



Pass It Along Annual Program Report 2010

CONNECTING YOUTH TO THEIR COMMUNITY



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Thoughts from Executive Director Diane Taylor	Page 3
PIA Background	Page 4
Our Program	Page 5
Youth Leaders Speak Out On Service	Page 6
Annual Special Programming Events	Page 7
Monthly Calendar Programs	Page 10
Youth Leadership & Self-Discovery Programs	Page 12
Annual Fundraising Events	Page 14
Pass It Along Community & Business Partnerships	Page 15



Words cannot begin to describe how grateful I am of the support that Pass It Along has received these past 9 years. This coming December will be our ten year anniversary as a nonprofit community based service agency. It has been an amazing decade of growth for not only PIA, but for our community of youth and adults that we serve. We have seen our teens go from attending middle school and not truly aware of their surrounding community to young adults going off to college with a conviction and commitment to change their world. This continues for us each year when we welcome a new generation of teens into our program to begin their service to not only their own community but their world as a whole and the needs of both.

We are so proud of them and we are grateful to the adult mentors who have helped us guide the youth in their development and helped them to become caring and compassionate young adults. We are also very thankful to all of our sponsors, business partners, and community partner agencies who have worked with us to help bring about this growth in our teens.

What makes our program so unique is that it reminds us to feel. We live in such a fast-paced society and serving others helps us to slow down and to get outside of ourselves. This is particularly important for teens. It's not easy being a teenager – especially not today – and Pass It Along helps in leading the young people out of their own head. A head that is often exclaiming that “you are not good enough, you are less than, you're not smart, athletic”...and the list goes on. Our program helps teens to understand the Beauty within and to realize the gift they bring to the world. It's a program that leads youth to discover the Best Version of themselves through Service, Self-Discovery, Self-Exploration and Leadership & Development programs. As we say at PIA... “The best thing that we could give the world is to give the world the best of ourselves.”

As you will read in our report, our volunteers have given many, many hours of their time to helping others, and we are proud to say that over 70% of those hours are given by teens. This truly shows how much of themselves today's teens are willing to give. Through PIA programs, teens learn about themselves, what their gifts are (or as we like to say...What's Your IT?), and how they can use those gifts to make a difference in someone else's life. Our volunteers soon learn that they may very well start out volunteering to help others; but that the true gift is what they themselves take away from their experience.

I invite you to please take your time looking through our Annual Report. We hope you enjoy what you will read and really get an idea for the breadth of what Pass It Along does. We welcome any questions you may have and hope that if you are not already a partner with us in some way, that you will join us now. Help us make the future brighter by getting involved with today's youth. Who knows what YOU will take away from the experience!

Sincerely,

Pass It Along
Executive Director

Pass It Along's mission is to awaken, validate and nourish the innate desire to 'give back' by mobilizing youth as community partners.



PIA Background

Founded in December 2001, Pass It Along (PIA) provides a way for individuals, especially youth, to make a difference in their community through meaningful volunteer service. In 2002, PIA became a member of the national organization Hands On Network. In 2008, Hands On Network and the Points of Light Foundation merged into one organization, strengthening the worldwide impact of our network. This new entity, entitled Points of Light Institute, has over 250 affiliates in 16 countries. Pass It Along is proud to be one of these affiliates.

Pass It Along serves three populations – volunteers, nonprofit community based organizations, and individuals that are in need of volunteer support. We offer well-managed and meaningful service projects and programs in nine fields of interest: children and families in need; education enrichment and literacy; mentoring, community enrichment, environmental preservation; animal care; hunger and homelessness; elderly and homebound senior care; & individuals living with disabilities. We partner with numerous nonprofit organizations for our programs and special events.

Our core base of teen volunteers makes Pass It Along unique in some key ways. First, we offer teens a chance to develop themselves, both in philanthropy and in leadership, with self-discovery programs. Second, we are youth driven: teens participate in and lead programs to identify their individual gifts and where they want to put their efforts. Our teens serve in calendar programs and annual events which impact everyone from senior citizens to middle school girls.

