

S U M M E R 2 0 1 2

Green Generations Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

Summer Smiles

We wish you a happy, healthy, joyful and rejuvenating summer full of fun memories and great times!



Summertime is also that magical time to reconnect with nature!



Please eat locally and seasonally!

Enjoy your summer!!



We've Been Busy!

Dear Green Generations Friends and Family,

We are so excited to share our latest news with you! Since December, we have been hard at work getting ready to launch our workshops for children, parents and teachers! We're very happy to announce that we will successfully launch them in June. Also, our GG family is growing. Check out what we've been up to!

Thank you for all of your support and love!

Save the Date!

**PS1 School
June 12th
1st Green
Generations
Workshop
Launched!**

**BARC Project
Saturday, July 7th
Group volunteer
project to help
rehabilitated dogs
and cats.**

**Eco-Workshops
September 2012
Green Generations
will soon be
coming to St.
Mary's Park!**

The Planetary Week for a Better World

June 9th – 17th 2012

PS 1 – COURTLANDT SCHOOL



Teaching the Virtues of Unity, Love & Global
Compassion

It's time to celebrate a HUGE success:

On Tuesday, June 12th, Green Generations launched its first workshop in celebration of *The Planetary Week for a Better World*. We visited a 2nd grade bilingual class at PS1-The Courtlandt School, which is located in our South Bronx neighborhood. There were 22 children.

The theme of our workshop was teaching the virtues of love, unity and global compassion. Using the story, [The Invisible String](#), we used the metaphor of an invisible string to represent how we are united through the bonds of love, family and friendships.



BARC: Connecting Children with Animals ♥
Saturday, July 7th, 2012

On Saturday, July 7th youth from Green Generations will participate with [BARC](#). [BARC](#) is non-profit organization located in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

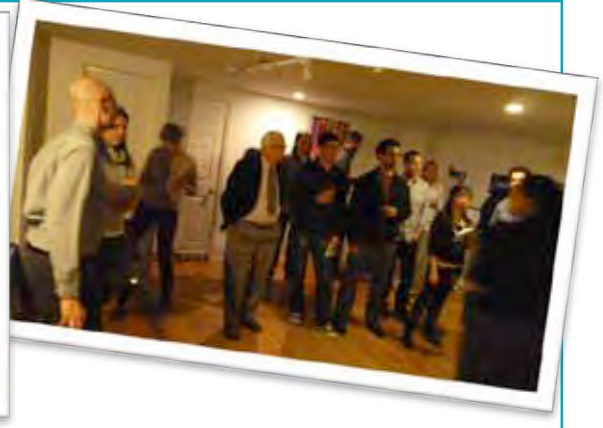
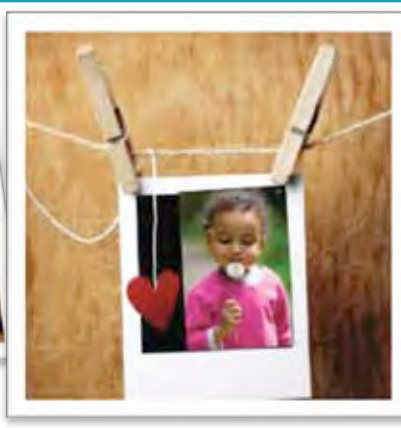
We'll be taking our Green Generations youth to [BARC](#) to participate in a morning-long humane education workshop to learn how to connect with rehabilitated dogs and cats.

By teaching empathy and uniting our children with all life, we are teaching them how to love unconditionally and non-judgmentally.

We are also teaching our children how to be protectors of nature and we are providing them with a higher level of consciousness that will, on a broader scale, create a more compassionate world.

Stay tuned for photos in our next newsletter!





“HeART in the South Bronx” Fundraising Success Recap

On Friday, March 9th, 2012, Green Generations hosted its first fundraising event at [Space on White](#) in Tribeca, NYC.

