

Subject: Taking RS Out into the Community

Clancy Blakemore, CSL, St. Louis, MO

Before Valentines Day we collected blankets for the homeless: "Share a Spare, Show You Care".

Before Christmas we hosted girls from a local home, cookie baking, card and simple gift making. Of course we adopt a family of inner city kids for Christmas

We have in the past collected money for "After the Holidays Fund" and distributed monies to those in need in January. Clancy Blakemore

Peggy Price, Huntington Beach

We have two major projects each year - Christmas Family Project, which, last year, served 30 families in our community with their entire Christmas - *anonymously* - we were all from the "North Pole" –

The other is our annual Day of Sacred Service which we do in June - where we find service projects throughout our community - cleaning the beaches, painting and fixing up shelters (women's, homeless, family, etc.) and other projects, visiting convalescent hospitals, etc. I will send you hard copy information on both of these projects - I'm so glad you're doing this workshop for us.

Rev. Jim Chandler, Denver Church of Religious Science

I sit on the organizing committee for the annual Martin Luther King Day Celebration along with members of the Urban League of Metropolitan Denver, State Farm Insurance, and the city of Denver. Together we plan one of the largest celebrations of nonviolence and the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the country.

The Marade (parade+march) covers over 5 kilometers and ends with a rally at Civic Center Park near the State Capitol, the festivities are attended by over 35,000 people. The banner for the City of Denver. State Farm, the Urban League, along with The Denver Church of Religious Science are posted together to take a stand for nonviolence.

The church also prints and distributes 5,000 booklets of quotes of Dr. King to school aged children in local schools prior to Martin Luther King Jr. Day, so they have a clear understanding of the teachings.

Starting in November, and through December, the church collects Teddy Bears for "Operation Bear Hugs". Then starting the first Sunday in January the bears sit on the seats in our sanctuary with tags attached so our congregation may hug hold and cherish the bears all through the services. After each service they sign their name to the tags. By Valentine's Day 6 or 7 peoples names are attached to each bear at which time our fuzzy little friends go to a local hospice where people there may choose their special emissary of our love and caring. Every resident, caregiver, and family member may choose their special friend. These go to the Hospice of St. John and Namaste' Comfort Care.

We also have three Practitioners who serve as assistant chaplains at one of the Hospices we serve, Namaste'.

Easter, we have an Easter egg hunt on our south lawn which is open to all the children in the neighborhood.

Early March, the Capitol Hill Neighborhood Peoples Fair is attended by over 275,000 people. Our church staffs one of the 6 beer booths at the fair. This gives us an opportunity to talk with people and a large portion of the proceeds from the beer sales goes towards grants for nonprofit organizations in the area. Last year we collectively raised over \$65,000 in grant money.

PrideFest - Our local Gay and Lesbian celebration attended by 40,000 people. Each year we open our doors for planning meetings for the event, have a float in the parade, and an information booth at the celebration following the parade.

Yard Sale on our south lawn.

Members and friends of the church donate goods for sale. We raise over \$2,000 for the church but most of all, demonstrate the Law of Circulation in Action, and donate left over goods to local charities.

December 1st

World AIDS Day service. Open to the public free of charge.

Christmas

Each year a team from the church decorates the outside of the Hospice of St. John for Christmas on the Saturday following Thanksgiving, and take down the decorations in mid January.

Every Month

Our board of trustees selects a local nonprofit organization which receives a check equal to 5% of our general giving (We still give 10% to UCRS, and other gifts where needed). The qualifications for the gift is that it be a 501(c) (3) charitable organization, it is located in central Denver, and that it empowers people rather than makes them dependent so it adheres to SOM principles. Recipients are a no-kill animal shelter, home for battered women, school for homeless teens, AIDS services organizations, and other empowerment centers.

I would be glad to share any of these programs, and others we are working on, with anyone interested.

Michael Torphy, RS Center in Grand Junction, CO

I am just getting involved in an interfaith community group.

A direction we have taken, is switching from just being a church, into being a Spiritual Center that houses a church. Besides housing a church, the Center also houses many other organizations such as (in our case) the Vegetarian Society, A Season for Non-Violence, Dances for Universal Peace, Concert Series, Book Signings, Healing Arts Expo and others that are being revealed & beginning to take form through the Vision Process. Using this concept different people can be involved at the Center without necessarily going to church & while still be exposed to our philosophy. What I have found is that many of those people like what is going on here & begin attending Sunday services. We also get a lot of press coverage (news paper & local T.V. networks) around these activities, where as they may not necessarily cover a church activity. It really gets our name, who we are & what we represent out into the community at large. This was something I learned at Agape and is working quite well here. The whole process, however, of how these Organizations joined us I totally credit to the visioning process. We didn't have to do a single thing but show up every week, vision & watch it unfold. All the organizations came to us.