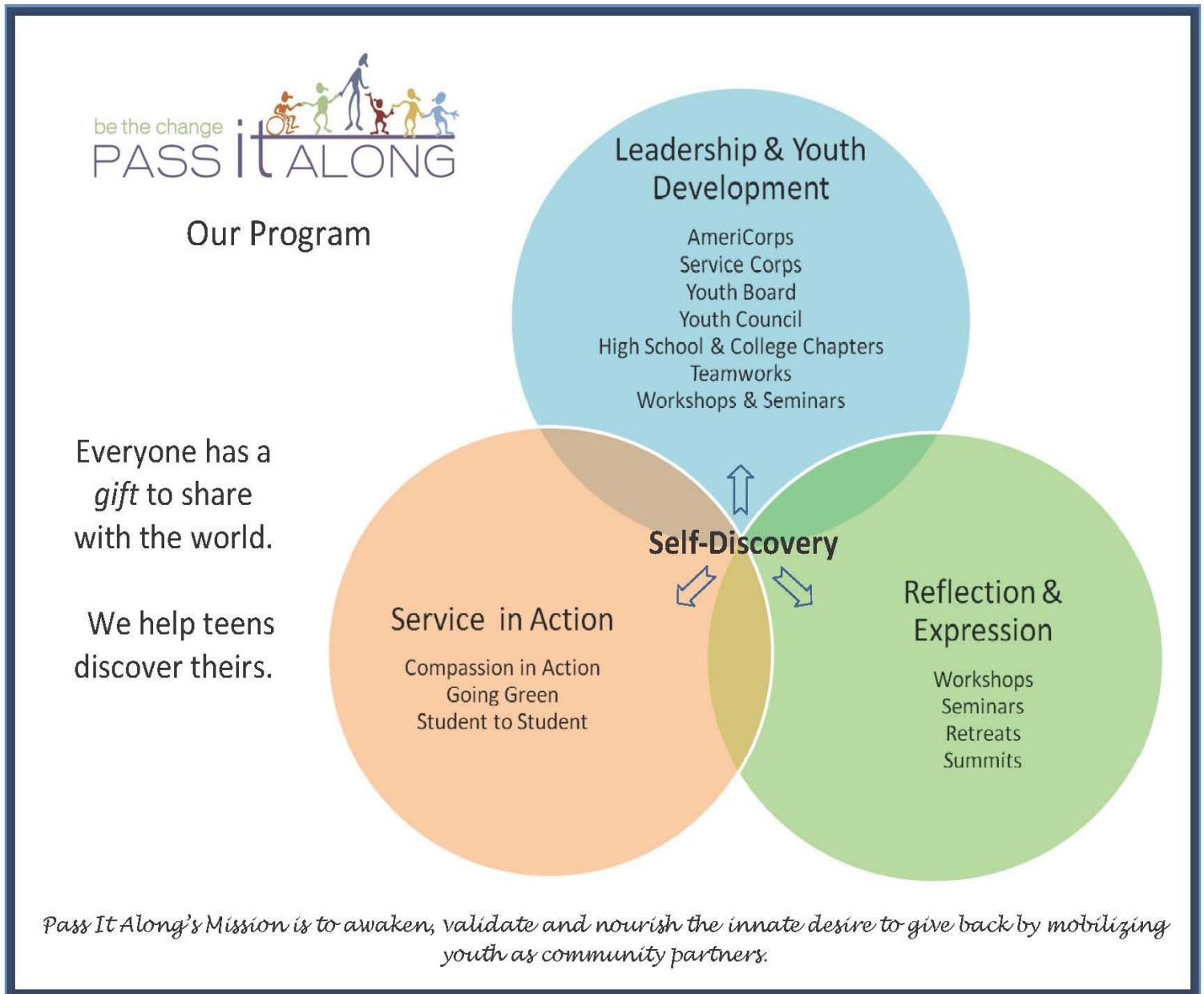
During 2010, **1,058** volunteers completed **24,529** volunteer hours through our calendar programs, special programming events and other various volunteer opportunities available through Pass It Along. Since our inception, Pass It Along volunteers have given over **131,120 hours** of their time to our community and beyond. With a 70% youth volunteer base, Pass It Along has shown its strong commitment to forming future leaders.