We are very grateful to each of you who attended and contributed to our event. It is very meaningful to us to have your support!

We received so much love and encouragement and we were so appreciative of you donating your time and money to helping us launch our first fundraiser! **THANK YOU!**

The statistics speak for themselves:

- We raised \$2575 in 2.5 hours (almost twice the amount than expected)!
- We sold 75% of the art.
- Nearly 50 people attended.

Again, heartfelt thanks to our featured artists and contributors; they were:

Allen Enriquez, Elissa Heim, Gina Luna, Erica Allis, James Vener and the children from Living School in Paris, France. Space on White, Best Cellars, Living School in Paris, Tyler Temple School of Art, Dr. Susan Vener with NYCLI, Luis Reynoso, Salman Baig, Mariko Dreifuss, Blair Ellis and to all our volunteers!



Our Success Notebook

An inspiring, fulfilling and meaningful activity that offers us times to joyfully celebrate our successes!

Why Success Notebooks?



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Food For Thought
PHILADELPHIA



<http://foodforthoughtphiladelphia.com/>

Introducing a New Partnership: Food for Thought-Philadelphia

Food for Thought - Philadelphia, LLC is a Philadelphia-based non-profit committed to enriching and nourishing the lives and minds of at-risk school children. Their motto is "feeding bellies and minds so that underprivileged Philadelphia school students can dream dreams that are bigger than their circumstances." Their primary aim is to make sure no child goes hungry, especially over weekends and during holiday breaks. They want to ensure that each student has all the basic necessities, such as school supplies, clothing, and hygiene items, so that these children

can successfully focus on (1) being kids and (2) thriving academically. Food for Thought - Philadelphia also helps students become aware of their true potential through one-time and ongoing enrichment workshops: career ideas, art, writing, and personal care. Child by child, FFT makes a real difference and impact in the lives of children and teens!

Over the next few years, Green Generations and Food for Thought will work together to create exciting programs to unite our youth together – including a weekend nature camp excursion!



Summertime Affirmations

During our board meetings, we take a moment to reflect and share positive and affirming thoughts with one another.

Here are a few affirming words we would like to share with you, especially with summertime just around the corner!

My life is like a day at the beach! I love my life!

Today will be a good day because I have decided it will be a good day!

I am healthy and happy!

596 ACRES



Victor, Jim and Charly the Dog Ready for the Meeting!

[596 Acres](#) is helping neighbors form connections to the vacant public lots in their lives.

Hundreds of acres of vacant public land exist in New York City, hidden in plain sight behind chain-link fences in neighborhoods where green space and other public amenities are scarce. They are building the tools for communities to get the keys legally and unlock all these rusty gates—and the opportunities within them.

On Wednesday, June 30th, Green Generations met with [596 Acres](#) to get the low-down on how to secure some vacant land in the South Bronx. We were very grateful for their advice and vast knowledge of the city's systems and protocols. It was a very productive and eye-opening meeting. As we embark on this journey of finding space for our long-term vision of creating a school and a community garden we will keep you in the loop of our developments.

NEWSFLASH:

Our Environmental Workshops Coming Soon to St. Mary's Park



Stayed tuned!

We are working on the permits and the logistics right now.

Our projected start date is September 2012.

If you're interested in volunteering with us, please visit www.greengenerations.org/volunteer.php

Highlighting Upcoming GG Workshops:

Discovering Your Infinite Potential

In this workshop, each child will begin to discover his or her own infinite potential. With the use of puppets and an inspirational story, we'll take the children on a special voyage to learn about a child who goes on a grand quest in search of the most valuable treasure. In the end, s/he realizes that the greatest treasure is within her/himself.



**SIGN-UP
COMING
SOON!**

Parenting with Joy

In this workshop we'll take a reflective journey together to explore and re-connect with our inner-selves to create awareness on the simple joys and moments we experience when parenting our children. Together we'll learn valuable life-skills, tools and solutions to help parents become more conscience of their own potential and that of their children so they can parent joyfully!