Rev. Vern Martin, Senior Minister, Cherry Creek Center for Spiritual Growth When the 9/11 thing hit, many people were going into a race consciousness of "bad times" with the economy and other areas of their lives. Praying on this phenomenon, I asked Spirit to reveal how I might serve the community

and what I received was that I should start a business support group at my church, Cherry Creek Center for Spiritual Growth. We meet twice a month on topics that attendees select and I assist in putting a spiritual spin on them. These are tremendously powerful sessions that meet for two hours. Our discussions have been on such topics as survival or thrival, fear, consciousness and intuition. The group has name itself CBS, Conscious Business Success.

Don Welsh, Antelope Valley Church of Religious Science, Lancaster CA

Through connections made by participating in the local Chambers of Commerce, I was invited to speak at a store called "Angels Among Us" in Lancaster, CA and there were about 15 people there. I left tapes of the Sunday service and of my "Miracles" TV show for them to sell and some have sold. One lady, who wasn't at the talk, bought a couple of the tapes and called the Church to find out more. She attended for the first time last Sunday. The store is having me back this month.

I am also active in the Antelope Valley Interfaith Council and our local INTA. A non-profit called "Healthy Homes" invited me to sit on their Advisory Board. They have a very positive approach to support new mothers and families. Their end motivation is the prevention of child abuse.

Our church also has a food booth at the annual Antelope Valley Fair.

We donate food baskets for annual raffles to raise funds for a Domestic Violence Shelter.

We have a Tutoring Center during the week.

The main outreach is putting SOM on the air with "Miracles" TV show. It airs on a public access channel in Santa Clarita and on a commercial station whose signal reaches a potential audience of more than a million.

Pamela Kilbourne, Sacred Space Ministries

As UCRS first Special Focus Ministry, Sacred Space Ministries is a global offering of the teachings of Science of Mind and experienced through the labyrinth events that I do in my travels. For further information please visit my website at www.sacredspace.org. (Site needs updating) Also you will find besides all the regular things a minister does and my traveling with the labyrinth, my church without walls, I am an authorized UCRS Online class instructor.

Rev. Linda McNamar, Whittier, Harmony CSL

Thought you might like this story. A young woman who is one of our members is the director of a staff of accounting personnel. Recently, their business moved, and you know the chaos moving an office produces. Carla began holding staff meetings for 'stress reduction.' They met in her office, with soft music playing, a lighted candle, and the harsh office lights turned out. She guided them in imaging a relaxing environment and peaceful interactions. One woman resisted for awhile, but now can't wait for their staff meetings. Carla says, "Next is yoga!" Her own peaceful and playful presence is inspiring *her* bosses to say yes to how she leads her staff.

Love, Linda

Kay Starr RScP, Church of Today in Sun City, Ca.

I work under Dr. Casey Gryba, Rev. Anne Greene and Rev. Beverly Lee-Branom in the Pastoral Care of our church and through the Ministry of Prayer. I have recently developed a new community outreach program titled Community Assistance Program or CAPS. The program uses a base of volunteers from our church family and we provide as many services as we are capable of to then entire surrounding community which includes a radius of at least 25 to 30 miles. I act as the core providing organization and leadership for the volunteers all of whom act through spiritually qualified service of many kinds to fulfill the various needs that appear. This is a new program and so far is

enthusiastically received by our membership, Practitioners and the community. We hope to grow with the need and it will take a lot of participation to be a success we know it can be. My Ministers are very supportive of this program that I have developed. If you would like further comment or information, please contact me at ktstarr306@aol.com.

Rev. Nancy Zala, director: AGAPE CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY

I'd like to share with you my special project: CHILDREN'S PRAYER MINISTRY. Agape has a special telephone line 310-348-1260 ext 708. It is for all children (to 19 years) We have over 100 on our list, and over 50 people praying daily (Ministers, Practitioners and Lay people) and receiving the list once every month. Prayers meet monthly for visioning, lunch and group prayer. The service is for children in the Agape Community AND for ALL CHILDREN EVERYWHERE. To add a child to the list I ask that the following info be included: The FIRST NAME and LAST INITIAL and the AGE of the child. And a brief description of the appearance of the condition that warrants prayer.