**Visit our website for more about our organization and our mission:
www.passitalong.org**

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Our Program

Pass It Along empowers, equips and enables youth to make lasting change that significantly impacts their community. Engaging young people from elementary school through college in well-run, youth-driven volunteer programs, we provide the opportunity to participate in community service projects with meaningful interaction with the recipients. Through these experiences volunteers see the benefits of, and learn to implement, sustainable change. We encourage all volunteers to spend their time in reflective thought, both before and after their service. Our objective is to encourage volunteers to consider why they serve, where their gifts lie, and what they hope to accomplish.



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Youth Leaders Speak Out On Service

“Volunteering means helping. Pass It Along has helped me realize that there are countless volunteer opportunities in everyday life. Service has become the most important thing in my life. It consumes my thoughts for today and the future. Pass It Along has left a life-long impact on my life. I’m so glad that I have become a part of this non-profit organization at such a young age, because now I know what I want to do for the rest of my life. I try to take nothing for granted, because I realize how fortunate I am. By giving my time to Pass It Along, I have received so much more.” - *Krista S.*

“I have helped build a playground. I have slept in a box to help raise homelessness awareness. I have mentored youth from both the inner city and our own county. I have seen the crippling misfortunes of others down on their luck. And I have seen the unyielding power that exists among a group of volunteers. Pass It Along has been the gateway to my love of volunteerism, whether it be cooking for a soup kitchen or raking an elderly woman's lawn, I feel I am able to connect with my community, other people, and myself.” - *Luke H.*

“Throughout high school, I saw Pass It Along continue with increasing success to engage young adults in volunteer opportunities with its Youth Council. Consisting of students from around the county, the Youth Council provided me the chance to take charge of my volunteering. It has provided me with the opportunity to work with others, lead, and experience the community around me.

These experiences have in turn made me more aware of not just my direct community, but also the global community that surrounds me. Pass It Along inspired me to reach beyond my county and participate in volunteer experiences internationally. Becoming involved in Pass It Along allowed me to understand what I could be capable of, and the courage to reach out and seize opportunities. It has provided me with friendship and with people from all walks of life and proved that people, no matter how seemingly different, can come together to create a better community.” - *Trevor M.*

“Typically people volunteer because they want to make a difference in the lives of others. There is nothing wrong with this mentality; in fact, that was the mindset I had when I started to volunteer. However, since volunteering with Pass It Along my outlook on service has transformed into something much more meaningful. I have realized the impact volunteering has made on my own life.

The programs and projects I have organized and participated in with Pass It Along have helped shape me as a leader and an individual. The experiences I had while volunteering with Pass It Along helped me discover my love for filmmaking and influenced my decision to become a film major in college. Pass It Along ignited within me the desire to be a voice for social change through documentary film and non-profit media. Pass It Along is not just an organization that provides youth with opportunities to serve, but instead it is an organization that provides individuals with the opportunities to mature, learn, and grow.” - *Tasha M.*

“Pass It Along changed my life. I learned that instead of sitting home and doing nothing or doing something useless like surfing the web, I can help teenage girls feel good about themselves, help children have hope for the future, and so much more.” - *Victoria W.*

**Pass It Along Annual Program Report
2010 Summary of Services**

**The funding provided in 2010 has been used to assist Pass It Along
in accomplishing the following goals:**

Goal 1: To provide quality leadership training and self-discovery workshops to youth, so that they may discover their own personal strengths and talents that they can in turn use to better their community.

Goal 2: To provide supportive and basic need services to the low to moderate income population in Sussex, Warren and Northern Morris Counties.

