gifts to share, inc.

Gifts to Share

PROGRESS REPORT
January 2008 – December 2010

GIFTS TO SHARE, INC.

Progress Report

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On behalf of the Board of Directors of Gifts to Share, Inc., I am pleased to present this report on our services and activities for 2008 through 2010. Gifts to Share, Inc. reached a milestone in 2010 in providing 25 years of service to the City of Sacramento and its partners. In the face of economic challenges, volunteers, local organizations, businesses and foundations have stepped up to fill gaps and help maintain the quality of life in Sacramento.

We pledge to continue our important work with community organizations, volunteers and the City of Sacramento in assisting them in gaining support to deliver recreation, cultural and historical services, offer educational and enrichment programs, improve parks and public spaces, and create and maintain amenities for all to enjoy.

Please contact us if you have any questions or if we can be of help to you.

Sincerely,

Karolyn W. Simon, President
Gifts to Share, Inc.

Our Purpose

Gifts to Share, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 charitable nonprofit organization supporting the City of Sacramento's park, recreation, cultural, educational, and neighborhood improvement programs and facilities and those of its partners.

Our Services

Incorporated in 1985, Gifts to Share, Inc. is a model partnership joining a charitable nonprofit organization with the City of Sacramento, donors and the community. We enable the City of Sacramento, community organizations and volunteers to address community needs through planning and raising financial support for a variety of park improvement projects, recreation, education, human service and cultural programs and events and neighborhood revitalization efforts. We do this through:

Fiscal Sponsorship: We provide fiscal services or fiscally "sponsor" civic events, projects and programs on behalf of the City of Sacramento, non-exempt organizations, community groups and volunteers who need to raise funds to achieve their goals. As one of several charitable, nonprofit partners to the City of Sacramento, we accept contributions from the private and nonprofit sectors for City sponsored and City supported projects and programs.

Sponsored activities must fit the purposes of Gifts to Share, Inc. (See "Sponsored Activities" for examples.)

Fundraising and Project Planning: We provide planning services to project leaders to help them develop and implement action plans to secure resources including sponsors and volunteer support. Project leaders we have worked with include community volunteers, neighborhood-based organizations and/or City of Sacramento staff. The *Volunteer Project Guide*, a handy step-by-step reference for project leaders, covers project planning, management, outreach, fundraising and implementation. It is available free on our website at www.giftstoshare.org or in hardcover for just $10.00.

Training: We support training in raising funds and attracting, maintaining and involving sponsors and volunteers.

Start-Up Grants: We award seed money grants of up to $1,000 to individuals and groups who have a project or program idea that fits the purposes of Gifts to Share, Inc., and need seed money to get started. (See "Start Up Grants" for examples of projects and programs that were funded.)

Recognizing

COMMUNITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In Fall 2008, the Board of Directors hosted a reception to promote the services of the organization and, together with the City Council, to highlight the following projects and programs, and recognize the volunteers and organizations behind them. All accomplished their goals with assistance from Gifts to Share, Inc.

BEST Program (Building Youth Empowerment Skills Today)
Supporting Teen-Driven Neighborhood Improvement Projects in Oak Park

Whispering Pines Complex for Very Low Income Families
Providing a Learning Center for Residents

Friends of the North Natomas Regional Park
Spearheading Park Festivals and Community Outreach

Chinatown Mall Revitalization Outreach Group
Producing the Chinatown Mall Cultural Fair

Friends of Fairytale Town
Staging an Educational Theater Program for Teens

Phoenix Park Residents
Developing a Community Garden

La Familia Counseling Center
Working with Youth, Local Artists and the Business Community to Create a Mural on Franklin Boulevard

Sponsored Activities

Gifts to Share Inc. continues long-standing fiscal sponsor services for various activities that benefit from private support including: Late Night Sacramento teen program; Mayor's Summer Reading Camp; recreation programs; events for children and teens with disabilities; festivals and public park concerts in Meadowview, Natomas, Oak Park, Midtown and East Sacramento; and trees, shrubs and furnishings for City parks.

Over the past three years, the Board of Directors extended fiscal sponsor services to the following new activities that fit the nonprofit purposes of Gifts to Share, Inc.

PARKS:
Renovation of the McKinley Park Rose Garden; improvements and programming in Fremont Park; a proposed fountain for Marshall Park

EVENTS:
"Sessions", an annual music festival at Southside Park; "Gold Rush Days" festival in Old Sacramento; "Event Foundation", raising support and awareness of the needs of teens aging out of the foster care system through special events

PROGRAMS:
"Our Kids Community Breakfast Club" for children and parents at Oak Park Community Center

COLLABORATIONS:
"Greenwise" sustainability planning to improve neighborhoods and educate the public; "For Arts Sake" and "Education Summit" joining local government, schools and the community in arts and education planning and coordination; "Caring Sacramentans" planning and addressing the impacts of homelessness on neighborhoods; "Volunteer Sacramento" stimulating volunteerism in parks, neighborhoods and community services; "VIBE" Teen Center planning and organization; "Neighborhood Summit" conference to share resources and best practices among neighborhood and community leaders.

