



"Rooted in Hope"

Racine Dominican Eco-Justice Center

Winter 2016

Vol. 11 Issue 2

Issued biannually

Vision:

Justice for Earth

Mission:

Environmental education and care of Earth in the context of community, contemplation, creativity, and cultivation

Values:

Conservation, Education, and Sustainability

For Programs & Tours:

262-681-8527

rejane@ecojusticecenter.org

www.ecojusticecenter.org

For Hermitage Reservations:

262-898-2581 (day)

262-681-2146 (evenings)

Office Hours:

Mon - Fri 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Grounds Open:

Mon - Sat 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday 1:00 - 4:00 pm

EJC Staff and Community

S. Rejane Cytacki, SCL, Executive Director
Sarah Ronnevik, Program and Communications Coordinator

S. Janet Weyker, OP, Volunteer Coordinator
Michael Raschke, Maintenance Assistant

S. Rose Marie Dischler, OP

S. Kathleen Bohn, OP

S. Mary Ann Weyker, OP

EJC Board Members

Charlie Tennesen, President

Rose Woodruff, Vice-President

S. Rosalie Lauer, OP, Secretary

Jeanne Gramza, Treasurer

S. Jean Ackerman, OP

Tiffany Behrends

Marilynn Pelky

S. Sharon Simon, OP

Robin Smerchek

S. Jane Weiss, OP, Sponsorship Office

A Word from Our Director

As I look out of my office on our first snowfall this year, I'm reflecting on the many terrific activities and events I have experienced during the five months that I have been here at the Eco-Justice Center. I have seen the excitement of children coming to our summer camps, working with animals, and trying kale and Swiss chard for the first time on our "Healthy Eating, Healthy Living" fieldtrips. I was amazed by the great energy and volunteerism around our annual Fall Festival. Finishing the hoop house this fall, with the assistance of many volunteers, and knowing it will assist us with all of our programs, brings a sense of accomplishment. Words cannot express my gratitude to our donors and volunteers who made all of our events and activities a success.

Moving forward, we would like to strengthen our Racine Area Youth Farm Corps, "Healthy Eating, Healthy Living" program, and summer camps by continuing to partner with local organizations and committing to serving youth in the heart of Racine. I would like to wish you and your family Happy Holidays this winter season and I hope to see you soon at the Eco-J!



S. Rejane Cytacki
Executive Director

A message from the Board President

As the year draws to a close, I am feeling amazed and humbled by the remarkable achievements at the Eco-Justice Center this year. The Racine Area Youth Farm Corps program was held as intended, being well received and demonstrating the power of combining youth, food, and the land. More recently, the Healthy Eating, Healthy Living program brought over 250 local 3rd graders to the Center. This program, envisioned by our founder Sister Janet, was successfully organized by our new Director Sister Rejane, to the benefit of our area youth. The Fall Festival was successful and just about the smoothest running event I have ever been a part of. Thank you everyone who made the Eco-Justice Center a success in 2016, and see you in 2017!



Charlie Tennesen
Board President

Upcoming EJC Events

December 21	Winter Solstice Celebration
Jan. 11 - Feb. 15	Discussion Series: <i>Silent Spring</i>
January 21	Mending Bee
February 18	Green Cleaning Workshop

For more information and additional events, visit ecojusticecenter.org or pick up an events calendar in the red Ed Center.

2017 Spring & Summer Camps

Spring Break Camp

Ages 5-8 April 18 - 21

Summer Ecology Camp

Ages 11-14 June 19 - 23
Ages 6-10 June 26 - 30
July 10 - 14
July 17 - 21

(Online registration opens February 1.)

Donors: June - Nov. 2016
We are grateful!

