

FFWPU USA: Serving Others - It's About the Big and Small Things That We Do

Demian Dunkley
January 3, 2024



Photo courtesy of Shine City Project

"2023 was a challenging year for me in my personal life and my relationships with other people, but through our service projects, Shine City Project helped me to realize that each person is essential for building a more loving and peaceful world," said Khary Dixon.



Dixon, a member of the grassroots Shine City Project ([SCP](#)) volunteer group launched by Unificationists in 2013, discovered more personal fulfillment and a higher purpose serving others. "The biggest life lesson that I've gained from joining Shine City Project every week is that serving others doesn't just happen on Saturday mornings," she said. "It happens every day with both big and small things that we do."



Throughout 2023, SCP commemorated its milestone 10-year anniversary with more service projects and partnerships with other Unificationist organizations, such as the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles ([CARP](#)) and the Universal Peace Federation ([UPF](#)). By the end of the year, the group of young Unificationists and other twentysomethings had committed nearly a thousand volunteer hours.



"There has been more collaboration and teamwork between Shine City Project and CARP Las Vegas in particular," noted SCP National Director Jeffrey Silerio. "More of our service projects have been able to be attended by members of CARP Las Vegas."



"Additionally, in the fall semester, Shine City Project decided to support more monthly Divine Principle workshops hosted by CARP Las Vegas," he said. "We were able to dedicate two weekends over the last few months for the workshops, instead of our weekly service projects."

A founding member of SCP, Silerio has seen firsthand the team's growth and transformation over the years as they seek to improve the greater Las Vegas area. And, amidst his leadership, 2023 marked a huge life change for Silerio personally.

"In March 2023, we were unable to hold an event to commemorate the [founding of SCP], but in the same month, our volunteers were invited to attend the commitment ceremony of me and my wife, Valeria Pellejero, who leads Youth and Students for Peace in Uruguay," Silerio said. "We later received the Blessing together in May in her country. My wife was able to visit Las Vegas a couple times this past year, and she was able to join and support our service projects."

As SCP has evolved, it's also become a family endeavor of sorts - quite literally composed of brothers and sisters. Inspired by her older brother, Jennifer Silerio became increasingly involved in SCP, investing in her community while developing a more public-minded outlook.

"One of the highlights from volunteering at Shine City Project this year was being able to explore and learn more about different communities in Southern Nevada," Jennifer said. "We were able to do some service projects outside of Las Vegas, such as a planting event in Moapa Valley, a cleanup in Lake Mead, and some gardening in Boulder City. It was nice that we got to explore and hang out in the areas after working hard at our service projects, and also meet so many new people."

"I had a lot of fun working with Shine City Project this year doing things like feeding the less fortunate, or planting native plants to restore areas of our natural environment here in Las Vegas," shared another volunteer, Saracelia Hardarson. "It was fulfilling to give my time and energy to healing our environment and also laughing along the way."

Other major service projects included the group's work with UPF Las Vegas for a local [Peace Road](#) event during the summer, conservation efforts with Generation Peace Academy ([GPA](#)) members participating in the Cheon Il Guk Youth Missionaries program, and honoring the 70th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Agreement at the Nevada State Veterans Memorial.



Still, for Shine City Project volunteers like Dixon, serving others is about the interpersonal connections and relationships built along the way.

"[Regardless of our differences], cultivating healthy relationships and creating a heavenly culture is essential for becoming true children of God," Dixon said. "If we make an effort to grow our hearts and our capacity to love by serving others, we can develop love for even people that we have never met before."

You can learn more about the work of Shine City Project [here](#), and connect with a Unificationist community near you [here](#).

SHINE CITY PROJECT

FROM SIN CITY TO SHINE CITY



ABOUT

TEN 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 Garden



October 2, 2021 @ Shaquille O'Neal Foundation – The Event



January 12, 2020 @ All Friends Animal Sanctuary



June 11, 2022 @ Spread the Word Nevada



December 4, 2021 @ Opportunity Village – Magical Forest



June 8, 2019 @ Silver Horizon Group Home



August 6, 2022 @ Ahern Orchard



May 4, 2019 @ Club Christ Ladies Tea



May 7, 2022 @ McKee Ranch Foundation



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 24, 2021 @ Harrison House



July 25, 2015 @ Clean the World



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



July 31, 2015 @ Las Vegas Rescue Mission



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



April 26, 2013 @ Lorenzi Park



August 22, 2014 @ CARP Las Vegas House



August 16, 2014 @ CARP Las Vegas Learning Center



August 15, 2014 @ Mt. Charleston



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



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



Shine City Project's 4th Anniversary



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

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



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 *

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Subject

Message

Send



A Revolution of Heart



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Before I hope to master the universe, I must first master myself.

— Sun Myung Moon

A movement of students by students



Mia Taguchi

College of Southern Nevada, NV

"As my time in CARP progressed, I started to understand more and



Samuel Tamura

University of Davis, California, CA

" I want everyone to see the Principle and the CARP culture and



Josue Kisile

Grand Rapids Community College, MI

" Transferring your vision and

more that if I truly want to make a difference in the world, it starts with not just the individual, but the impact an individual has on the family. The impact our actions have encompasses a whole circle of people.

