



## Images of Kindness A-OK! Acts of Kindness Weekend September 11-12, 2010

*Community engagement  
in the greater Syracuse, New York area*

A project of Women Transcending Boundaries  
[www.wtb.org](http://www.wtb.org)



## Outcomes

- Enthusiasm and positivity from participating individuals and organizations was evident from the very beginning.
- During numerous planning sessions held in various parts of the city, groups began to collaborate with each other.
- Creative and surprising ideas were voiced as various groups came forward with their suggested projects.
- For many participants, the tragic energy surrounding 9/11 began to be transformed into action for positive change.
- Community ties were strengthened across the Greater Syracuse area as individuals and organizations worked together to create a more hospitable and compassionate climate.

Join us on facebook: [A-OK! Weekend Syracuse](#)



## Art-in-Motion

Sunnycrest Park & Armory Square

**Activities:** Making a giant puppet reflecting Eastwood neighborhood identity for the Open-Hand Theater Street Show at Armory Square

**Volunteers:** Eastwood residents



## Assisi Center

800 North Salina Street

**Activities:** Children's activities; collected and distributed free toys to neighborhood children; distributed plants to local nursing homes; made cat toys and dog treats for the Humane Society; collected non-perishables for a local food pantry; offered food to neighborhood walk-ins



**Volunteers:** Rapha Community members and friends; St. Joseph's Hospital medical staff



## Butternut Style

600-800 blocks of Butternut Street

**Activities:** Replacing signs; repairing porches; clearing brush; planting bulbs.

**Volunteers:** Tomorrow's Neighborhoods Today; community police; Central New York Community Foundation; Labors of Love

**Impact:** Neighbors from different blocks met.



"A bigger picture is growing, with plans to bring in arts and music and involve refugees." – Daryl Files, Women Transcending Boundaries

## Center for New Americans

1914 Teal Avenue

**Activity:** Organizing donations for refugees at InterFaith Works' new warehouse for the Center for New Americans

**Volunteers:** King of Kings Lutheran Church, Liverpool

**Impact:** Organizing donations makes it easier to match donations with needs.





**Eastern Farm Workers**  
406 Court Street

**Activities:** Transporting dozens of bags of donated clothing to a new resource center; building racks and organizing clothing; registering new members, enabling them to receive benefits; soliciting signatures on a petition to keep the utility company from raising rates

**Volunteers:** LeMoyne College students

**Impact:** People can find what they need more easily.



“People worked very hard. We have had increased traffic.” – Lynn Harter



**Elmcrest Children’s Center**  
960 Salt Springs Road

**Activities:** Making lunch and thank you cards for police and fire department personnel who come to their aid

**Volunteers:** Children and staff at Elmcrest

**Follow-up:** The lunch will become a yearly event; the police and firemen want to do more activities with the children.



“Thank you for keeping us safe from harm.”  
- Student at Elmcrest



**Activity:**  
"Heart-Beat"  
drumming for  
old and young  
**Organized by:**  
Rapha  
Community

## Forman Park

East Genesee and Almond Streets



"The drumming was very healing. I thought it was so significant that many monarch butterflies graced our circle." – Jean Boudreau, Rapha Community



**Activity:** Planting  
300 daffodils and  
mums in flower beds  
**Volunteers:**  
Individuals who love  
gardening  
**Impact:** Residents of  
the surrounding  
neighborhood will  
have a place in  
nature to meditate.

