



Triskeles

PRACTICE ALIGNED WITH PURPOSE

SPRING/SUMMER 2009 NEWSLETTER



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From the President

Alignment means many things to many people. For Triskeles, alignment means that values and inner commitments also manifest themselves in our outer practices, behavior, and programs.

Through our philanthropic services, we seek to align the way money, investments and philanthropy all work together. By having a sustainable approach to all our investments plus making high impact gifts through our donor advised funds, we achieve alignment

with what matters charitably as well as how money actively works in the world.

Our youth programs focus on young people meeting individual leaders and having experiences that evoke and develop their own intentions and values that align with their behavior and practices.

Alignments of all kinds are infused into every aspect of our work. We encourage you to look at our redesigned website (www.triskeles.org), and evaluate what we are achieving in the world.

Youth Work: Updates

Food for Thought: Combining the work of our *green interns* with our rapidly-growing Food for Thought initiatives, Triskeles has been instrumental in helping two local organizations start organic gardens this spring. Working with North Coventry Elementary School' principal, Jim Melchor and lead teacher Deb Ahola, our staff organized over two days of soil preparation and planting for over 180 students.

Together, adults and students planted seven raised beds, 12 hanging baskets, and 15 earth boxes with organic vegetables, herbs, and flowers. All are up and growing vigorously, and the Lions Cubs Service Club at the school will take over the care and tending of the new

plants. This was a great group effort, and there are many to thank: Mason Vollmer, Joan Rehtin from OJR School District, and the teachers and parents who came out and worked.



At Park Springs Apartments , a low-income housing community in Spring City, another garden is taking root. Under the supervision of Ed Rodriguez, social service coordinator, our *green interns*, staff, and volunteers have built a 60 x 60 fenced garden with raised beds and mulched paths. Park Springs' residents will be eating healthy and locally grown foods this summer! Thanks also to Sankanac Farm and Hugo Buda for all their assistance.

Side by Side

Local Teens Take the Lead

Leah and Michael, two veteran teen participants from Phoenixville Area High School, decided that their Side By Side experiences were so valuable that they wanted to 'give back,' so they worked together to organize a fund-raising evening for the program at Mike's house. They gave two impressive presentations to a large group of adults from the greater Phoenixville

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area, speaking personally about their experiences with a PowerPoint presentation in the background.

Their sincere interest in and proactive support for Side By Side was not lost on the adults, who responded by contributing over \$1700 to their favorite youth program. We commend them for their maturity and activism; and thanks to Mrs. Birdsall and Mrs. Potts for assisting and guiding them in this endeavor.

So What's New?

As a result of a planning process, four key strategic action goals made recently are to: grow responsibly, enhance capacity, focus program integration, and increase geographic diversity. These directions will now serve as our guidelines for tactical goals and objectives. By further clarifying our focus, we are committed to “aligning practice with purpose” in all aspects of our work. Therefore, Triskeles is further defining its corporate structure by including its youth programs and advisory work in **Triskeles Inc.** while its philanthropic and donor advised fund services will remain in the **Triskeles Foundation.**

Triskeles is delighted to announce that Raj Lewis has joined our team as the assistant director of youth programs. Raj brings an active history working with youth, organic gardening, healthy food choices, as well as a deep respect for land and a strong commitment to service. Welcome Raj!

We also welcome Dylana Dillon to support Meaghan Witri in our NYC Sustainable Directions Internships Program. Dylana and Meaghan will ensure expansion of our program this summer while working closely with Urban Assembly and other schools.

The Trudy McAlister Scholarship Fund (supporting 3rd and 4th year students studying acupuncture and oriental medicine across the country) will soon announce its awardee for the forthcoming year.

In addition to the Shinnyo-en Foundation, Triskeles would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the Winifred Johnson Clive Foundation for their recent support of the NYC Sustainable Directions Internships Program. This support allows us to expand (in conjunction with Urban Assembly) to not only serve more youth from UA but from other schools as well. Thus, our program's exposure in NYC for youth in sustainable/green internships has increased while adding a peace oriented training curriculum.

With the Tri-County YMCA, we received a stimulus grant from our county (Chester County) to support and increase our capacity to employ underserved youth this summer in our Food for Thought Program. This gift, in addition to key gifts from the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, Pottstown Area Health & Wellness Foundation, the Dansko Foundation, and an anonymous corporate foundation, enables us to: reach many more youth, lengthen our program, and add various educational and vocational components to this program.

We held an event at the Forbes Gallery in NYC on May 7th as a fund and “friend” raiser. Two Urban Assembly students (Kyle and Estefany) spoke about their internships last year, which were made possible through Triskeles. Approximately 60+ people joined us for that evening. We are grateful to our guests and board members - Sarah Heirman, Jim Norris, and Moira Mumma - for helping to make this a reality.

Advisory Services

We have been working with the Mid-Atlantic Region Waldorf Schools to provide administrative coaching and workshops. This past winter, we hosted two workshops for personnel from a number of schools. Jeff Taylor of RC Taylor Group presented a wide range of topics from goal

setting to communication and was well-received by the group.

We are also beginning to engage with several organizations in our local area (Chester County) on the topics of healthy food, gardening, and creating healthy environments for youth in different settings. Our latest

meeting was to discuss future possibilities with members of the Church of the Good Shepherd in West Chester, PA as they are looking to increase the ways they can serve their local community.

The Waldorf School of Baltimore continues to seek our help in creating focused social entrepreneurship elements for their high school curriculum.

Philanthropic Services

Aligning Values with Philanthropy and Investing

Triskeles Foundation is expanding its educational programs on sustainable investing and philanthropy with planners from different backgrounds.

In 2008, the Triskeles Foundation's investments performed very well compared to traditional markets. This very positive pattern has continued so far in 2009. Because Triskeles' donor advised funds are each invested separately (according to donor interests, gift planning, and size of fund), Triskeles' focus on service not only

allowed us to make many gifts, but to make very targeted investment approaches for each fund. The Triskeles Foundation made a number of gifts to a variety of outstanding recipients totaling approximately \$725,350 from May 15, 2008 through May 31, 2009.

Triskeles is conducting a feasibility study to potentially support planned giving programs of other not-for-profits who have approached Triskeles to provide this service. We anticipate a decision on this issue by the fall/winter of 2009.

Upcoming/Calendar of Events (all 2009):

✚ Food for Thought:

Summer Program: June 29th through July 31st

✚ Sustainable Directions Internships in NYC:

- First Orientation Seminar: June 30th
- Internship: July 6th through July 31st
- Culminating Event: August 4th

✚ Triskeles Annual Board Meeting:

September 16th and 17th

✚ Wine and Fine Dining Event in Chester Springs, PA:

October 17th



Triskeles will host a unique Fine Wine and Dining event featuring the finest foods, extraordinary wines, a small, but exclusive wine auction, and an intimate, fun filled evening with a renowned wine critic oriented towards people who appreciate one-of-a-kind experiences. **SAVE THE DATE! October 17th at 6:30** at the Jenny Lynne House in Chester Springs, PA. RSVP is essential!

Thank You To Our Recent Donors!

May 15, 2008 through May 27, 2009

NOT Included: Fees, Event Registrations, Raffle Tickets, or Gifts < \$500 to Fiscally Sponsored funds or Donor Advised Funds

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Supporting Triskeles

To donate/support Triskeles and its programs via credit card, please see the instructions and links on our website (www.triskeles.org) – click on **Donate Now**. Checks may be written to: Triskeles with the name of the program, fund or "general" written in the memo section*, and then mailed to:

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* Failure to do this will result in your entire gift going into our general operating account. Thank you.

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