

Gifts to Share, Inc.

PROGRESS REPORT

January 2011—December 2013



On behalf of the Board of Directors of Gifts to Share, Inc., I am pleased to present this report of our services and activities for 2011 through 2013. For nearly 30 years this nonprofit has assisted community organizations, volunteers, local elected officials, and City of Sacramento staff in their endeavors to raise private support for recreation, cultural and historical services, education and enrichment programs, and park and public space improvements 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



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 in a partnership with the City of Sacramento to help enable City staff, elected officials, community organizations, and volunteers 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/or 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 help develop action plans. 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.giftstoshareinc.org.

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

Start-Up Grants: Grants have been awarded to community volunteers, organizations, and/or the City's Department of Parks and Recreation to help launch endeavors that met the purposes of Gifts to Share, Inc. (See “Start-Up Grants” for projects and programs that were funded).

Sponsored Activities

Gifts to Share Inc. provides fiscal sponsor services for various activities that benefit from private support. 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 and Recreation Facilities:

Development of an off leash dog park at University Park, renovation of Cabrillo Pool and the William Land Park Amphitheater, and the rebuilding of the McKinley Park Playground.

Events: Sponsored festivals and events include the Sacramento Downtown Santa Parade and a Veterans Day Parade sponsored by the City of Sacramento, the “D2” Festival in Mims/Hagginwood Park, the Celebrate Natomas Festival in South Natomas Community Park, “Celebrate Sacramento”, a free regional festival held twice annually, the South Sacramento Youth Performing Arts Gala, a “Farm to Fork” Reception with the League of California Cities, the “State of



the City” Event including charitable distributions benefitting parks, recreation, human services, and neighborhood improvements, North Natomas “Movies in the Park” Nights, the “Cube Event” to raise awareness of personal energy consumption, and a volunteer recognition event in Natomas.

Programs: Ongoing sponsored programs include elementary school backpack drives, “Operation College” to help prepare parents to plan for their children’s future college education, charitable projects managed by Council District 1’s Youth Advisory Committee, “WayUp” to provide education enhancement opportunities for youth in high poverty schools, and “WayFresh” to develop community gardens, shared backyard gardens and promote access to fresh produce.

In addition, fiscal sponsor services continue to be provided for a number of ongoing events and services supported through private contributions including Pops in the Park, William Land Park Rock Garden and South Natomas Rose Garden, the Mayor’s Summer Reading Camp, and Access Leisure programs.

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 19 seed money grants were awarded between 2011 and 2013 in support of the following endeavors:

Parks / Community Gardens: Community garden development at Colonial Heights Library, various elementary and adult day schools, a high school composting program, and website development for the “WayFresh” program.



Recreation / Events: Harvest Festival at the South Natomas Community Center and the Celebrate Natomas annual festival.

Enrichment / Wellness: Science learning activities for children; promotion of yoga in low income neighborhoods; Kosher food program with the Jewish Federation of Sacramento; after school program at Colonial Heights Library, and “Values” Public Art Project at Oak Park Community Center and various Sacramento City Unified schools and libraries.

Music / Arts / Cultural / Historical Sites: Silk screening, poetry workshops and drumming classes for older adults; Latin music ensemble for youth with the Yemaya Salsa Dance Company, and a musical production for middle school students with Teatro Nagual, Inc. Theater Arts Program.

During this time the Board of Directors awarded special youth grants at higher dollar amounts. Awards were made to the Sacramento Youth Symphony to provide instruction and instruments to elementary school children at Fruitridge and Keith B. Kenny Elementary Schools.

Unique Community Campaigns and Other Disbursements

Between 2011 and 2013, Gifts to Share, Inc. provided matching funds for youth programs, and participated in a unique community wide campaign, as follows:

Matching City of Sacramento Employee Contributions: Each year Gifts to Share, Inc. matches private contributions made by City employees for youth programs. During this period funds sponsored teens in work experience to help maintain parks, supported “The Hot Spot”, a free Friday night teen program at George Sim Center, and co-sponsored an after school program at Phoenix Park in partnership with the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Sacramento City Unified School District, and Phoenix Park staff.

“Save Our Pools” Campaign: In 2012, due to the recession, there were insufficient public funds to open City swimming pools. Gifts to Share, Inc. collected \$174,000 from approximately 100 donors, large and small, to help fund the pools and provide for swimming, swim lessons and swim team activities. Save Mart Stores generously matched the contributions dollar for dollar, in addition to donations received directly by their foundation. The campaign was a success!

Robert P. Thomas Youth Recreation Endowment Fund: A disbursement of interest earnings was made and matched by both the City of Sacramento and the Save Mart Foundation to help open City swimming pools as part of the “Save Our Pools” campaign.

**HEY SACRAMENTO
THANK YOU FOR HELPING
SAVE OUR POOLS**

**TOGETHER WE RAISED
TO SAVE OUR POOLS \$1,000,000**

Total includes confirmed pledges and Save Mart's match.
Stay tuned for official donation total.



Save Mart and the City of Sacramento would like to thank the following supporters for their generous donation to help save our pools.

Recognizing Community Accomplishments

In March 2011, the Board of Directors hosted a reception to promote the services of the organization and, together with the Mayor and 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.

Glen Hall and Bertha Henschel Park Area Residents
Raising support to keep neighborhood pools open to the public

Our Kids Community Breakfast Club
*Providing a healthy meal with arts, literacy, and math for children,
as well as education health classes for parents at the Oak Park Community Center*

Friends of Fremont Park
*Keeping the park a point of community pride through events,
improvements, and maintenance*

Bruce Yurman
Beautifying William Land Park in honor of friends and family for over 20 years

Yemaya Salsa Dance Company
*Contributing skills and space to teach music and dance
to local high school and college students*

Disabled Sports USA Far West
*Providing affordable inclusive physical and recreational activities
to Sacramento area teens to build health and confidence*



Financial Overview

Fund Balance on January 1, 2011	\$ 776,367
Revenues*	\$ 668,887
Program Service Expenditures	\$ 749,608
Administrative/Management Expenditures	\$ 20,886
Fund Balance on December 31, 2011	\$ 674,760
Fund Balance on January 1, 2012	\$ 674,760
Revenues*	\$ 1,587,737
Program Service Expenditures	\$ 1,113,958
Administrative/Management Expenditures	\$ 10,860
Fund Balance on December 31, 2012	\$ 1,137,679
Fund Balance on January 1, 2013	\$ 1,137,679
Revenues*	\$ 746,249
Program Service Expenditures	\$ 1,082,865
Administrative/Management Expenditures	\$ 11,537
Fund Balance on December 31, 2013	\$ 789,526

*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.

**GIFTS TO SHARE, INC.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Brian May, Vice President
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Cindy Cooke
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“Building Partnerships to Improve Neighborhoods”

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Photos by Steve Harriman and Christopher Shannon