



Cultivating Justice,  
Nonviolence & Well-being

# 2011 YEAR IN REVIEW

## Marking progress • Giving thanks

*Vision: Thriving communities sustained by social justice & compassion*



## MILESTONES

- Circles of Hope meeting attendance more than doubled, to an average of 75 each week.
- Thirteen graduates on August 30 made this the largest Circle Leader training class ever.
- Circles of Hope became the State Training Center for Kansas, with Reno County as its first recruit.
- A partnership with Inter-Faith Housing in Reno County brought the CA\$H account savings program to Harvey County.
- The Giving Garden completed its tenth season and grew over 600 pounds of vegetables despite record-setting heat.
- Over 10,000 meals and a variety of daily activities made a big difference for Newton children at two schools for the Kid's Summer Food & Activities program.
- New staff and board members propelled us forward with fresh energy and ideas.
- Over 80 first-time donors joined our loyal supporters, and volunteers invested over \$107,000 worth of their time.



*Kids Summer Food & Activity Program*

Peace Connections • USDA • USD 373  
Churches • Businesses • Volunteers



**Mission:** We partner with others to: build resources within families and communities; teach and practice nonviolence; and nurture personal and spiritual well-being.

*Circles of Hope weekly meetings begin with each participant sharing something new and good that has happened in their lives and end with some form of appreciation, usually for the person sitting next to you. This is our annual version of these positive practices.*

## NEW & GOODS

- The Missional Church Network honored Circles of Hope with the Kingdom Class Award in 2011 for “building bridges out of poverty.”
- New board members in 2011 are Judy Hawk, Gary Rediger, Rosi Reimer, Justin Thaw, Mary Sue Voth & Mel Voth.
- New part-time employees are Bill & Glenda Reynolds who came on board early in the year as coaches for Circles of Hope; Marva Weigelt who stepped into the administrative associate role vacated by Amy Schmidt in September; and Laurie Oswald Robinson, who joined us as Coordinator of Fund Development this fall.
- After several years of only operating one school site for the Kid’s Summer Food & Activities program, we were pleased to go back to two sites for greater outreach.
- A new feature in Peace Connections’ Quiet Room is the monthly Be the Peace Meditation during the noon hour on the first Monday of every month.
- Several Circle Leaders, volunteers and staff from Circles of Hope testified before the House Appropriations Committee in Topeka.
- The Peace Connections website underwent a complete redesign at the end of 2011.
- For the first time, a Circles of Hope Circle Leader has completed the program and become an Ally to someone else.
- We are blessed by how many new people walked in the door at Peace Connections this year because they’ve heard about us from friends.

## APPRECIATIONS

- Deep gratitude for the tireless and caring volunteers who regularly share their time and talents to keep Peace Connections on track.
- Likewise, Circles of Hope could not thrive without the efforts of many, many volunteers. Truly this program is a remarkable example of grassroots support creating lasting change.
- Hearty thanks to the Circles of Hope coaching staff.
- Thanks to all who participated in the Poverty Simulations at Bethel College.
- Peace Connections relies regularly on the patience, know-how and responsiveness of our computer consultant, Joel Ewy. Bless him!
- Special thanks to newsletter layout volunteer, Kathy Randall.
- The Kids Summer Food & Activities program would not be possible without the contributions of Sue Elder, activity program coordinator, and Angela Altum, volunteer coordinator.
- Thanks to all the local churches that provided a place to tell the stories that bring in new volunteers and donors to support the mission.
- Profound appreciation to Cookie & Dave Wiebe for Cookie’s legacy to Circles of Hope, both in life and in death.
- Gratitude for the churches committed to regular monthly or quarterly giving in support of our initiatives.
- Thanks to Bethel College, Life Enrichment and the Newton Area Chamber of Commerce for hosting presentations.

**Thanks to all those who served on the Board of Directors in 2012:** Cathy Anderson, Stan Bohn, Margaret Goering, Marjean Harris, Shafiq Hasan, Judy Hawk, Marilyn Helberg, John McGee, Gary Rediger, Rosi Reimer, Jeanette Stucky, Justin Thaw, Mary Sue Voth, Mel Voth.