## Freedom Park

Lodi and North Townsend Streets



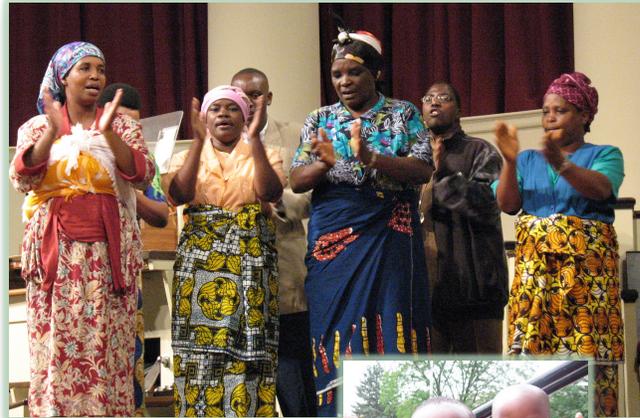


## Hendricks Chapel Syracuse University

**Activity:** Closing celebration with speeches, food, and music

**Volunteers:** Laci's Tapas; musicians

**Impact:** Burundian refugees charmed the audience with songs about kindness in their native language.



"Treat every day like it's this [Acts of Kindness] day." – Closing speaker



## Honey Tree Day Care 3212 James Street

**Activity:** Painting 5 classroom walls and a hallway

**Volunteers:** LeMoyne College students





## Hopps Memorial C.M.E. Church

1110 South State Street

**Activities:** Collecting and distributing donations of clothing and household items; offering health information and screenings

**Volunteers:** People from Hopps Church; Community Hospital medical staff; Lambda Kappa Mu sorority; Syracuse Alumni Chapter Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity

**Impact:** Reinforce increasing interest in health



“A-OK renewed my faith in all human beings. Unlike what we are hearing, people are generous and supportive of each other.” – Emma Owens Richardson, Community Health Counselor, Onondaga County Health Department



## Huntington Family Centers

405 Gifford Street

**Activity:** Cleaning out debris from recently purchased building

**Volunteers:** Staff from the Syracuse Post-Standard

**Impact:** More space for family programs



Among services offered families is a food pantry.



## InterFaith Works

3049 East Genesee Street

**Activities:** Making more than 200 cards offering hope and encouragement for those affected by the Gulf oil spill

**Volunteers:** Adults and children from throughout the area.



“It was a privilege to join with you all for the sharing of prayers, blessings and insights as we send our love to the people of the Gulf Coast during their ongoing period of rebuilding and recovery.”  
– Beth Broadway, Executive Director, InterFaith Works



## Islamic Society of CNY

925 Comstock Avenue

**Activities:** Offering a free meal as part of *Eid ul-Fitr*; helping KJ’s Angels with clean-up in Oakwood Cemetery

**Volunteers:** Members of the Islamic Society





## Jowonio School

3049 E. Genesee Street

**Activities:** Constructing a children’s labyrinth: shoveling dirt, heaving boulders, hauling mulch, planting daffodil bulbs; cleaning play areas

**Volunteers:** Onondaga Valley Presbyterian Church youth group; Jowonio families, staff and alumni

**Impact:** Expanded outdoor activity area



“Students are very excited about the prospect of a blaze of daffodils in the spring.”  
– Ellen Barnes, Director



## La Casita Cultural Center Project

Syracuse University

**Activities:** Recording stories from individuals; making drawings; creating artwork on tiles

**Volunteers:** Children and adults in the Near West Side



“People [in Spanish Harlem] would take over abandoned houses and turn them into cultural centers. That’s what we’re trying to do here.” - Genevieve Babeck, Syracuse University student



## Liverpool 1st United Methodist Church

604 Oswego Street

**Activities:** Preparing and serving a luncheon to honor local police and fire personnel

**Volunteers:** Church members



## Mary Nelson's Youth Center

2849 So. Salina Street

**Activities:** Cleaning up around the center; organizing donated clothing and food; making cards to send to families affected by the Gulf oil spill

**Volunteers:** People from the south side and the suburbs; First Tee of Syracuse; InterFaith Works



"I drove around town to the different activity sites and saw the families of the children who received donations of school supplies in August helping out around the community. That made everything worthwhile."  
– Mary Nelson, founder, Mary Nelson's Youth Center



## Northside CYO

527 No. Salina Street

**Activities:** Cleaning walls and painting trim

**Volunteers:** Students from Phi Gamma Delta, Syracuse University

**Impact:** A brighter and more welcoming space for children and families



"We really wanted to make sure we repay the community around us, especially on 9/11." - McGhee Cost, President, Phi Gamma Delta