It is my hope to extend this service to all churches.

Please E mail me for any further info . Ill be doing a workshop, the second week at ASILOMAR called "PRAYING WITH CHILDREN"

EMAIL ME AT: nanzala@aol.com

Shirley Jones, Seattle, WA

An Idea that works: Write a monthly article under commentary for the newspaper. Talk with the editor and find out how often this can be done. Include stuff on youth and everyday stuff. It works and it gets you known.

Phyllis M. Grimes, Science of Mind Center of Tucson

Rev. Gerry Straatemeier and I have been collaborating with several other women, members of other Churches, to create a cooperative effort in support of the "Season for Nonviolence". This is the 2nd year we have been involved here in Tucson. Next year we plan to build on the connections we have made with numerous faith and peace groups to create greater impact in the community, bringing greater awareness to the citizens of what the "Season" is about. I personally feel that being involved in the "Season" is a wonderful way for the Science of Mind Center of Tucson to reach out into the community.

Rev. Joan Steadman, FCRS Oakland, CA

We have an Adopt a Family Program for the holidays, We participate with the City of Oakland in the Season for Nonviolence, And we hold a Sunday service every week at Thunder Road is a rehabilitation home for teenagers in Oakland. They truly appreciate our participation since our message is so positive. For further information, you can contact Willa Barber-Johnson at 510-233-6260

Rev. Sarah Hargrave, Golden Gate CSL, San Rafael, CA

As you may know, most of my work is outside the Golden Gate Center for Spiritual Living. I run 3 spiritual breakfasts a month ("The Extra Edge: Spirituality in Work and Business") in SF, Marin and Palo Alto. I have been doing that for around 10 years. These are small discussion groups. I choose a topic in advance, briefly present my ideas, give attendees a question to get them started, and then open it up to lightly facilitated conversation. I include readings, etc. as the conversation unfolds. We always have interesting and meaningful conversations. I also co-founded a monthly brown bag lunch meeting at the SF Chamber of Commerce. It's called "Spirit At Work: A Continuing Conversation", and is probably the only such program at any Chamber in the world....! I have been doing that for about 3 or 4 years.

I do other things as well, including some seminars. ("Money, Beliefs and You", "Achieving Results

Through Productive Thinking", "Success Groups" etc.) I don't know how much detail you want.....or in what format you plan to present your responses. Let me know!

I have never wanted a pulpit ministry - I have always felt my role was to bring these teachings to a broader audience and re-language the material so that it is accessible to those in business and those who would not necessarily come into a church or RS Center (although many who attend my programs ARE involved in RS Centers, or Unity Churches).

Catie Kniess ckniess@cadence.net at the San Jose CSL (Rev. David Bruner) leads a group that makes blankets for newborn babies.

They have an Intentional Acts of Service creation team that is responsible for community outreach. Donna Goyette is the Board contact donnagoyette@sanjosecenter.org

Rev. Sandra Jackson, Fire Light CRS, San Jose, CA

FireLight Quilts for Kids

Recognizing that we can better serve the world by stretching out from our safe cocoons, United Church is calling us to be full participants in our Global Heart Community. The FireLight Quilts for Kids project is a wonderful model for doing just that. If you are interested in a community service project for your church, or interested in participating in this project, read on.

Also, there has been a definite expressed need for quilts (blankets) for those who have been impacted by the recent world events. Providing these quilts would be a wonderful project and a great inspiration for community outreach. What Is It?

FireLight Quilts for Kids (QfK) is an ongoing community service project with the vision of creating simple hand-made quilts for non-profit organizations servicing underprivileged children within our community. Each time these children wrap themselves in their quilts they can be reminded that they are truly cared about by the larger community.

How QfK started:

This project was begun by FireLight's year-2000 graduating Practitioner II class as a way to give back to the Universe for all of the growth we received during our two years of Practitioner study. The project idea was Spirit-inspired by Therese May, RScP - an internationally known fabric artist. Alicia Hinton, RScP, helped to bring the idea into form

First Year Success:

Initially a one-day project, this Creative Idea has been expanding ever since. We have delivered over 100 quilts in just our first year, and are currently working towards providing quilts to cover all of the beds at the Santa Clara County Children's Shelter. We stepped out on faith when we committed to creating all the quilts to cover the 34 toddler and crib beds and all 118 of their twin size beds. We are more than halfway there!