2010 Annual Special Programming Events:

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration of Service – Each year Pass It Along celebrates MLK day with a week of service in his honor. The week begins with a kickoff event that is coordinated and run by our youth volunteers. This event typically consists of musical performances, poems, a short slide show, and/or a speaker. During the week surrounding this kickoff event several types of service projects are completed.

In addition to the service projects, in 2010 a trip was made to a Jersey City Public School to paint murals on the walls of the school to make it more welcoming to the students.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at PS #38 in Jersey City, New Jersey

Global Youth Service Day – This is a national day of service that Pass It Along participates in each year. Each year the projects vary in location and actual project. However, it is typically an all day event served by teen volunteers. In 2010 our teens did a painting project at a YMCA in West Orange.

Alternative Spring Break – This program brings together teens from all over Sussex County who want to do something meaningful during their Spring Break. For the last two years, teens have camped at Swartswood State Park and worked over several days cleaning up the park and getting it ready for the summer season. Projects range from raking the beach and putting the snow fences away, planting a tree nursery, mulching and planting trees, raking the water line of debris left over from the winter and other projects.

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Alternative Spring Break at Swartswood State Park in New Jersey

Serve-A-Thon - This annual event brings together hundreds of people within our community for day of service to make a difference in their neighborhoods. Each year our Serve-A-Thon grows in the magnitude of the projects offered for the day. In addition to signature projects, smaller projects are conducted to assist senior citizens as well.

Serve-A-Thon Statistics at a Glance 2010:

We provided services to agencies throughout the Sussex, Warren & Morris County area who in turn serve low to moderate income families. This work was completed by **307** volunteers, many of them high school youth. In addition, we sent volunteers to **3** different senior citizen’s homes to do yard work; **17** projects were completed for a total of **490** volunteer hours;

➤ The agencies were:

- **SCARC Group Home** – a group home for developmentally disabled adults;
- **Katie’s House** – a home for disabled young women;
- **Knoll Heights and Knoll View** – a low income senior citizen community;
- **Birth Haven** - a residence for homeless, pregnant young women;
- **Tilly’s Kids** – an inner city children’s program from the House of Mercy Mission in Newark NJ;
- **Ginnie’s House** - a safe haven for physically abused children;
- **Camp Nejeda** - a camp for children with diabetes;
- **The Nature Conservancy** - A nationally recognized environmental agency;
- **Sparta Presbyterian Church** – home to the You’ve Got a Friend program, part of the Circles™ initiative;
- **SCARC Bowling** – a program of Sussex County Association for Retarded Citizens;
- **Post House** – a home for adopted, special needs children. This particular project was entirely led by two youth from start to finish, including soliciting for donations, recruiting volunteers, designing the project and seeing it through to completion.



Volunteers at Camp Nejeda in Stillwater, New Jersey and Post House in Chester, New Jersey

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Foodstock - This program was started in partnership with Sussex County United Way and the NJ Herald as a way to restock Sussex County food pantries. Six youth volunteers participated in this year's event. Thousands of food items were collected. This was a countywide effort between individuals and businesses.

Box City – This annual event, a partnership with Sussex County Interfaith Hospitality Network, brings teens together from all over the area to learn about the homeless situation in Sussex County. In 2010 over 155 teens participated in experiential activities that simulate what a homeless person might experience on a day to day basis. They participated in a panel discussion with both current and previous homeless individuals and learned first-hand what it is like to be without a home of your own. The night ends with the teens sleeping outside in a cardboard box. The youth involved in coordinating this even spend many hours in the months prior planning out the event's activities and message.



Youth Conference – For the past nine years the Pass It Along Youth Council has held their annual Youth Conference at the beginning of the school year. Eleven local high schools participate by sending a delegation of students. The day consists of onsite service projects, team-building exercises and a motivational speaker. This day brings together students from various income brackets and diverse backgrounds to work together in a non-competitive manner to learn about ways they can get involved in their own communities. In 2010, nearly **300 students attended** this very popular event.

