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CCI News

March 2010

Dear Community Member,

Thank you so much for taking the time to read CCI's new quarterly newsletter. Our first issue was a success, and the list of people who are interested in CCI's involvement in community happenings keeps growing!

This newsletter is a great way to keep you updated on some of what we've been up to and how our whole community is striving to grow together. As always, please forward this issue to anyone who may be interested by clicking the blue "Forward Email" link at the bottom right of this letter.

Please check our [web site](#) for detailed information on our programs and [principles](#), or to [donate](#).

Hope your 2010 is off to a great start!

Community Chest, Inc. Executive Board and Staff

December 2009 and January 2010 Highlights: Global Voice travels to Mexico, CCI's web site gets a makeover, and a wonderful dream comes true!

Global Voice in Teacapán Jan 10-23

Global Voice, a program of Community Chest, Inc. (CCI), promotes youth leadership and development through cultural exchange and service-learning-a concept where learning takes place through volunteer service projects that benefit communities at home and abroad. The founders (the Griffin family) created the program in 2003 when they performed a cultural exchange with a group of Northern Ireland youth and youth from Lyon and Storey counties. Community projects were targeted around hunger and homelessness as well as religious divisions and beautification projects at two youth centers.

Global Voice has continued this model with yearly trips to locations in Mexico including Ajijic, Teacapán, and Loreto. They have worked with schools, orphanages and other organizations in practicing the cultural exchange through service model. Future trip locations include Ghana, Guatemala, and Honduras.

Seven youth and six adults, including Shaun Griffin, Deborah Loesch-Griffin, Jackie Weinland, Tamara Burnet, Darren McKay and Alix Cirac, recently spent two wonderful weeks in Teacapán, Mexico. Shaun Griffin said it was remarkable and one of the best trips Global Voice has ever done. During that time they built a basketball court from start to finish, top to bottom, all of it! They created 70 books in a workshop on scrapbooking to encourage the village youth in self expression. The books included writing, drawing and artwork. They painted three murals to beautify the school with two themes focusing on two countries - two hands connected and the power of creativity, imagination and creating art. They also co-created a song with 12 students and presented a folkloric dance at the closing ceremony.



Global Voice with some of many gracious hosts in Teacapán, Jan. 2010

It was Jackie Weinland's fourth Global Voice trip and this year they returned to the village of her first trip. Jackie said "It was wonderful to see how the kids have grown. It is a special thing to take youth from here and get them engrossed in a non-tourist culture and real life. You leave there with a sense that you gained so much, learned so much. The GV trip comes at a time in life that shapes a young person's future and his or her choices of life's work."

The Community Chest, Inc. Web Site-A Whole New Look!

The CCI web site has been updated with a new look thanks to Alexander Drew and Jessica Paz-Cedillos. Check it out at www.communitychestnevada.net!

After 20 Years, A Dream Comes True!

After 20 years of dreaming, planning, fund-raising and persistent hard work, particularly by Shaun Griffin, the Director of Community Chest, Inc., the Storey County Youth and Community Resource Center will be breaking ground this spring.



Since 1991, with the support of volunteers, agency staff, public and private revenue, CCI has been striving to build a center for all Storey County residents

for health care, youth facilities, meeting space and more. A construction management team will be selected to run the project reducing overall building costs.

Can You Imagine Benefit, March 26-Tahoe House Hotel

Please join Community Chest Inc. staff, supporters, and community members at our inaugural Can You Imagine Benefit, March 26. The purpose of this event is to spread awareness about our efforts to build and sustain strong families and communities. We are working hard to raise funds for a general assistance program.

People need Community Chest's help more than ever before in the face of trying economic times. CCI has been serving youth and families in northwestern Nevada since 1991 through counseling, family advocacy, youth enrichment programs, community health services and employment placement assistance. Funding a non-profit is always a challenge, but more so now than ever before.

Come enjoy music, appetizers and wine as you visit with friends and be part of the Storey County Youth and Community Resource Center. Your participation will help us raise funds to operate CCI and all the wonderful programs that help so many in Storey County.

TIME: 5:30-8 p.m.

PLACE: The Tahoe House Hotel, 162 South C Street, Virginia City

TICKETS: \$50. To purchase call Tamara at 775-847-9311 ext. 107.

CCI Executive Board Seeking New Members

Spread the word. The CCI Executive Board is looking for community-minded people, youth or adults, who want to be part of a dynamic non-profit organization that serves the youth and families of Storey County.

CCI was founded on respect, dignity, being responsive and being inclusive. CCI offers programs that promote healthy life choices through prevention and education. It serves as a link to existing services and programs in partnership with other agencies, organizations and community groups. CCI organizes local efforts and outreach services that forge caring communities throughout the county and the state.

If you, or someone you know, want to build social capital by capitalizing on the strengths of all, then being a part of CCI is for you. Call Shaun Griffin at 847-9311 today or visit www.communitychestnevada.net for more information. You can make a difference in a child's or families' life.

Outstanding CCI Staff, 2009-2010-Darren McKay

CCI's Youth Development & Prevention Coordinator Darren McKay is known as a "cool cat" according to Heather and Brooke Harrower. "He's one of those people you could talk to for an hour and still not know all he's done" comments Shaelyn Sprong. Tiffany Harrower loves his energy.

Born in Reno, Nevada, Darren gained a love of the outdoors growing up in northern Nevada snowboarding, skateboarding and going on various adventures. In high school, he had two meaningful experiences that opened his eyes to the power of volunteering and international travel. The first was spending a Spring Break building houses in Tijuana, Mexico. This project illuminated the fact that a challenging service-learning project could also be fun, meaningful and rewarding. The second experience, spending a summer as an exchange student in the Netherlands, allowed him to tap into questions of nationality, culture and identity.

Darren earned his degree in Science, Technology and Media from Pitzer College where he gained outdoor leadership experience as the president of Pitzer Outdoor Adventures. One of his highlights from college was studying in Botswana, Africa where he learned the local language and worked as an intern with a video production company. Since graduating in 2004, Darren has explored a number of jobs including: academic tutor, camp counselor, film production assistant, door-to-door energy salesman, field instructor, outdoor education instructor, fruit picker, adventure tour guide, office manager and others.



Darren has been a valued part of Community Chest since 2008. Some of his favorite programs here are: Global Voice, Global Youth Service Day, Stand Tall Prevention teams, and the Comstock Kids Summer Program. For 2009 to 2010, Darren is concentrating on reducing underage drinking in Storey County, the community garden and the farmers market. CCI Director Shaun Griffin says "Darren's enthusiasm is contagious. He wants every young person to succeed and they know that as soon as they meet him." Community Development Director Erik Schoen comments that Darren "has great energy and commitment to all things youth. He is really passionate to make the world a meaningful place for young people."

Please contact Darren if you are interested in service-learning opportunities or if you just want to say hi.

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Community Chest, Inc. | PO Drawer 980 | Virginia City | NV | 89440