Clockwise from top left: Circle Leader Libby Baumgartner expressing appreciation for Circles of Hope; Board member Gary Rediger sharing at the Newton Chamber Breakfast; cake for the Circles graduating class; Circles Coach Wanda Pumphrey giving thanks; Angela Altum and Sue Elder planning for the Kids Summer Food; Ally Heidi Regier Kreider identifying how Circles enriches her life; Harvey County United Way Chili Cookoff; Florence Schloneger, Michelle Bosworth and Gloria Rediger in their Matched Circle; kids lining up for a healthy breakfast; Candie Coutts and her daughters celebrating at Circles graduation; Circle Leaders wearing the prayer shawls they received at Christmas; Circles community meeting (center).



# Never doubt that your investment makes a difference!

Abraham's Construction  
Alexanderwohl Peace & Social  
Justice Committee  
Dee Anderson  
Cathy Anderson  
Jay & Lois Anderson  
Lora Andreasson  
BCMC Women's Fellowship of  
Bethel College Church  
Bachman Plumbing & Heating  
Helen Bargaen  
Anastacia & Robert Barnett  
Gladwin & Lois Bartel  
Grace & Harlan Bartel  
Harold & Louise Bartel  
Justina Neufeld & Floyd Bartel  
Dan & Loretta Baumgartner  
Gail & Jeff Baumgartner  
Joel Ewy & Bev Baumgartner  
W & R Beachy  
Deb & Wes Bergen  
Bethel College Mennonite  
Church  
Anita & Stan Bohn  
Jerre & Lucy Bontrager  
Book Reviews  
Michelle B. Bosworth  
Jean Boyd  
Ray & Rosie Brandt  
Joan Breit  
Roland Brown  
Joan & Wade Brubacher  
Carol & Jerry Buller  
Timothy & Rachel Epp Buller  
Barbara Bunting  
Robert Burdette  
Central Kansas Community  
Foundation  
Citizens State Bank  
City of Newton  
Barbara & Samuel Claassen  
Janice & Stanley Claassen  
John & Miriam Claassen  
Milton Claassen  
Walter Claassen  
Boyd & Jonell Davies, Jr.  
Darlene Dick  
Marvin & Ruthann Dirks  
Albert & Norma Duerksen  
David & Mary Duerksen  
Lynette & Marlo Duerksen  
Ann & Jim Dunn  
Edna & George Dyck  
Glen & Karen Ediger  
Marianne Eichelberger  
Elena Entz  
Carol & Larry Entz  
Gerry & Ruth Epp  
Brian & Kathleen Rulka Ewert  
Elvira Voth & Lester Ewy  
Excel Industries  
Faith Mennonite Church  
Faith Mission Circle  
Donna L. Feudner  
First Bank  
First Mennonite Church,  
Halstead  
First Mennonite Church, Newton  
First Presbyterian Church  
First United Methodist Church  
Carol A. Flickinger  
Arlo & Geneva Flickner  
Marsha Forcum  
Judy & Paul Fransen  
Gary & Mary Ann Franz  
LaDeen and Rod Frey  
Carol & Walt Friesen  
Donna Friesen