Start-Up Grants

We provided seed money grants of $800 – $1,000 to help launch a variety of civic projects and programs. A total of 31 seed money grants were awarded between 2008 and 2010 in support of the following endeavors:

PARKS / COMMUNITY GARDENS: Community information kiosk at Fremont Park; SACA Community Learning Center community garden on Rio Linda Boulevard, and a community garden at Living Stones Church

RECREATION: Softball diamond renovation at California Middle School; beginning tennis lessons for low income youth; blanket making for local hospitals by Girl Scout Troop 569 and John F. Kennedy High School students; "Universal Universe" Play Date Kick Off at Southside Park Accessible Playground; exercise equipment at Woodlake Elementary School 4th "R" Program site; holiday lighting event at Fairytale Town, and equipment for a walking club with the Asian Community Center and William Land Elementary School

ENRICHMENT / WELLNESS: Nutrition program at Pacific Elementary School; public outreach stations developed by teens for the Sacramento Zoo; student and parent learning activities at various Sacramento destinations through Mother Wit Foundation; educational outreach for women with hypertension by the Sacramento Black Nurses Association at Pannell Meadowview Community Center; cooking and nutrition classes at American Legion High School; "Affair to Remember" event to raise awareness of the needs of Sacramento foster youth; "Alive at 25" Drunk Driving Awareness Program for teens with BEST (Building Empowerment Skills Today); after school homework program at Parkview Apartments, and outreach for a new farmers market in Oak Park

ARTS / CULTURAL / HISTORICAL SITES: Music and dance lessons for high school and college students with Yemaya Salsa Dance Company; "Our Story" youth video arts program coordinated by New Dimension Learning Academy; "Toe2Toe" arts show with VIBE Teen Center; musical theater class for older adults; women's performing arts instruction with Sisters Keeper Liaison, Inc.; educational theater program at Fairytale Town, and an art therapy program for older adults with dementia

NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT: neighborhood clean-ups in Tahoe Park; promotion for a new neighborhood association around Detroit Boulevard, and a youth home improvement project with BEST (Building Empowerment Skills Today)

In addition, under the umbrella of the "Start Up" grant program, the Board of Directors awarded special youth grants ranging from $200 - $5,000 in partnership with several local non profit organizations. Activities benefitting youth included collaborative mural, art and music projects, community gardening and health related projects, field trips, camping trips, neighborhood newsletter development, enrichment and sports programs.

Other Disbursements

Matching City of Sacramento and Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Employee Contributions: Each year Gifts to Share, Inc. matches private contributions made by these employees. Funds sponsored urban campouts and supervised activities for children in Del Paso Regional Park, youth sports competitions, cooking classes, intergenerational storytelling and video production, "play dates" for children with disabilities at Southside Park Playground, stipends for youth cleaning up public and vacant property and activities for older adults with dementia.

Robert P. Thomas Youth Recreation Endowment Fund: The first disbursement of interest earnings was made and matched by the City of Sacramento. Funds sponsored 35 youth in citywide football leagues, and sponsored 90 youth in various sports leagues in North Sacramento.

Financial Overview

Fund Balance on January 1, 2008	**$ 860,989**
Revenues*	$ 1,025,309
Program Service Expenditures	$ 819,971
Administrative/Management Expenditures	$ 25,249
Fund Balance on December 31, 2008	$ 1,041,078
Fund Balance on January 1, 2009	**$ 1,041,078**
Revenues*	$ 1,389,273
Program Service Expenditures	$ 1,403,170
Administrative/Management Expenditures	$ 30,023
Fund Balance on December 31, 2009	$ 1,056,055
Fund Balance on January 1, 2010	**$ 1,056,055**
Revenues**	$ 927,746
Program Service Expenditures	$ 1,227,383
Administrative/Management Expenditures	$ 35,387
Fund Balance on December 31, 2010	$ 721,031

* This amount represents the collective effort of City staff, community organizations and volunteers who are raising funds for activities fiscally sponsored and managed by Gifts to Share, Inc. These funds are earmarked for sponsored, specific activities.

** A portion of revenues is derived from interest earnings which were estimated at press time.

Remembering

BOARD MEMBER MICHAEL WHIPPLE

Michael brought energy, guidance, passion and a sense of humor to his role on the board. Having served for 14 years, he made many contributions including helping to launch the Start Up Grant program. He passed away in June 2010 and is missed by his fellow board members and staff.

Gifts to Share, Inc.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Patti Bisharat, Vice President
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"Building Partnerships to Improve Neighborhoods"

Gifts to Share, Inc.
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See our website at:
www.giftstoshare.org