

## FFWPU USA: Putting Our Faith Into Practice - Service Projects Completed In 2021

Naokimi Ushiroda  
January 7, 2022



*Courtesy of Shine City Project and YSP Bay Area and Chicago*

"2021 was truly an eventful year," said Jeff Silerio, director of the Shine City Project ([SCP](#)) in Las Vegas. "It was great to spend time with people we care about and appreciate, but we're also grateful for the many volunteers who joined our service projects throughout the year. Together, we put in more than 1,150 volunteer hours and completed 48 service projects," - nearly one every week.

Despite the pandemic, Unificationists across the U.S., like Silerio, were delighted to make a difference in their communities during the past year through a range of service projects benefiting countless people in need.

"In 2020, everything changed; our service projects were put on hold, and there was uncertainty about when we would be able to see each other in person again," said Silerio. "We learned to live our lives at home, learned new skills and hobbies, and familiarized ourselves with virtual meetings. But 2021 was different."

With some ease of restrictions, volunteers hit the ground running.

"For 11 consecutive weeks, we focused on helping with meal services for both residents of the Rescue Mission shelter and our local community," said Silerio. "We also mixed soil in garden beds, revegetated areas with plants, raised funds for a community garage sale, performed yard work, welcomed visitors to a holiday theme park, and we handed out food at a mobile food pantry. We even had the opportunity to help out at a gala and auction for the Shaquille O'Neal Foundation."

SCP welcomed familiar faces and connected with new people as well, with many looking to contribute their time and talents to various causes. Partnering with a host of local organizations - including CARP Las Vegas, YSP USA, GPA, Green Our Planet, Ahern Orchard, Harrison House, and Get Outdoors Nevada to name a few - the group was able to make a tremendous impact, particularly during the holidays.

On Dec. 4, SCP volunteered with Opportunity Village, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing enrichment, empowerment, and employment opportunities to people with disabilities. SCP helped staff the nonprofit's Magical Forest fundraising event, which supports different programs, services, benefits and wages for those with disabilities.

The following week, on Dec. 11, SCP supported The Just One Project to distribute food through its mobile food pantry, which provides and delivers groceries across Southern Nevada to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity. The group went to Jim Bridger Middle School, one of the 13 locations where food is given away every month by The Just One Project.

In other parts of the country, YSP chapters in the Bay Area and Chicago were also hard at work with charitable endeavors.

YSP Chicago partnered with the local CARP chapter at Harper Community College on Dec. 8. The group put together snack bags for people in need at All Saints Lutheran Church in Palatine, Ill. The group wrote positive affirmations on gift bags filled with assorted snacks and decorated bookmarks for the church.

In Oakland, YSP members supported a toy giveaway on Dec. 17 hosted by B.A.S.I.C. Ministry. Volunteers collected more than 60 toys and surpassed \$300 in donations to buy toys for kids in need. The gifts were then distributed at Elmhurst Park where there was live music entertainment, food, and a bouncy house for kids.

"The atmosphere was filled with joy from the community coming together," said a local YSP volunteer. "The kids waited patiently for the moment when they could receive their gifts. And after lots of anticipation, the kids approached in small, excited groups and left with big smiles on their faces... To see the joy and many smiles of families as they were handed gifts was a wonderful and heartwarming experience for all of us. I would do it again in a heartbeat."

For Silerio and many volunteers, this new year is about more opportunities to give and serve - putting their faith into practice with those they meet.

Have a story idea you'd like to share from your community? You can submit it to [info@unification.org](mailto:info@unification.org).

# SHINE CITY PROJECT

FROM SIN CITY TO SHINE CITY



## ABOUT

EIGHT 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)

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 for Principles (CARP)

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  
OR EMAIL [SHINECITYPROJECTLV@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SHINECITYPROJECTLV@GMAIL.COM).

## GALLERY





October 30, 2015 @ Haunted Harvest, Springs Preserve



October 20, 2018 @ 33 Hole Overlook, Lake Mead



March 2, 2019 @ Las Vegas Wash



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



September 2, 2015 @ UNLV Involvement Fair



July 31, 2015 @ Las Vegas Rescue Mission



July 25, 2015 @ Clean the World



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



April 26, 2013 @ Lorenzi Park



August 16, 2014 @ CARP Las Vegas Learning Center



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



August 22, 2014 @ CARP Las Vegas House



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



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



August 15, 2014 @ Mt. Charleston



April 25, 2014 @ El Pollo Loco



August 9, 2014 @ Rebel Recycling Center



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



April 27, 2019 @ Pittman Wash



April 20, 2019 @ Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary



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



March 9, 2019 @ Las Vegas Community Healing Garden



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

# CONTACT

Interested in joining?  
Have a service project  
idea? Want to

Name \*



Message

Idea? want to collaborate? Send us an email!

Email \*

Subject

Send