Robert Ackerman
 Glenn & Charlotte Arendt
 Ruth Bradford
 Mary Anne Brantzeg
 Allen Bratkowski
 Keith & Carol Brockman
 James Buckson
 Stanley & Miriam Bugnacki
 Leon & Carole Burzynski
 Katherine B. Carson
 Charles Gelderman
 Patricia Cherf
 Joyce & Charlie Clark
 Tammy Davies
 Linda Rose DiClementi
 S. Dorothy Ann Griebner
 John Dutcher
 David Fawver
 Mary Lou France
 Jean Gfall
 John & Jean Gramza
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 Margaret LaRose
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 Judith Roehrich
 Rose Blakeman
 Joan Schoofs
 Eric R. Schumann
 Cletus & Jane Schwoerer
 Frances Scott
 Lois Servais
 Robert & Frances Simon
 William Sklba
 Robin Smercheck
 Kathleen Solie
 Stephen Wanberg
 Steven Bessler
 Linda Sturm
 Jeff Sytsma
 Janice Topczewski

Farm Corps

Led by S. Christin Tomy, the Racine Area Youth Farm Corps spent the summer growing vegetables, learning about animal husbandry, selling produce at two Racine farmer's markets, and cooking with vegetables. We will be hiring a new crew for summer 2017 and look forward to the growth of this important program. Pictured at right: Back: Katie Maranger, Kelsey Welter*, Michael Hamilton, Ariel Dalia, Martice Scales* Front: Mia Hamilton, S. Christin Tomy. *crew leaders



Dawn DeMuyt, Hoop House Construction Lead Volunteer

Hoop House Completed

Our hoop house is now fully constructed, thanks to staff and volunteers who worked under the skilled leadership of volunteer Dawn DeMuyt. We are thrilled to have this space to extend our growing season. We currently have lacinato kale thriving inside.



Healthy Eating, Healthy Living Fieldtrips

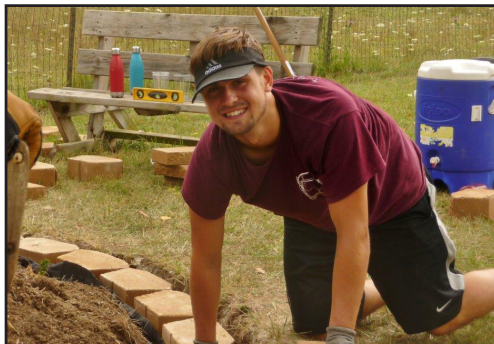
This fall, more than 250 third graders from RUSD visited EJC to learn about how to incorporate healthy eating and living habits into their lives. The students were all from schools with 85% or higher free or reduced lunch. Students explored our gardens and compost piles, sampled several new veggies, met our animals and experienced walking the labyrinth.



We are grateful to the All Saints Foundation and SC Johnson for their financial support toward the endeavors on this page. In addition, we thank Racine Community Foundation, SC Johnson, Buhler Family Foundation, UNFI Foundation, and Sinsinawa Dominicans, Inc. for their support of the pilot year of the Racine Area Youth Farm Corps Program. These meaningful opportunities would not be possible without this generous support.

Volunteers

We say it all the time because it's true: EJC couldn't be what it is without our wonderful volunteers. Here's a taste of their accomplishments as of late: breaking stale bread for our ducks, weekend chores, paper-bead and star making, cutting diseased trees, splitting wood, repairing picnic tables, cleaning barns, and raking. Over 140 volunteers were part of our Fall Festival alone! So thank you, each one of you, for blessing us with your presence here. We are so very grateful. Right: Jenny LaBelle and Sandy Jamieson volunteer every Thursday.



Daniel Latyshev places new brickwork around the sign garden. He is the 17th Eagle Scout to complete a project at EJC.



Tis the Season!

Consider these holiday gift ideas that also support the mission of EJC:

- * **Adopt-an-animal**
(see back of newsletter)
- * **Gift certificates** towards workshops, camp, hermitage stays & gift shop
- * **Gift shop items:** alpaca yarn, various knitted winter-wear, felted alpaca ornaments, local flour, EJC t-shirts, sweatshirts and more!