Two days after declaring that we would make these quilts, and not knowing how we were going to find all the resources to do it, we received a donation of two truckloads of fabric! Spirit said "YES! Go for it!" We are also excited to be partnering with a local corporation, LifeScan, which granted us \$500.00 for new sewing machines and sponsored an on-site quilting day. It was such a great success that they have asked us back on a regular basis. So many people have come forward to inform us of low-cost supplies for this project, and the donations by so many people in the congregation have been heart-warming. Truly this project is a manifest expression of Spirit.

We would love to show you how to start this project in your church!

(They meet monthly on a Saturday from 10-5).

There are many other ways to be in partnership with this project!

* You can sponsor a "Quilts for Kids" day at your church.

- * We can send you "quilt kits" (squares, borders and instructions) that you can sew and send back to us to be completed at our next quilting day.
- * You can create your own quilts and send them to us to include in our donations.
- * You can donate money or materials (batting, curved needles, pin cushions, rotary cutters, cutting mats, dye-fast cotton material, thread, etc).
- * You can make use of our material scraps by sewing them together for interesting quilt blocks or 12" squares, or you can be the angel that likes to sew together batting scraps.
- * You can help us with advertising, our web site, partnering with corporations, or other administrative tasks.
- * You can cut squares and borders to make "quilt kits."
- * You can treat for our continued perfect expression as Spirit!

How to Contact Us:

Therese May, RScP: 408-292-3247 mayquilter@aol.com

Alicia Hinton, RScP: 408-942-5629 (day) or 408-448-4283 (eve) alhrscp@concentric.net

FireLight CoRS, Rev. Sandra Jackson: 408-435-7961 fireligh@pacbell.net

CCc1inlove@aol.com

My ministry has always been about bringing divergent ideas and cultures together. I am very interested in the healing of "adversity to diversity". In our center we have periodic "Music of the World's People" concerts. We have showcased Gamelan music from Bali, Indian Ragas and plan to do more. Recently we hosted 14 homeless children from the slums of India who were in the States to perform dances and songs around Gandhi's principles of social change through non violence. I arranged to take them to our high School where they met with a sophomore history class and shared with American teens. I took them to the beach and they spent the night in sleeping bags in our social hall. We entertained them with East Indian music and food. It was a wonderful experience. I will continue to find ways to serve the worlds children and to bring people together to experience first hand our Oneness.

Rev. Frances Lorenz, Tacoma, WA

As I posted recently, I have been involved in the Interfaith Round Table in my community (Tacoma). As an interfaith organization we developed a plan to celebrate 9-11 and involve our county before it planned 9-11 events without any spiritual focus. We didn't just want them to be flag-waving events. Out of this vision came DAY OF MEMORY HOPE AND ACTION 9-11. Go to our website at www.hopeinaction9-11.org to see the complete description. It involves an information campaign in which people decide to do an act of compassion in the name of one of the victims and then we will hold a Day of Memory, Hope and Action that remembers the victims, honors local heroes and supports actions of compassion with lots of music. Our whole county is involved with 22 cities participating.

Our church also participates actively in our new Sister City relationship with Cuba-- we have now a Sister City relationship between Tacoma and Cienfuegos, and also have created a Study Group for Science of Mind in Havana, Cuba. We regularly provide the director of this group Science of Mind (Spanish edition) and have a translation of Creative Mind and Success that we delivered this last week. It has been a great way to reach out into the community.

Rev. Annie P. Clark, Fairview Heights, IL

I am a member of our County Health Board; Hospice; and ZONTA. -- an international business and professional club whose purpose is to uplift the status of women throughout the world; and the Clergy Association of Fairview Heights, IL.

We periodically support a homeless shelter in the community.

Rev. Harriet Hawkins, who was in Grand Junction, CO.

Anyway, just thought I'd add the one thing that is important to me in outreach is getting involved in the local government. When I was in Grand Junction, CO I called up the city council and was put on the roster for ministers who pray in the city council meetings. Almost all local governments have chaplains in some form (usually just to pray in meetings). For me we are a great example of the democratic ideal of all-inclusivity of diversity and committed to the One. For most, it is an either/or choice...we are the example of both/and -

Rev. Georgia Prescott, Sacramento Center for Spiritual Awareness

We're doing what we call a Teddy Bear Ministry twice each year. Congregants bring stuffed animals (new) into the congregation and leave them on a seat for a month and we hold them during service and at the end of the month we call the Yolo County Sheriff and they pick them up, divide them among the patrol cars, put them in the trunks for children who are taken away from families in domestic disturbances or separated from them in car accidents. That way they not only have something cuddly to hold when they're scared but also they've been loved up by us for an entire month. Everyone, including our men folk, loves this Ministry.

