



2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

Building relationships, resourcefulness & resilience

Deanna/Circle Leader



“I am so determined to change my life. And excited. I’ve wanted to change for so long, but haven’t had the opportunity to learn how. I want to pay it forward by helping others.”

Lois/Circle Ally



“I’ve learned how to be there for someone, without judging them, and to be open to receive as well as give.”

- ◆ **New executive director.** At mid-year we honored long-time executive director Myrna Krehbiel upon her retirement and welcomed Jennifer Rose as the new leader.
- ◆ **VISTA volunteer.** In July, Danny Barrera of Newton was assigned to Peace Connections as a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) for a year, to help build sustainability. He has proven an excellent asset to the organization and we hope to secure another VISTA to take his place in July 2015.
- ◆ **Circles of Hope makes a difference one family at a time.** The eighth and ninth Circle Leader training classes graduated in January and August, bringing the total number of participants who have taken the class since 2009 to 76. About 75% of graduates go on to commit to 18 months in Matched Circles. Economic impacts for those who have reached 18 months include a 131% increase in income, and a 45% decrease in dependency on public assistance.
- ◆ **Pass it on.** The 9th Circle Leader training class included the third trainee to be a second-generation graduate; all three have had a mother precede them through the initiative.
- ◆ **More multi-generational impacts.** A richer and more disciplined child care program began to evolve at Circles of Hope under the skillful guidance of Kristin Neufeld Epp this year and has continued to grow with leadership from Kathy, Kalyn & Shannon Leininger and other dedicated child care volunteers.
- ◆ **Summer Enrichment Activities (SEA).** SEA served 46 children from 23 families, and volunteers coordinated by SEA staff helped USD 373 provide close to 10,000 free meals through the Summer Food Service Program.
- ◆ **Parent satisfaction is high.** According to the first-ever exit survey, parents listed the top benefits of SEA to their children as friends, meaningful activities and building social skills. Parents indicated a high rate of satisfaction with the activity program, with 90% giving a rating of 9 or 10 (out of 10).

Lea Ann/Community Team



“I have watched participants persevere through these tough times, and it is an honor to help them build strength in the face of so much that threatens to tear them down.”

Bryna/Circle Leader



“Circles is where I found healthy relationships. It helped me actually to make goals and then meet them. I’ve never had problems making the goals, just meeting the goals.”

Home of Circles of Hope and Summer Enrichment Activities (SEA)

Volunteer service hours in 2014 were valued at over \$250,000

PEACE CONNECTIONS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Marjean Harris
Shafiq Hasan
Gary Rediger
Rosi Reimer
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Jeanette Stucky, President

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Coordinator: Scott Eckert

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Erna Rempel
Richard Rempel
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Jacque Spangler
Susie Wickiser

SUMMER VOLUNTEERS

Coordinators: Sue Elder & Angela Altum

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Linda Gaertner
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Colin Potturi
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Jayden Walton
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SUMMER ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES (SEA)

PROGRAM PRESENTERS

Bonnie Krehbiel's Pretzel Making
Breydan Meyer
Callie Unruh's Mobile Dairy
Caring Hands Humane Society
Harvey County Extension Nutritionists
Newton Fire Department
Newton Police Department
Newton Recreation Center Pool

STORE & OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Ron Bachman
Stan Bohn
Christy Brenneman
Kylie Brenneman
George Dyck
Roy Goering
Sheralyn Goering
Arnita Haury
Ruby Moore
Leah Mueller
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Sarah Wallace
Joyce Whiteman
Susie Wickiser
Barrick Wilson

CIRCLES OF HOPE

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS

Carolann Adair
Tucky Allen
Jay Anderson
Lois Anderson
Danny Barrera
Floyd Bartel
Rachel Bennett
Lizzie Bernhart
Mackala Blair
Stan Bohn

LaRita Claassen

Sherry Clark
Karen Dickson
Jeryllyn Ediger
Kay Ediger
Kristin Neufeld Epp
Joyce Flickinger
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Judy Friesen
Larry Goering
Roy Goering
Margaret Goering
Sheralyn Goering
Rosie Hake
Marjean Harris
Gordon Houser
Trianna Jones
Sherie Klassen
Sheila Kumar
Kalyn Leininger
Kathy Leininger
Shannon Leininger
Phillip McPheeters
Roxanne Miller
Jason Mueller
Leah Mueller
Elmo Newman
Andy Ortiz
Tina Payne
Marvin Penner
Sari Pouch
Roy Pumphrey
Wanda Pumphrey
Carola Ratzlaff
Dwight Ray
Lea Ann Reber
Gloria Rediger
Heidi Reiger-Kreider
Amanda Rempel
Bill Reynolds
Denise Rhoades
Steve Richards
Laurie Oswald Robinson
Christian Rodriguez

