

HPHC Las Vegas Shine City Project: Las Vegas Youth Serving Their Community

Naokimi Ushiroda
November 7, 2022



As we enter the season of giving, Shine City Project ([SCP](#)) volunteers are doing what they do best - serving their Las Vegas community in a variety of impactful ways. The group of young Unificationists spent the past several weeks initiating and contributing to different service projects benefiting those in need as they explore more opportunities to give back.

In September and October, the team volunteered at the Las Vegas Rescue Mission, a local homeless shelter that provides a number of community services. "Our volunteers helped out with the community dinner for all the guests," said SCP Director, Jeffrey Silerio.

The group kept busy with an unexpectedly large turnout of people. "Our volunteers were put into positions and responsibilities that we have never tried before in order to keep the dinner service running smoothly," said Silerio. "While some volunteers helped out with quickly distributing food trays to guests, others helped to count and keep track of the food trays by using a small, handheld clicker."

Other preppers handed out condiments, refilled water pitchers, and removed empty food trays from tables. "With all of our hard work and effort, we were able to have a successful dinner service," said Silerio, whose team also wiped down tables and chairs, and swept the dining hall. "It's been a great experience volunteering at the [shelter]," he said.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of families across the nation become homeless, including more than 1.6 million children, according to federal data. November is National Youth Homeless Awareness Month, drawing more attention to the children who make up 60 percent of all people in homeless families. Many of SCP's volunteer efforts cater to families in particular.

On Oct. 22, the group distributed food to individuals and families at a local middle school with help from "The Just One Project." The giveaway, part of a series of pop-up mobile markets held at different schools and senior housing communities, helps offset food insecurity and hardship faced by some community members. "It takes just one person to make a difference in the lives of many people," said one SCP member, "so a whole group of volunteers is unstoppable."

SCP has been dedicated to cleaning up city streets and preserved areas as well. "We returned to the Springs Preserve for a service project outdoors," noted Silerio. "We helped pick up litter on the trails of the preserve and focused on part of the Sloan Flood Channel, [which] was heavily littered with items such as plastic bottles, aluminum cans, and fountain drink cups."

The group collected some 71 bags of trash, along with wooden pallets and an old, abandoned wagon. "It was great to see the transformation of the area from a place covered in trash to one with natural beauty," said Silerio. SCP cleanups have also been held at the Duck Creek Trailhead at Wetlands Park, the Historic Westside neighborhood, Warm Springs Natural Area in Moapa, and along Las Vegas Boulevard and Windmill Lane.



The latest SCP partnership, providing hot meals with Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada on Nov. 5, marks a new avenue in which the group is expanding its presence and serving the community. "For these last two months of the year, we are finding a lot more ways to give back and express gratitude to others," said Silerio.

You can learn more about the Shine City Project [here](#).

SHINE CITY PROJECT

FROM SIN CITY TO SHINE CITY



ABOUT

NINE YEARS AGO, A GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS ORGANIZED A CLEANUP AT THE CORNER OF SAHARA AVENUE AND LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD ON **MARCH 16, 2013**. THE SERVICE PROJECT WAS HELD IN FRONT OF BONANZA GIFT SHOP, WHICH IS POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE "WORLD'S LARGEST GIFT SHOP". THIS OCCASION WOULD MARK THE BEGINNING FOR AN ORGANIZATION WHOSE GOAL WOULD BE TO TURN LAS VEGAS **FROM "SIN CITY" TO "SHINE CITY"**.

IN A CITY OF LUSTFUL DESIRES, GREEDY TRANSACTIONS, AND SELF-INDULGENCES, SHINE CITY PROJECT **CHALLENGES OUR CITY'S CULTURE OF SELF-CENTEREDNESS TO BECOME ONE OF SELFLESSNESS**. WE AIM TO **BUILD LEADERS OF HEART AND CHARACTER WHO SHARE LOVE AND COMPASSION FOR OTHERS** WHILE BEING **STEWARDS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**. TOGETHER, WE WILL CREATE A MORE **LOVING AND CARING COMMUNITY** WHICH IN TURN CAN CREATE A MORE **LOVING AND PEACEFUL WORLD**. IF A CHANGE CAN HAPPEN IN LAS VEGAS, **A CHANGE CAN HAPPEN EVERYWHERE**.

OUR INSPIRATION

Rev. Sun Myung Moon and
Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon

The inspiration for starting Shine City Project came from Rev. Sun Myung Moon, and his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. The two have inspired and pioneered for a worldwide movement



for peace across races, religions, and nationalities. By creating loving families and by living for the sake of others and for the world, world peace is achievable.



"Heaven is not what we are given but what we must build."

– Rev. Sun Myung Moon

OUR AFFILIATES

YOUTH AND STUDENTS FOR PEACE (YSP USA)

strives to advance world peace by empowering youth and students to become global citizens through character education and peace projects supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



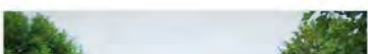
COLLEGIATE ASSOCIATION FOR THE RESEARCH OF PRINCIPLES (CARP LAS VEGAS) seeks to create an inspired youth movement progressing society to become a global family united upon Universal Principles. We empower young adults to become global leaders who will contribute towards building a unified world centered upon God's love, by providing education and training based upon our core values.

WHAT'S NEXT?



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JEFFREY SILERIO
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GALLERY





May 29, 2021 @ Vegas Roots Community



December 4, 2021 @ Opportunity Village - Magical Forest



May 7, 2022 @ McKee Ranch Foundation



August 17, 2019 @ Catholic Charities of Southern Nevada with International Leadership Training Program (ILTP)



Shine City Project's 2nd Anniversary Celebration (March 14, 2015)



August 22, 2014 @ CARP Las Vegas House



October 13, 2018 @ Las Vegas Wash with Generation Peace Academy



January 12, 2020 @ All Friend Sanctuary



June 8, 2019 @ Silver Horizon Group Home



October 30, 2015 @ Haunted Harvest, Springs Preserve



September 2, 2015 @ UNLV Involvement Fair



July 31, 2015 @ Las Vegas Rescue Mission



August 16, 2014 @ CARP Las Vegas Learning Center



October 13, 2018 @ Las Vegas Wash with Generation Peace Academy



August 6, 2022 @ Ahern Orchard



October 20, 2018 @ 33 Hole Overlook, Lake Mead



July 24, 2021 @ Harrison House



Shine City Project's 3rd Anniversary Celebration (March 18, 2016)



August 15, 2014 @ Mt. Charleston



Shine City Project's 1st Anniversary (March 15, 2014 @ Sunset Park)



May 4, 2019 @ Club Christ Ladies Tea



March 2, 2019 @ Las Vegas Wash



July 25, 2015 @ Clean the World



April 26, 2013 @ Lorenzi Park



November 9, 2019 @ Just One Project - Helen Marie Smith Elementary School



April 25, 2014 @ El Pollo Loco



August 9, 2014 @ Rebel Recycling Center



Shine City Project's 6th Anniversary Celebration (March 16, 2019 @ CARP Las Vegas Learning Center)



April 27, 2019 @ Pittman Wash



March 9, 2019 @ Las Vegas Community Healing Garden



April 20, 2019 @ Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary



November 23, 2019 @ Green Our Planet - Legacy High School



Our First Service Project (March 16, 2013 @ World's Largest Gift Shop)

CONTACT

Interested in joining?
Have a service project
idea? Want to
collaborate? Send us
an email!

Name *	Message
Email *	
Subject	

Send