We also have a group in the community, involved with the retired teachers' assoc. We partner with them to buy dictionaries for underprovided kids. The Teacher's Assoc. gives each child a dictionary and teaches them how to use it. A group from the church goes out to teach children to read.

They also planted flowers in a depressed area of Sacramento..

Santa Rosa CRS,

Animal Blessing —For many of us, a pet keeps us connected, offers love, affection and support and often really is our best friend. This special day provides a place to bring our beloved animal companions for a blessing from a Licensed Practitioner as we honor the gifts they bring to us through their love and devotion. This is open to the whole community.

Stock the Shelters — The Mitzvah Makers pass out empty grocery bags to our congregants every Sunday in October. Everyone has the opportunity to return the bags filled with non-perishable food items as well as to bring in clothing and other home life items in bags or boxes. Each Sunday in November these items are collected at church and volunteer drivers deliver them to organizations that serve homeless people in Sonoma County. Each year we send TONS of food and clothing to those who need them.

Student Spirit program: We are targeting 400 kids for this year's program. This list shows the # of kids, the agency name, and the SRCRS contact who is coordinating the program with each agency. Steele Lane School, Teen Parent Program, GRIP, Kid's Street Theatre Women's Shelter

"Shoes for Kids"

- Student Spirit is expanding with a new spring program to get kids a gift certificate for a new pair of shoes. Visit the "Standing for Peace" table to see how you can share your Giving Spirit as we celebrate the closing weeks of the Season for Non-Violence

Rev. Janet Garvey-Stangvik, Napa CSL

Rev. Janet participates in a group called the Peace Table. They work on all year long, and they have potlucks. Anyone from comm. Is invited. At the end of the Season for Nonviolence they provide recognition for peacemakers in the community. Anyone can be nominated, even a neighbor. Anyone

nominated was honored. They bring families and everyone has a great time. At the celebration they have a Ballet Folklorico of children, high school students drumming. Local speakers. Dignitaries. Arun Gandhi speaks.

California has an Adopt-A-Highway program, and many churches sponsor clean up days to keep the highways looking nice. They clean up quarterly, the State supplies bags, poker sticks, safety wear.

Rev. Gloria Diamond Conley, Executive Director
New Perspectives, Corporate Chaplaincy

Workshops, chaplains, retreats, working with spirituality in the workplace.
Providing in-house (at work) counseling, or off-site sessions for employees.
Brown Bag Lunch Talks, Support Groups, Hospital or prison visits, stress management.
Training practitioners in working as chaplains in the business arena.

Rev. Deborah Johnson, Inner Light Ministries, Santa Cruz, CA

Along with Valerie Fiddmont, has a music ministry that is taken into the prisons. They sing and have a wonderful time. They also collect SOM magazines and bring them to the prisoners.

Which brings to mind that many airports have meditation rooms with books from different kinds of spiritual teachings. When we had our convention in Seattle a few years ago, I left several books and a SOM magazine there.

In addition, the following were added during the workshop:

Las Vegas: Holiday "Giving Tree" project

Eureka: Adopt-A-Shelter: year-round provision of food, etc. for a family shelter in the community.
Also, church members donate \$ and youth church makes Easter baskets.

Lancaster: Healthy Homes: Support high risk teen mothers (i.e. cooking skills)

Unknown churches:

Use of church for Tutoring Center for children in the community.

Collection of old eyeglasses for those who aren't able to afford new frames in conjunction with Lion's Club

Thanksgiving Caroling (instead of Christmas, when there are many out there).

Some of the visioning results from the workshop:

Las Vegas: Drawn to support mental health with counseling and support groups, hospitals, etc.

Las Vegas: Interested in corporate health

Thornton, CO: Dividing Youth group and visioning with older students so that they can identify what they can do.

Lancaster: Coming Out Celebration in community

Eureka: Taking Religious Science on the road in their retirement.

Huntington Beach: "Sacred Services". Assist at shelters, handiwork, talking with people.