Creating an Urban Kitchen

From seed to table, parents will learn how to grow an edible kitchen within small spaces and within an urban environment. On occasion, working alongside experts, they will learn how to be self-sufficient, save money, grow plants according to their season, and have fun exploring the different tastes from the fruits and veggies they might grow. They'll also take home a planted seed(s) to start your very own edible kitchen.



Joy in Food

This workshop will help children discover joy in eating food through taste bud explorations. Children will sample different common foods without being able to see it and try to identify the name of the food. Then, in groups they will make a dish from a recipe and celebrate their successes together. Finally, we'll enjoy eating each of our tasty dishes!



Our Wish List

Share the LOVE and Join Us in Making Our Wishes Come True!

GG needs your help so we can get ready for our workshops and make them spectacular!



Please visit our [Wish List](#) online.

Join us today and help us purchase all of these items by September!

You can send us a purchased item OR You can send us a check

Please follow the direct links to purchase each item. *Please specify on the check the item you would like your money to purchase.*

Send to: P.O. Box 833 Saint Ann's Ave. Bronx, NY 10455-9999

Digital Camera
 We're excited to start capturing our memorable moments during our workshops and events so we can upload photos and videos to our website. The Olympus Stylus Tough 3600 (color: green) is durable enough for the children to use, too.
[VIEW ITEM](#)
 Approximate Value: \$120

6' Smiley Face Parachute from Great Lakes Sports
 The Smiley Face Parachute will be a perfect addition to our workshops with the children and their families.
[VIEW ITEM](#)
 Approximate Value: \$41.00

Bodum 34 oz. Cordless Electric Kettle
 It is our goal to be as energy efficient as possible. We selected this particular model because it:

- Saves energy by boiling only what is needed for use
- Offers 'boil-dry' protection - automatically shuts off when water has reached its boiling point
- Is entirely from BPA-free plastic

A kettle will help us during the experimental components of our workshops with children (for example, when making recycled paper) and will also allow us to provide an inviting atmosphere where fair-trade and organic teas and coffee are offered during our parent and teacher workshops.
 Approximate Value: \$40.00

Essential Eco-Utensil Set
 In many of our workshops with children, parents, and teachers we use food as an avenue to talk about our feelings, good nutrition, family values, and earth-friendly practices. This set is crafted from 100% organically grown bamboo.
 Approximate Value: \$25.00



Evolution Elements Eco-Friendly 8 pc. Cookware Set
 (Desired Color: green)
 We really researched many different kinds of eco-cookware on the market today by taking into consideration the materials used in manufacturing and the effect those materials would have on our health and the planet. We also examined the actual manufacturing and distribution process, energy efficiency, and customer reviews. We read sustainably-focused food blogs, such as, *ANKitchenFind*, *PlanetGreen*, and *Earth Easy*.

The Evolution pans are 100% PFOA free, which results in lower Greenhouse gases. The pans are coated with Hydroion and, as the name suggests, this nonstick coating is safe, natural, and water-based. Also, their products are printed on 70% recycled materials.
 Approximate Value: \$65.00

Children's Free-standing Heavy Bag & Gloves
 In some of our workshops for children and parents, we teach healthy and alternative ways on how to appropriately express and channel our anger within a safe environment. Punching bags are very useful in helping people learn how to effectively and safely manage their anger.
 Approximate Value: \$120 (with gloves included).

PLEASE NOTE: Green Generations is in the process of receiving 501c3 tax exemption status. We will provide receipts for all gifts and when we receive official exemption status we will notify you for tax-deduction purposes.

IN ADVANCE, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROUS GIFT!

Q: What Makes Us Different in the South Bronx? A: Teaching Life Skills!



To reach one's full potential and live happy and productive lives, Green Generations believes that life skills are essential. Possessing life skills enables us to deal with life's inevitable challenges and adversities more effectively.

