2008 in REVIEW

REVITALIZE COMMUNITIES

Working in and with challenged communities, Isles builds great places to live, work and play. We help communities organize master plans to guide their revitalization, construct and redevelop homes and other energy efficient buildings, and create gardens, parks, and streetscapes. Isles' research brings quality information and educational support, while our organizing help improves public policies.

IN 2008 ISLES:

- Designed the green, multi-use renovation of Mill One, a massive former textile mill
- Developed 6 energy efficient homes with YouthBuild students
- Designed and packaged financing for 19 new and renovated homes
- Converted a 20,000 square foot warehouse into an education and training center
- Supported 34 community and 10 school gardens, growing tens of thousands of pounds of food
- Re-designed Roberto Clemente Park
- Secured $1,000,000 in neighborhood revitalization tax credits for the Old Trenton neighborhood
- Served in a leadership role in the City of Trenton's Green Initiative

EDUCATE & TRAIN

Education and training underpin self-reliance and healthy communities. Isles YouthBuild Institute offers low-income students age 16-24 a high school diploma, construction job skills and valuable life skills while they renovate green homes in Trenton. Isles also provides training to adults in financial literacy, credit repair, micro-business start-up, peaceful responses to violence, and parent training. In addition, Isles' created the New Jersey Center for Energy and Environmental Training (NJCEET), providing environment and energy-related job training for those that need it most. Isles also supports urban environmental education for youth.

IN 2008 ISLES:

- Over 70 students enrolled in Isles YouthBuild Institute
- Isles NJCEET developed curriculum for entry-level training in building air sealing, insulation and energy auditing, with training to commence in early 2009
- 319 people received foreclosure education
- 93 people received home ownership counseling, and 50 families purchased homes
- Isles trained 75 business owners/planners
- Ready, Set, Grow! worked with pre-school kids over the past year.
- Over 2165 students received Isles Environmental Education Training

LIVE GREEN & HEALTHY

Community health hinges upon how people care for themselves, their land and buildings, and the environment. Isles tests for lead and other environmental hazards in homes, cleans up brownfields , transforms vacant land into productive community gardens and educates residents about fresh food and nutrition. We also promote exercise and fitness, especially through Isles Spirit Walks that foster community while building healthy habits and creating fun places to exercise.

IN 2008 ISLES:

- Performed lead testing in 200 homes
- Completed lead remediation of 39 homes (avg cost $11,000/unit)
- Provided training assistance to 110 people in contaminated homes
- Grew thousands of pounds of produce on 43 community and school gardens
- Introduced youth and adult nutrition education in three child care centers
- Provided environmental education training to 2165 students
- Organized the 3rd Annual and smaller monthly Spirit Walks, attended by over 1000 people
- Produced a training video on mold in the home, the 3rd DVD in Isles Healthy Homed series
- Completed energy efficient homes and building restorations, including micro-load and solar panels, continued to save thousands of pounds of CO_2 emissions

BUILD WEALTH

Isles provides community-based financial services to help families protect and grow their assets. Isles offers credit counseling, small business services, micro-loans, and innovative ways to reduce debt and foreclosures.

IN 2008 ISLES:

- Trained 75 people in micro-business startups
- Facilitated the start or expansion of 10 businesses
- Made 11 micro-loans, totaling $12,000
- Counseled 93 renting families, with 50 of them buying a first home
- Provided intensive loss mitigation counseling to 82 people, helping 11 families avoid foreclosure
- Financial Fitness Clubs
- A business plan for Isles' Green Homes project was developed