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feel moved and inspired by it. I want to create a chapter that truly aims to bring a new perspective for all members and they can come out of CARP thinking that it made a positive change in their life. "

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passion to others is probably the hardest part of leadership, but it takes you on a very needed journey of patience and perseverance. I have grown so much as a leader through this journey."

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UPDATES



The Joy of Learning to Love

Nov 23, 2023



Principles and Culture in the Capital

Nov 7, 2023



Living a Life of Real Love

Nov 7, 2023



Meet the Founders

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

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UPF

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"UPF peace principles have played a very important role in helping us to end the violence in Kenya. You are bringing hope for a brighter future to our nation, to Africa and the world."

H.E. RAILA ODINGA, PRIME MINISTER OF KENYA (2008-13)



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PEACE ROAD 2022

A SAFER COMMUNITY, A SAFER WORLD



"This tunnel can help make the world a single community at last... Think of how much money the world is wasting on war. The time has come for nations to work together, pool their resources and, as the prophet Isaiah taught, beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks."

- Father Moon, UPF Inauguration, 2005

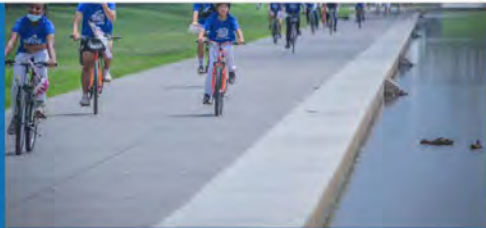
One Unified World

"The vision is for a high-speed transportation artery linking the entire globe. On the day of its completion, much of our world will become one village linked by one road." - Mother Moon



Paving the Path

"In these [Peace Road] events, people of all ages and nationalities, wearing t-shirts and



carrying a Peace Road flag, ride bicycles or walk to show their support for peace.” – Mother Moon

Taking a Stand

“Teams of participants walk, cycle or drive along designated routes representing the International peace highway. Their path ends at local government centers where local officials, social and religious leaders speak at rallies, publicly announce their support for the initiative and stimulate publicity in local media.” – Mother Moon



“To tell this story to the world, from the streets to the senate buildings, I had already created an affiliated project, “Peace Road.”

– Mother Moon, Mother of Peace

Universal Peace Federation

3600 New York Ave. NE
Washington D.C., 20002

Peace Road is a project of the Universal Peace Federation, a 501c(3) NGO in consultative status with the United Nations. For more information visit us.upf.org

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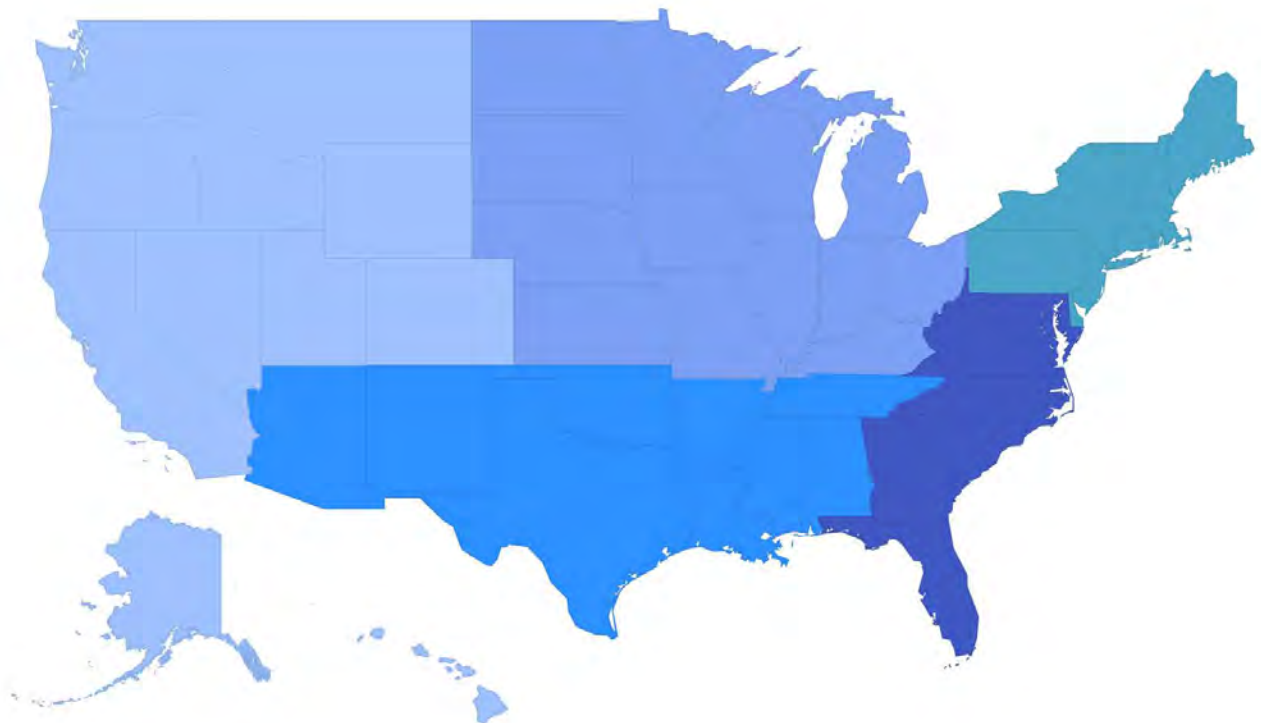
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