Galen Rudiger

Richard Rutschman
Carolyn Schroeder
Dan Schroeder
Curtis Stubbs
Marian Stubbs
Jeannette Stucky
Don Swender
Sue Swender
Toni Thompson
June Thomsen
Janet Voth
Marva Weigelt
James Wenger
Jim Wickiser
Susie Wickiser
Kathy Wiens
Cathy Woodward
Cynthia Wyss
Deb Zeiner

CIRCLES MEAL PROVIDERS

Coordinator: Lea Ann Reber

Bryna's Matched Circle
Chisholm Middle School Student Council
Circles Guiding Coalition
Circles Resource Team
Craig's Matched Circle
Deanna's Matched Circle
Farm Bureau Board of Directors
First United Church of Christ
First United Methodist Church
GFWC Delta Hypatia
Harvey County Homeless Shelter
June & Amanda's Small Group
Kansas Leadership Center
K-State Research & Extension
Family Development Group
Valetta Seymour, Master Food Volunteer
Newton Medical Center
Salvation Army
Sojourner's Sunday School
Wendy's Restaurant

WE REGRET IF WE MISSED ANYONE!



Coming together is a **BEGINNING**. Keeping together is **PROGRESS**. Working together is **SUCCESS**.

- Henry Ford

Thanks to all who invested in the mission with contributions in 2014

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 First Mennonite Church, Moundridge
 First Mennonite Church, Newton
 First Presbyterian Church
 First Presbyterian Women
 First United Methodist Church
 First United Methodist Faith Promise
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 Harvey County Farm Bureau Association
 Harvey County United Way
 Hesston Mennonite Church
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 Petersen Family Funeral Home
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 Salem United Methodist Red Bird Circle
 Schowalter Foundation
 Schowalter Villa
 Shalom Mennonite Church
 Shalom Mennonite Church Women
 Tabor Mennonite Church
 The First United Church Of Christ
 The Mennonite Foundation
 The Sheppard Foundation
 Wal-Mart Local Giving
 Whitestone Mennonite Church
 Zion Mennonite Church

2014 Giving by Type of Donor

Amount	Household	Church	Business	Institution
\$1,000+	15	4	4	5
\$250 - \$999	33	10	5	2
\$100 - \$249	68	7	4	1
\$50 - \$99	71	1	0	0
Less than \$50	74	0	0	1
Total (% of giving)	261 (60.6%)	22 (12.1%)	13 (9.1%)	9 (18.2%)

Mission: To inspire transformation in people and systems by building relationships, resourcefulness and resilience.

PEACE CONNECTIONS APPRECIATES...

- ◆ Shafiq Hasan for 16 years of service on the board of directors.
- ◆ Myrna Krehbiel for 14 years of investment in Peace Connections as executive director.
- ◆ Marlene Smucker for 12 years as volunteer store manager.
- ◆ Rosi Reimer for 3 years of service in her most recent stint on the board of directors.
- ◆ Roger Ratzlaff, Gary Rediger, Steve Richards and Jeanette Stucky for volunteer service on the Fund Development Committee.
- ◆ Scott Eckert, Gerald Greene and the rest of the crew for carrying on the work of the Giving Garden.
- ◆ Richard Rutschman for offering a free two-day training in Motivational Interviewing for Circles of Hope staff and volunteers.
- ◆ Sue Elder, Angela Altum and Cathy Willis for once again providing a top-notch Summer Enrichment Activity program for kids.
- ◆ Kansas Leadership Center for a rich array of training opportunities for staff and volunteers.
- ◆ Chef Tom Basore at Water's Edge Restaurant and local celebrities Vicki Adame, Angie Baur, Ashley Bergner, Timothy Connor, Roxana Koch, Leroy Koehn, James Krehbiel, Susan Lamb, Kim Manring, Bobby Rose, Matt Schmidt, Teresa Strausz, Todd Tangeman and Chris Zuercher for making our Celebrity Server fundraiser a success.



Increasingly we realize that peace, if it's going to get a foothold in the world, has to start at the local level. Over half of Harvey County school-age children are in economic distress. That should wake every one of us up and point toward a place to begin: build resilience one kid at a time.

- marva weigelt