Family Volunteer Day – This is a national day of service that Pass It Along participates in. Food items are collected from individuals and businesses and then assembled into food boxes that are then given to families who have asked for help. Over 115 volunteers of all ages came out to decorate the boxes and pack the food that was collected. In total for 2010, 27 Thanksgiving baskets were collected and distributed to area families. In addition, 15 extra turkeys were donated and will be used to feed homeless individuals through our Cooking with a Mission and Cooking for Interfaith Program.



Pass It Along Season of Hope Programs:

Note in a Coat – Each year Pass It Along conducts a massive gently used coat drive. These coats are distributed to low income families. Not only are coats collected, a special touch is added to this program. Hence the name Note in a Coat. Each year, as the coats are collected, warm words of encouragement are written on festive slips of paper and placed in the pockets of the coats for the recipient to find. This adds a personal touch and lets the person know that people really do care. In 2010 over **600** coats were collected.

Holiday Toy Drive – This is an annual toy drive to collect toys for our holiday toy shop. Each year businesses around the county place collection boxes at their businesses to collect toys from the public. We also receive toy donations from many private individuals, churches, schools and clubs.

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Holidays Around the County Toy Shop - In 2010 we partnered with Project Self-Sufficiency in conducting our toy shop. Families from 15 different nonprofit agencies were serviced through this program. In addition, families in need that are not part of a human services agency were also helped. More than 2,000 children were provided with 4 toys each. The families were also given wrapping paper, handmade ornaments and a bag of home baked cookies.

Christmas in the City – Through a combination of toy drives and corporate donations Pass It Along volunteers provide Christmas gifts to children in the Newark Public School System. Volunteers collect, wrap, and package toys to be delivered directly to the children in their classrooms. Juice boxes and cupcakes are also distributed to each child. For some of these children, that will be the only Christmas gift they receive. This program is done in conjunction with Pastor Tilly of The House of Mercy Mission in Newark, NJ. This year **1,057** children received gifts.

2010 Monthly Calendar Programs:

In addition to the above referenced special programming events, Pass It Along uses funds raised throughout the year from fundraisers, sponsors, and grants to conduct the following programs, most of which specifically serve families in the low to moderate income bracket:

Homework Helpers – A weekly program was conducted at Rev. Brown School in Sparta where 16-20 volunteers tutored and helped children ranging in ages from 6-13 with their homework. Our volunteers were Pope John students and adults.

Life Skills - This program teaches valuable life skills to girls at Birth Haven in Newton. Birth Haven is a home for young women who are pregnant and without a place to live. Included in the life skills class are sessions conducted by First Hope Bank that teach banking skills, such as what it means to have a bank account and how to use a check book. Throughout 2010 4 life skills classes were offered to the residents. These included: Banking, Making Baby Food, Personal Care, and Crocheting & Knitting.

Tilly's Kids Program – This program runs year-round. Once per month children from inner city Newark come up to the country for a day of fun and mentoring with our teen volunteers. In addition to the monthly program, for 6 weeks during the summer Pass It Along teen volunteers mentor these children at their day camp as well as at Hopatcong State Park. Activities the youth participate in are environmental education, literacy enrichment, swim lessons, and crafts.

Pet Therapy – Once per month, volunteers bring their well-behaved pets to The Homestead Nursing Home for therapeutic companionship. The seniors look forward to spending time with the volunteers and receiving the unconditional love and comfort that the interaction with the animals provides. Most of the seniors in this facility are low income.

Cooking with a Mission – This program is run in conjunction with the House of Mercy Mission in Newark NJ. Once per month, 7 – 10 volunteers cook and serve a meal at the House of Mercy Mission soup kitchen. Each month, there is generally around a 150 meals served by our volunteers.

Cooking for Interfaith Hospitality Network – This is a program that was created in partnership with Interfaith Hospitality Network, an



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organization meeting the needs of the homeless population in Sussex County. Once per month, volunteers cook a meal for the current residents of Interfaith at the host church. Our youth volunteers, in addition to cooking, serving and sharing the meals, also help the children with any homework they may have.