UNICEF defines life skills as:

"[...] psychosocial abilities for adaptive and positive behavior that enable individuals to deal effectively with the demands and challenges of everyday life. They are loosely grouped into three broad categories of skills: cognitive skills for analyzing and using information, personal skills for developing personal agency and managing oneself, and inter-personal skills for communicating and interacting effectively with others."

Life skills-based education is now recognized as a methodology to address a variety of issues of child and youth development and thematic responses including as expressed in UNGASS on HIV/AIDS (2001), UNGASS on Children (2002), World Youth Report (2003), World Program for Human Rights Education (2004), UN Decade on Education for Sustainable Development (2005), UN Secretary General's Study on Violence Against Children (2006), 51st Commission on the Status of Women (2007), and the World Development Report (2007).

Green Generations' approach is holistic, practical and research-based.

All of our workshops are specially designed to teach children, parents and teachers about self-awareness, self-fulfillment and self-confidence so they, in turn, can lead compassionate and successful lives. We model our curriculum after Living School's model in Paris, France.

We are the only place in the South Bronx whose foundational core is centered on teaching essential life skills.

Green Generations believes that children effect social change. We view children in their wholeness (mind, body, feelings, soul and imagination) and understand the vital role adults have in their development.

We facilitate a reflective practice and establish a collaborative framework between children, parents and teachers to explore how our emotions affect our actions.

In the South Bronx, there are many wonderful and noteworthy nonprofits dedicated to youth development and social justice, namely Majora Carter's SSBX, The Point and GrowNYC. Also, there are 31 local charter schools now offering alternative educational models.

However, we boldly take a new direction to drive change, emphasizing meaningful education and self-awareness, a concept championed by educational experts, Mary Gordon and Alfie Kohn, rather than the status quo that overlooks critical elements of childhood development.

Each workshop will be limited in size to 8-10 children, 15 parents or 20 educators to ensure community- building and personalized experiences. Workshops embody three themes: life-enrichment, environment and nutrition. A child, for example, will learn healthy ways to channel angry feelings. A parent will learn constructive and compassionate techniques to use if their child has a tantrum. For our teachers, we developed a unique six-module program.

Our team facilitators will receive specialized training to enhance their development in positive and constructive communication with our community.

Welcome Baby Sophia!

Congratulations to Erica (one of our amazing board members) and her husband, Sal, for the birth of their beautiful daughter, Sophia!



She was born March 20th, 2012 and we are delighted to welcome her to our GG family!



happy
birthday!



Green Generations is **Turning One-Year Old** on August 31st!



Our team will be celebrating this incredible year together with lots of love, gratitude and great local and in-season food!



Many thanks to our friends and family for supporting us!

Welcome Victor!

Victor is our first intern!

He is a recent graduate with a BA in Global Studies from the University of Washington. A native Cascadian, he is interested in politics and community development as drivers of positive social change. He hopes to learn about nonprofit operations and the many systems in which we function.

He believes ecology, bio-regional awareness and sustainability are increasingly important skills for city dwellers in this era of global urbanization.

In conjunction with his time spent at Green Generations, Victor will be an activist for a fairer world.

We're so happy to have him on board with us and very thankful for his contributions!



Final Info & Announcements

“Be the change you want to see in the world.” –Gandhi



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT, ENCOURAGEMENT, GUIDANCE & LOVE!

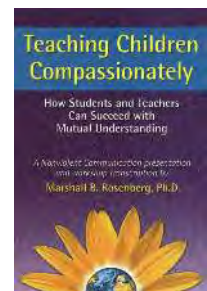
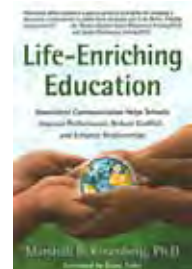
AGAIN A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ...



**... For her skillful and generous talent in designing our website.
www.marikodreifuss.com**

We believe in a community of all generations who create a compassionate, more just, and greener world full of joy and love.

Recommended Reading



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