In addition to all the individuals who so faithfully devote their time, these enthusiastic groups volunteered this summer and fall:

- Horlick High School Key Club
- United Natural Foods, Inc.
- Conway Express Company
- Cardinal Stritch University students
- Lewis University students
- Sacred Journeys Church
- Unico, Inc.
- Racine Montessori 7th & 8th graders
- Walden School
- UW-Parkside students
- Youth from Racine Volunteer Center
- Racine Collaborative Youth Ministry group

If you are interested in volunteering, contact S. Janet at janet@ecojusticecenter.org. Thank you!



RIP, Ownie

Our friendly and charming little goat, Ownie, died on September 16, just two days before our Fall Festival. His sweet presence is very much missed. He poses here with one of our campers last summer.

Charitable Contributions from IRAs

Did you know that if you are 70½ years old and own a traditional IRA you can make tax-free charitable donations directly from your IRAs? Taxpayers are allowed to exclude from gross income otherwise taxable distributions from your IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (or QCD's) up to \$100,000 that are paid directly to a qualified charity. These gifts are also known as "Charitable IRA rollovers". If you file a joint return, your spouse can exclude an additional \$100,000 of QCD's. You can lower your taxes and give to a charity of your choice. Why not make a charitable contribution to the Eco-Justice Center today? Consult your financial adviser for details.

Robert & Rachel Trobaugh
John & Lynnaue Urban
Karen Urben
Karen Vollmer
Luan Wells
Mary Wheeler
Gene & Victoria Wiegand
Mary Ann Wilkes
Jonathan & Rose Woodruff

Organizations:

Buhler, Inc.
Convent of St. Catherine
Kiwanis Club of Greater Racine
Richard & Ellen Leuenberger Family Fund-RCF
Living Faith Lutheran Church
Potpourri Garden Club
Racine Community Foundation
Racine Dominican Class of 1960
Sacred Journeys Spiritual Community
Sisters of St. Dominic Mission Fund

In Kind Donations and Services:

Stephen Barootian
Lorraine Barr
G & F Excavating
Marty Meissner
Prairie Farm Corps
Raschke Family
Seed Savers
Joe Weinatzl

Due to the volume of Fall Festival & sweepstakes donations, we are unable to list them in this newsletter.

We regret any errors or omissions. Please report discrepancies via email.

Wish List

White copy paper
HP #61 ink cartridges
Electric pencil sharpener
"Forever" postage stamps
Pine chip animal bedding
Large Rubbermaid tubs
Chef's knife
Vacuum cleaner
Electric teapot
Large garden cart



Racine Dominican Eco-Justice Center
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Racine, WI 53402



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Adopt an EJC Animal

The animals who call EJC home are the stars of the farm! Show your love by adopting one of these critters for a year. Your “adoption” will help pay for feed, bedding, and vet costs. Perhaps you’d like to adopt an animal in honor of a birthday or anniversary. With a year-long adoption, you receive a certificate and photo of your farm animal. To the right is a list of the animals and their adoption costs. Cut out the card below and include in the donation envelope provided or donate online via PayPal at ecojusticecenter.org. Thank you for supporting the life at EJC!

Yearly adoption costs:

Alpacas	\$240	Aldo, Friar Tuck, Gaylord, Grant, Theo
Cats	\$48	Patch, Vader
Ducks	\$24	Autumn Eve, Estella, Wagon
Goats	\$60	April Rose, Oli, Patti Kay
Goose	\$24	Chives, Rosie, Will
Guineas	\$12	Prince...and so many more!
Hens	\$24	Caramel Fuzzy Feet, Chocolate Fuzzy Feet
Rabbits	\$36	Lorel, Petunia
Roosters	\$24	Big Red, Julio, Simon

YES, I would like to adopt an EJC animal!

Your name: _____

List name(s) of animal(s) you'd like to adopt here: _____

☐ Check here if this is a gift. Provide name and address of gift recipient below if you would like a certificate and photo mailed directly to them.

Gift recipient name & occasion: _____

Recipient's Address: _____

Please cut out this card and include with your check in the donation envelope provided.



This newsletter is available in color on line at www.racinedominicans.org/eco-j.cfm.
Tax deductible donations can also be made online through PayPal on our website.