Habitat for Humanity – Youth and young adult volunteers assist in this nationally known program to bring affordable housing to low income individuals.

PIA Mentoring Program – This program provides high school volunteers the opportunity to participate in an afterschool mentoring program. Pass It Along volunteers provided homework help and participated in small and large group activities with elementary school students. This program was designed to facilitate positive self-esteem, respect for self and others and strong resiliency skills.

Girl Power – This program is a student-to-student mentoring program that pairs middle school girls with high school girls. Meetings are held two times each month where valuable lessons are conducted addressing issues middle school girls face every day. This program helps build self-esteem and good decision making skills. This program currently operates in two school districts: Vernon and Sparta.

Talents & Treats – This program provides entertainment to senior citizens. Youth provide an evening of entertainment for the seniors with musical talent such as songs, skits, and comedy and dance routines. Dessert is also provided by and served by the youth. This program has grown in popularity and is now offered in two different locations, with more on the way.



Adopt a Grandparent – This program matches youth with seniors at Knoll View, an assisted living facility, for a companionship program. Youth and the seniors spend time playing games, doing crafts and just talking.



You've Got A Friend – Pass It Along is a part of the Circles™ program taking place in Sussex County. Circles™ is an innovative model based on a body of research suggesting that in order for families with low income to improve their situation, they must have bonding social capital within the community, bridging social capital to access the resources contained by higher income networks and linking social capital that connects the first two public institutions. The Circles™ initiative consists of a family working to get out of poverty and several middle and upper income Allies who befriend them and lend support.

Our program, **You've Got A Friend**, is directed towards the children of these families. This program, led by our teen mentors, focuses on literacy and education enrichment, youth development,

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and community service. These activities will help the children involved increase their self-esteem, self-image and life skills.

SCARC Bowling – Teens assist mentally and physically challenged adults in a weekly bowling program. They help the adults keep score, provide physical assistance and cheer the bowlers on.

Knitting and Crocheting for a Cause – This program teaches not only youth, but adults as well, how to knit and crochet various items such as blankets, hats, scarves and mittens to be donated to community members in need.

Environmental Action – These programs include working with The Nature Conservancy and Swartswood State Park on several different projects throughout the year. Work ranges from trail maintenance, beach erosion and clean-up projects, planting projects and environmental site cleanup work.

Father John's Animal Shelter – Youth driven program established by our Vernon High School Chapter to help dogs and cats get ready for adoption. Other locations are in the planning stages now.

The following are offered as Youth Leadership and Self-Discovery programs:

Hot Topics – This program brings youth together through discussion and action while providing opportunities for growth and exploration as an individual and as a part of a diverse community. It is a program that helps youth understand each other by being present in mind and body, being honest with ourselves and others, talking about our own experiences, and listening and giving everyone a chance to speak.

Youth Issues Forum – This program brings youth together through discussion and action while providing opportunities for growth and exploration both as individuals and as a part of a diverse community. Understanding, compassion, and freedom of expression are the hallmarks of this program.

Youth Leadership and Presentation Skills – This program is based on the belief that every young person has the potential to become a good communicator and leader, but this potential needs to be developed. The program's unique eight session workshop style enables participants to develop this potential through practical experience.

Winner's Image – This is an action oriented program with a powerful emphasis on individual accountability. This six week program teaches the best ways to connect with a person's "hidden self" to guide individuals to success; furthermore, it introduces a daily five point program for materializing a winner's image.

Discover Your Purpose & Passion* - A series of guided discussions and exercises designed to inspire each individual to personally reflect and assess what their core values are and consider how those values will manifest into a purpose driven and personally fulfilling life.

Youth Council – Is an established committee of youth from throughout Sussex County who meet once a month to generate ideas for programs and projects as well as to provide support and encouragement for teens involved in service to the community. Ideas can range from bringing in guest speakers, performing music, poetry readings and testimonials of their volunteering efforts.

