



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  
 Armita Haury  
 Gordon & Theresa Hauser  
 Judy & Rodger Hawk  
 Marilyn Helburg  
 Lee & Mary Alice Hertzler  
 Nathan Smucker & Greta Hiebert  
 Gordon & Jeanne Houser  
 Joyce Huber  
 Carole & Robert Hull  
 Gary & Jean Isaac  
 Jon & Sue Ann Jantz  
 Helen & Vern Jantz  
 Wallace Jantz  
 Elaine & Paul Jantzen  
 Lorrise Janzen  
 Dorothea Janzen  
 N.J. Johnson  
 Helen Jones  
 Lanny & Jane Jones  
 Kansas West Annual Conference  
 Ruth Kauffman  
 Barbara & Richard Kaufman  
 James R. Kaufman  
 Matthew & Sonja Kaurman  
 Vernell & Virgil Kaufman  
 Carol Kirchmer  
 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  
 Mike & Susan Lamb  
 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  
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 Midland National Bank  
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 John & Roxanne Miller  
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 J. Harold & Rosemary Moyer  
 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  
 Fred & Ruth Obold  
 Lila Osborne  
 Edna & John Otto  
 Helen Pauls  
 Debra & Lee Penner  
 Marvin & Ruth Penner  
 Kaye and Virgil Penner  
 Kathryn & Lawrence Penner  
 Personal Preference Landscape  
 Ed & Evelyn Peters  
 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  
 Fred & Jan Sabb  
 Salem United Methodist Church  
 Florence Schloneger  
 Alvin & Wilma Schmidt  
 Amy & Matt Schmidt  
 Hartzel and Ilene Schmidt  
 Jeannie & Ralph Schmidt  
 Kenneth Schmidt  
 Mary Lou & Robert Schmidt  
 Lola Schmidt  
 Jane & Mike Schmidt  
 Christine Downey & Gordon Schmidt  
 Roland Schmidt  
 Andi & Mark Schmidt-Andres  
 Ada & Wes Schmidt-Tieszen  
 Schowalter Foundation  
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 Laura Ann Schrag  
 Paul & Wendy Schrag  
 Robert & Frances Schrag  
 Ronnie & Pam Schrag  
 Janice & Vern Schroeder  
 Shalom Mennonite Church  
 David Shelly  
 Linda Shelly  
 Ann Showalter  
 Cay Siebert  
 Francis & Richard Siemens  
 Lois & Walter Silvernale  
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 John & Pamela Sims  
 Edwin and Mary Smith  
 Barbara Goering & Joseph Smucker  
 Marlene & Stan Smucker  
 Jack and Linda Stauffer  
 LaVern & Marilyn Stucky  
 Bruce & Gail Stucky  
 Mark & Pat Stucky  
 Clarene Stucky  
 Jeanette & Steve Stucky  
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 Nelda Thelin  
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 Donald & Stephanie Thompson  
 Jerry & Leann Toews  
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 Megan & Toby Tyner  
 United Methodist Health Ministry Foundation  
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 Robert & Erlene Unruh  
 Lois & Paul Unruh  
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 Mildred & Myron Voran  
 Lois & Peter Voran  
 Coleen & John Voth  
 Vernelle Voth  
 Mary Sue & Mel Voth  
 Arnold Voth  
 Bill & Nada Voth  
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 Lenore Waltner  
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 James & Jean Weber  
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 Ethel & Rodney Wedel  
 Helen Wehry  
 Esther Wenger  
 Grace Wenger  
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 Carol Wiebe  
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 Lisa Wiebe  
 Margaret Wiebe  
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 Dolores Yoder  
 Doris & Jim Yoder  
 Lonabelle & James D Yoder  
 Jeannie & Marvin Zehr  
 Zion Mennonite Church  
 Bill & Joyce Zuercher  
 Melanie Zuercher

**Let us know if we missed you!**