

## Las Vegas Holy Community Shine City Project's Summer of Giving

Ki Hoon Kim  
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*Photos courtesy of Shine City Project*

Many young people seize the summer to kick back, relax, and have fun. But for Shine City Project ([SCP](#)) members, it's an opportunity to give back through more volunteering. The Las Vegas-based group of young Unificationists have amped up their efforts to beautify Sin City and help those in need.



In recent weeks, volunteers led by SCP Director Jeffrey Silerio have frequented the Las Vegas Rescue Mission shelter, Clark County Wetlands Park, and Ahern Orchard, to name a few. Just a mile away from the bustling downtown casinos, Ahern Orchard was once land that belonged to the city's earliest Korean immigrants.



"In the 1930s and 40s, Korean immigrant Frank Kim and his Hispanic wife, Juanita Sanchez, owned and operated what was called the Kim Produce Farm," Silerio says. "On their 20-acre farm, from the poor desert soil, they were able to successfully grow melons, tomatoes, and onions that supported the local community."



The family farm was eventually passed down to the couple's son before it was turned into a community garden in 2016. Today, more than 3,200 plants and fruit trees cover some 10 acres, producing everything from peaches, apples, and pears, to figs, pomegranates, grapes, and a range of hybrid fruits such as pluots, plumcots, and apriums. It takes the support of volunteers, like SCP, to sustain the garden - and the impact is tremendous.



"All fruits that are grown at Ahern Orchard are donated to local organizations and charities supporting food-insecure families and individuals in Las Vegas," says Silerio, whose team of 11 people thinned several rows of apricot trees. He says thinning trees improves sun and air circulation, prevents limb damage from excess weight, and keeps fruit from dropping to the ground prematurely.



At Gilcrease Nature Sanctuary, SCP volunteers spent hours clearing away swaths of bamboo from the property, which is home to more than 150 animals including parrots, chickens, goats, and pigs, as well as turkeys and tortoises.



"Our eight volunteers were able to clear away bamboo from an area measuring about six feet by 30 feet," shares Silerio. "Even though it was tiring ... overall we had a good time and it was nice to see everyone working together."



Other service projects from the dedicated group - which has upwards of 20 members - include picking up litter from various parks, trails, and nature spaces in and around the city. The team filled a large dumpster with trash at Wetlands Park on one occasion, then planted some 3,000 native shrubs and grasses during their return visit.

"We had 18 volunteers representing the Shine City Project, including some families," recalls Silerio. "It was a great experience for everyone."

And with several weeks left of summer, he says the group has no intention of slowing down. "True Parents taught us to give and forget what we have given," says Silerio. "We want to be an example of that in all that we do."

# 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  
OR EMAIL SHINECITYPROJECTLV@GMAIL.COM.

## 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 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



April 25, 2014 @ El Pollo Loco



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



August 9, 2014 @ Rebel Recycling Center



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



(March 15, 2014 @ Sunset Park)

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 \*

Email \*

Subject

Message

Send