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Service Corps - Service Corps is a group of Sussex County high school teens who interviewed with Pass Along to become part of a group effort to bring about change in their community and beyond. This group meets on a regular basis to learn about issues in the world today and brainstorm together to find creative ways to improve circumstances in Sussex County. They train to be leaders and mentors, they reflect on their volunteering experiences and they bond with the common goal of making the world a better place.

*** Denotes a new program**

Below are additional images from some of our programs:



Toys collected for the Toy Shop



Animal Rehabilitation



You've Got A Friend Mentoring



Bikes Collected and Assembled by Selective Insurance for the Toy Shop



Youth Leaders on Stage at Youth Conference



Small Group Sessions at Youth Conference



Youth Preparing their Box to Sleep in at Box City



Global Youth Service Day Mural Painting at a Day Care Center



Tilly's Kids Summer Day Camp Nature Program

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Our Funding:

As a 501(c)(3) organization, Pass It Along relies on donations from corporations and individuals, event sponsorships and grants from foundations to continue making a difference in the community.

Annual Fundraising Events & Programs:

Circle of Hope – Monthly giving program.

General Donations – These donations include one-time individual donations, corporate matching donations and “in memory of” or “in honor of” donations.

Pass It Along Concert – Annual benefit concert with sponsorship availability.

Dodge the Ball Battle – “Friend-raiser” event for the youth to support Pass It Along, sponsorships are available in addition to entry fees.

Serve-A-Thon – Annual one day of service where hundreds of volunteers come out and work on service projects around a three county area. Sponsorships are available.

Golf Outing – Annual event held at various golf clubs in the Sussex County area. Sponsorships are available in addition to entry fees.

The Gathering in the Vineyard – Annual wine tasting event held at Perona Farms in conjunction with the Wine Library. Sponsorships are available in addition to tickets to the event.

Box City – This is an annual event for youth, in partnership with Sussex County Interfaith Hospitality Network, to help raise awareness of homelessness in Sussex County. Participants spend the night in a cardboard box. Sponsorships are available in addition to an attendance fee.

Additional ongoing fundraising efforts include: Facebook Causes, GoodShop/GoodSearch, Viridian Energy Company monthly donations and various private fundraisers run by groups and clubs.

In Kind Donations - Pass It Along also relies on in kind donations to help facilitate our many programs and annual events.

Business Partners

Newton Memorial Hospital
Lakeland Bank
First Hope Bank
Krogh's Restaurant
State Farm Insurance

Orthopedic Institute of New Jersey
Sutherland Packaging
Wakefern Shop Rite
Walmart of Newton & Franklin

Nonprofit Partners

Ginnie's House
House of Mercy Mission
Knoll Heights
Knoll View
Homestead Nursing Home
Bristol Glen
SCARC
Katie's House
The Nature Conservancy
YMCA of Sussex County
Sussex County United Way
Keep Kid's Safe
Swartwood State Park

Sussex County Social Services
DASI – Domestic Abuse Services
NORWESCAP
Project Self-Sufficiency
Samaritan Inn
Partnership for Social Services
Today's Choice
Post House
Center for Prevention & Counseling
Birth Haven
Habitat for Humanity
Sunrise House
Sussex County Interfaith Hospitality Network

School Partners

Hardyston Elementary School
Helen Morgan School
Kittatinny High School
Lenape Valley Regional High School
Hopatcong High School
Veritas Academy
Franklin Elementary School
Kentwood Academy

Sparta High School
High Point High School
Vernon High School
Jefferson Twp. High School
Pope John
Rev. Brown Elementary School
Sussex County Technical School
Newton High School

partnership opportunities

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Farmstead Golf & Country Club
The Leo Companies
John Carafello
AA-1 Self-Storage



Selective Insurance Build a Bike Program

Church Partners

Blessed Kateri
Our Lady of the Lake
Sparta Presbyterian Church
Sparta United Methodist Church
Shepherd of the Hills
St. Mary's
Christian Faith Fellowship
First Presbyterian Church of Sussex
Newton Presbyterian Church
St. Thomas Episcopal Church of Vernon
St. Thomas Church of Ogdensburg



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