## Oakwood Cemetery

Comstock Avenue

**Activities:** Cleaning around the markers for graves of infants; planting daffodil bulbs

**Volunteers:** KJ's Angels and the Islamic Society of Central New York

**Impact:** Expressing compassion for bereaved families



These [Islamic Society volunteers] are beautiful people, law-abiding people, who are offering to help us and to feed us. They understand." - Linda Hicks, Co-founder, KJ's Angels



## Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter's Church

301 Ash Street

**Activity:** Collected more than 100 bags of clothing for overseas victims of disasters

**Volunteers:** Parish members



## Rahma Clinic

3100 So. Salina Street

**Activities:** Blood pressure screening and health consultations; children's activities; relaxation class

**Volunteers:** Health professionals from the Islamic Society of Central New York and other backgrounds

**Impact:** Health consultations for 20 people; people from different communities came together.



"Kids from different sides of town were jumping together without thinking what background they were from." – Magda Bayoumi, Islamic Society of Central NY



## Sheridan Park

Nichols & Burnett Avenues

**Activities:** “We Remember” memorial service with fire and police departments, speakers, and prayer

**Organized by:** Sheridan Park Association



“This is the first year since 2001 that I wasn’t focused on the tragedy of 9/11 but on hope for the future. The highlight of the ceremony was seeing the Muslim women show up.” – Mike Behnke, Sheridan Park Association



## St. Lucy’s Food Pantry/Gym

432 Gifford Street

**Activities:** Painting a mural; bicycle repair clinic; community story-telling; “free hugs”

**Volunteers:** St. Lucy’s staff; La Casita; Upstate medical staff; R.S.V.P.; Imagine Syracuse; Bikes for Peace



“A hug is the simplest and easiest way to show you care.” - Dottie Clark



## Stone Soup Children's Garden

410-412 Gifford Street

**Activities:**

Digging post holes; cleaning up a children's garden

**Volunteers:**

LeMoyne College students



## Sunnycrest Park

Eastwood

**Activities:** children's activities; planting trees; cleaning up; health screening

**Volunteers:** LeMoyne College students; 100 Black Men of Syracuse; Crouse medical staff

**Follow-up:** students came back twice and planted 42 more trees.



"We have many projects but not enough volunteers; we would never have been able to put all this together if we hadn't planned this event together."  
- Mike Behnke



## Syracuse Parks Conservancy

**Activities:**  
Cleaning up;  
planting trees

**Volunteers:** 100  
Black Men of  
Syracuse

*Sunnycrest,  
Sheridan and  
Loguen Parks;  
Freedom Garden,  
Rain Garden, and  
Native Garden*

“Any of these projects we would be thrilled to work on, let alone all of them.” – representative, 100 Black Men



“I always think, can I leave something behind that will remain? Trees remain.” – Mike Massurin, Syracuse Parks Conservancy



## Thornden Park

Thornden Park Drive

**Activity:** Picking up trash around the park

**Volunteers:** Temple Concord members





## University United Methodist Church

1085 E. Genesee Street

**Activities:** Serving a free community breakfast; offering blood pressure screenings; baking cookies for firemen; music; sending a Labors of Love team to the Butternut Style project

**Volunteers:** Church members, Syracuse University students



“Signature Music kids also performed on the front steps of the church and they practically brought traffic on Genesee Street to a stop as motorists slowed down to hear the jazz and swing these fantastically talented kids produced.” – Cheryl Brown, UUMC



## West Side Learning Center

422 Gifford Street

**Activity:** Painting 8 classrooms and a hall in the former St. Lucy's Academy

**Volunteers:** Alpha Phi Omega students, Syracuse University

**Follow-up:** Two students became volunteer tutors.



“Beyond the physical work, we enjoyed singing, dancing and laughing together. The SU Alpha Phi Omega students were very enthusiastic and worked hard.” – Theresa Pagano, Director



## Zen Center

266 W. Seneca Turnpike

**Activities:**  
Cleaning out  
invasive species  
along Onondaga  
Creek; clearing  
the creek bank  
around the  
sculpture being  
created by  
Cayuga-Seneca  
artist Tom Huff

**Volunteers:**  
SUNY ESF  
students



“Onondaga Creek is a sacred site, so we wanted to honor it.”  
– Kate Fuller, student, SUNY ESF