evergreen Roots & Shoots, Colorado



When Evergreen Roots & Shoots applied for their Roots & Shoots Four Corners Mini Grant, they were determined to do something to help bears in Colorado. When a bear enters a residential area in Colorado, authorities will capture and tag the animal. If the tagged bear reenters a populated area, they are then euthanized. Upon learning this information, members of Evergreen Roots & Shoots were determined to help prevent this from happening. Bears are often attracted to residential areas when homes do not dispose of their garbage appropriately, thus luring the bears to an unforeseen tragedy. Evergreen Roots & Shoots went directly to the source of the problem. "We wanted to look at several aspects of the issue of bears and trash, including why people won't store their trash, what might motivate them to do so, what information to share with them, how to do it in a positive way and how to get their attention." Evergreen Roots & Shoots decided to create awareness about bears by having a series of educational parades. Dressed up in colorful costumes, participants marched door to door with decorated wagons filled with materials such as rubber bear scat, bear hides and a bear skull provided by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. These were accompanied by a bear-proof trash can, a volunteer

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in a bear suit and bear sounds such as growls, roars, grunts and whines played on an ipod. These tactile references helped residents learn more about these animals and encourage compassion for bears. In the next parade, participants brought tools and insight to inspire action. Once again they loaded wagons with packets for residents including information from the Colorado Department of Wildlife about bears and trash as well as a treat bag that featured a homemade bear cookie, teddy graham's and gummy bears. Following their parades, Evergreen Roots & Shoots purchased two bear-proof trash cans with the money

awarded to them by the Roots & Shoots Four Corners Mini Grant. These trash cans were each loaned to a member of the community for one year on the condition that they raise enough money to purchase their own bear-proof trash can by the end of the year and do their best to educate others about the importance of proper trash storage. After one year the bear-proof trash cans will be loaned to the next eligible recipient. Evergreen Roots & Shoots has done a wonderful job making the most of their Four Corners Mini Grant while leaving behind a tool to create a safer environment for humans and bears alike.

Roots & Shoots Four Corners Art Show

In October 2008, Open Space Visitors Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico hosted a Roots & Shoots Four Corners art exhibit and silent auction. Members of all ages across Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico were invited to submit art pieces that illustrated issues concerning humans, animals, or the environment. All items sold, directly benefited the artists and their Roots & Shoots projects. Displayed here is a handful of works exhibited at the art show.



Olivia V., 7 yrs
Albuquerque, NM
"Untitled"
Rio Grande
Roots & Shoots



Bryn F.M., 7 yrs
Albuquerque,
New Mexico
"Untitled"
East Mountains
Roots & Shoots



Aline W.
Albuquerque,
New Mexico
"Untitled"
Rio Grande
Roots & Shoots



Luke Z., 11 yrs
Murray, Utah
"Autumn Whale"
Animals Green World
Roots & Shoots



Carly D., 9 yrs
Erie, Colorado
"The Freedom to be a Dog"
Pioneer Roots & Shoots



Melisande O., 13 yrs
Boulder, Colorado
"Agent Orange"
Melisande's
Roots & Shoots



Katie H., 14 yrs
Albuquerque, New Mexico
"Untitled"
Roots & Shoots
Youth Leader



Paul Z., 9 yrs
Murray, Utah
"Blue Jay"
Animals Green World
Roots & Shoots



Evalin W., 6 yrs
Salt Lake City, Utah
"Friends Riding Dinosaurs"
Animals Green World
Roots & Shoots



Jeff
Boulder, Colorado
"Fifi"
Cell Block B
Roots & Shoots

Meet New Staff

Bo Dong *Westminster College Ambassador Intern, Salt Lake City, Utah*

Bo has been a student at the Westminster College of Salt Lake City Utah for over a year. After coming to the United States as an international student from China, Bo has decided to continue his efforts helping the environment by becoming a Roots & Shoots Ambassador Intern. In this new role, he will be responsible for planning events, educating others about Roots & Shoots, participating in service projects and recruiting new members.



Megyn Scott

*Specialist Coordinator,
Phoenix, Arizona*

From an early age, Megyn Scott felt a strong need to help all living things. She graduated from the University of Arizona in 2008 with a degree in Psychology and plans to continue with graduate school in the near future. While at the University of Arizona, she researched chimpanzees with Dr. James E. King and interned for ChimpanZoo, a program of the Jane Goodall Institute. After learning about Roots & Shoots while interning and having a child of her own, she was enthused to be given the opportunity to work as a volunteer coordinator. She looks forward to helping the program grow and getting to know all of the amazing people already involved.

Welcome New Groups!

**Montessori of the Rio Grande Roots & Shoots-
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Desert Winds- Tucson, Arizona

**Dunn Elementary School- Fort Collins,
Colorado**

Citizen Schools-Santa Fe, New Mexico

Pecos Youth Board-Pecos, New Mexico

Eco Explorers-Colorado Springs, Colorado

Reid School Eco-savers-Salt Lake City, Utah

**East Mountain Roots & Shoots-Cedar Crest,
New Mexico**

Four Corners Staff:

Ray Powell - Regional Director

Emily Dietrich Millstein - Program Manager

Bo Dong - Westminster College Ambassador Intern

Monica Ferreira - Westminster College Coordinator

Teresa Gray - Wind River Ranch Coordinator

Melania Pumphrey - Northern New Mexico Coordinator

Megyn Scott - Specialist Coordinator

Julie Velazquez - Albuquerque Youth Leadership Coordinator

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