Donna June & Larry Friesen  
Duane & Elizabeth Friesen  
Gregg & Joanna Friesen  
Jacob & Lola Friesen  
Judy Friesen  
Richard & Dorothy Nickel Friesen  
Gerald & Joyce Gaeddert  
Carol & Randall Goering  
Dorothy & Homer Goering  
Eugene & Waneta Goering  
Elizabeth & Victor Goering  
Fern Goering  
Jake Goering  
Larry & Margaret Goering  
Leona Goering  
Lloyd Goering  
Lorene Goering  
Rosella Goering Trust  
Verna Goering  
Martha Graber  
Charles & Diana Stucky Graber  
Douglas & Nancy Graber  
Grace Hill Mennonite Church  
Marilyn Grisham  
James & Marjorie Gundy  
David Habegger  
Chuck & Jan Hadley  
Allen & Marcia Hahn  
Dorothy & Willis Harder  
Ruth Harder  
Doreen Harms  
Beverly & Shafiq Hasan  
Amita Haury  
Gordon & Theresa Hauser  
Judy & Rodger Hawk  
Marilyn Helburg  
Lee & Mary Alice Hertzler  
Nathan Smucker & Greta Hiebert  
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Joyce Huber  
Carole & Robert Hull  
Gary & Jean Isaac  
Jon & Sue Ann Jantz  
Helen & Vern Jantz  
Wallace Jantz  
Elaine & Paul Jantzen  
Lorrie Janzen  
Dorothea Janzen  
N.J. Johnson  
Helen Jones  
Lanny & Jane Jones  
Kansas West Annual Conference  
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Barbara & Richard Kaufman  
James R. Kaufman  
Matthew & Sonja Kaurman  
Vernell & Virgil Kaufman  
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John & Valerie Klaassen  
John & Judy Kliewer  
Ellen Kling  
Sharon Faye Koehn  
Dick & Barb Koontz  
Myrna & Randy Krehbiel  
Bonnie & Dwight Krehbiel  
June & Perry Krehbiel  
Melva Krehbiel  
David & Heidi Regier Kreider  
Robert & Lois Kreider  
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Norman & Vicki Lichti  
Cynthia & Dave Linscheid  
Ruth Linscheid  
Larry & Nelda Litwiller  
James & Lois Loflin  
Wilma Loganbill  
B. Aileen McCune  
Connie & Gene Marsh

Mary Martha Circle  
Bill & Ruth Mason  
Yolanda Kauffman & Eric Massanari  
R Michael & Lois Massanari  
Mark & Kristen Mayhue  
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Paula Miller  
John & Roxanne Miller  
Gary & Ruby Moore  
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Berneil & Ted Mueller  
Janice Napper  
Dana & Kathleen Neff  
Donna & Harry Neufeld  
Frieda & Walter Neufeld  
Gerhard Neufeld  
Kendra & Russ Neufeld  
Rosalie & Robert Neufeld  
New Creation Fellowship  
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Lila Osborne  
Edna & John Otto  
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Debra & Lee Penner  
Marvin & Ruth Penner  
Kaye and Virgil Penner  
Kathryn & Lawrence Penner  
Personal Preference Landscape  
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Ron and Carol Peters  
Dwight & LaVonne Platt  
Rachel Poling  
Darlene & Michael Powers  
Evelyn Quiring  
Boots & Merrill Raber  
Lou Gomez & Elizabeth Raid  
Leslie & Roger Ratzlaff  
Gary & Gloria Rediger  
Bill & Maurine Regher  
Chuck & Cindy Regier  
Daryl Regier  
Edwin & Ella Regier  
Gary & Jean Regier  
Gladys & Raymond Regier  
Harold & Rosella Regier  
Myron Voth, Phyllis Regier  
Sarah Regier  
Gladys Reimer  
Kathy Landis & Miles Reimer  
Sara Reimer  
Steve Goertzen & Rosi Reimer  
Amanda & Clarence Rempel  
Loren & Peggy Reusser  
Ernest & Glenda Reynolds  
Keith & Susan Rhoades  
Lorraine & Steve Richards  
Esther Rinner  
Laurie Oswald Robinson  
Angelo Roncone  
Fern & Galen Rudiger  
Laverne Rutschman  
Robert & Ruth Rutschman-Holliday  
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Salem United Methodist Church  
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Hartzel and Ilene Schmidt  
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Kenneth Schmidt  
Mary Lou & Robert Schmidt  
Lola Schmidt  
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Christine Downey & Gordon Schmidt  
Roland Schmidt  
Andi & Mark Schmidt-Andres  
Ada & Wes Schmidt-Tieszen  
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Paul & Wendy Schrag  
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Linda Shelly  
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John & Pamela Sims  
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Clarene Stucky  
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Beth VanNatta  
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Mildred & Myron Voran  
Lois & Peter Voran  
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Vernelle Voth  
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Arnold & Dolores Wedel  
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Esther Wenger  
Grace Wenger  
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Lonabelle & James D Yoder  
Jeannie & Marvin Zehr  
Zion Mennonite Church  
Bill & Joyce Zuercher  
Melanie Zuercher

Let us know if we missed you!