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- Yes! I want to support Isles. Enclosed is my check made payable to Isles, Inc. in the amount of \$ _____
- I have transferred _____ shares of _____ stock to Isles, Inc.
- Employer matching gift
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- Retirement plan assets
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Mail completed form to:
Resource Development, Isles, Inc., 10 Wood Street, Trenton, NJ 08618
Please contact Isles at 609.341.4700 with any questions.

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GREEN COLLAR JOBS

At a February press conference, Governor Jon Corzine lauded a new statewide effort to train NJ residents for hundreds of green collar jobs. Recognizing the early local success of Isles' Center for Energy and Environmental Training (CEET), the governor joined us to celebrate the rollout of CEET's training in three other urban centers in the state.

To meet the governor's ambitious goal of reducing greenhouse gases by 20 percent by 2020, analysts predict a statewide need for thousands of new jobs to perform energy audits and building retrofits over the next few years. At the press conference, Laurence M. Downes, chief executive of New Jersey Resources, said that CEET "will play an important role in advancing New Jersey's economic recovery, as well as its environmental goals, and ensuring it remains a great place to live and work."

Since CEET's opening in mid-January, 146 trainees completed an Energy Efficiency Assistant course developed by CEET and the Conservation Services Group in Massachusetts. This entry-level course provides green job classes and field site



Governor Corzine speaks to YouthBuild students, NJCEET graduates, and others about a new statewide effort to train and create green-collar jobs.

work, in addition to workforce readiness and life skills. Graduates become assistant home energy auditors, air sealers, and insulators. They are equipped with entry-level knowledge and skills, offering multiple career ladder paths. Six of the graduates are working with PSE&G as Energy Assistants, and another 11 are interviewing for additional positions with the utility. CEET staff worked

with all of the graduates to find internships and jobs.

In March, CEET trained 11 Trenton-area contractors and construction workers, preparing them to become building analysts and possibly to seek national BPI (Building Performance Institute) certification.

In addition, CEET provided training for 41 PSE&G employees working in the company's new home energy efficiency program. CEET's next training sessions will include solar panel installation and lead remediation. The first solar class will install solar panels on CEET's training center, which will soon open at 33 Tucker Street in Trenton – directly above Isles' YouthBuild Institute. Some YouthBuild students will assist with the installation.

CEET serves a key role in New Jersey's ambitious efforts to conserve energy, reduce global warming, and stimulate jobs and the economy. By December, the Trenton-based center will provide workforce readiness and job training for more than 180 people. In addition, CEET will provide its energy efficiency training for another 180 people in the Newark, New Brunswick, and Camden areas.

Gardening Season is Here!



To kick-off the 2009 gardening season, students from Grant Elementary School in Trenton experienced farming the old fashioned way during Isles' annual Spring Tillage event.

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MESSAGE TO OUR FRIENDS



Dear Friends,

A few days ago, a friend suggested that we must really feel good to know that, after 28 years, Isles' work has become so...popular.

Interest in fighting global warming, urban decay, better jobs, energy waste, and fractured communities is at an all-time high. People are seeking meaning in their lives – they're volunteering, looking for good work after retirement. And lots of stimulus funding is around the corner.

I had to pause, and say that yes, these may be the best of times...and perhaps some of the worst of times, all rolled into one.

The good news is that from Trenton to Washington, D.C. and beyond, interest in our work is extraordinary. Leaders are coming to realize what many of you already know – we can invest in self-reliance and restore the environment, or we can spend much more later by delaying. Isles' work is highly cost-effective.

The bad news is that we cannot keep up with the demand for our services. Families want to avoid foreclosure, to build a community garden, to get trained in green collar jobs, to start a small business, to make a home energy-efficient, or to test and clean up lead filled homes. And cuts in philanthropy and many government budgets hurt.

The stimulus, despite best intentions in Washington, the state house and locally, is designed to be spent very quickly. As a result, the urgency of now is likely to trump innovation and effectiveness. Many of the funds will flow through the same silos and programs that have stifled innovation in the past. There is too little time to change them. This is not an argument against the stimulus package. It is a plea to our leaders to think creatively, as well as quickly, about ways to rethink the potential of communities.

These are exciting times at Isles, as you can see from this newsletter. Thanks to all of you that help make it possible.

In community,

Marty Johnson

Remembering Bruce Coe



We were saddened to lose Bruce Coe in March. He was a friend of Isles for many years. Bruce firmly believed in free enterprise, and he became a powerful leader in New Jersey's business world. But he felt deep empathy for those that, often by the accident of birth, were at a disadvantage in the game. And he did something about it.

He gave his time, talent and resources to one organization that works to bring the benefits of the marketplace to underserved communities and the environment. To honor Bruce's passion, friendship and contributions over many years, Isles, Inc. is dedicating a wing of its new office and training center to him.

The Bruce Coe Center for Energy and Environmental Training will provide "green collar" job training and other employment services to underserved populations throughout the state. Trainees will learn how to perform energy audits and retrofits of homes and businesses, install solar panels and other technologies, and clean up environmental hazards.

The Coe Center will benefit all that Bruce held dear – good jobs for those that need them, trained labor to strengthen businesses, stronger communities, and hope for the environment.

To donate to the Coe Center, contact Yuki Laurenti at ylaurenti@isles.org.

YWCA TRIBUTE TO LIZ



Photo by: David Newton Dunn

Liz Johnson, Isles COO, and early partner in the building of Isles, was one of 12 area women honored at the 2009 YWCA of Princeton Tribute to Women Awards in March. In her remarks, Liz said: "Isles has been a labor of love for me and a continuous opportunity to learn and grow. Thank you to my family and to everyone in our extended Isles family, for all that you do, and for your love and support of me."

Volunteers Help Foster Self-Reliance



More than 100 Princeton University student-athletes spent April 5 at Isles' One Johnston Avenue on a rebuilding and beautification project entitled "Weapons of Mass Construction." The team deconstructed and demolished interior walls, stripped existing interior brick walls of paint, and painted interior brick walls.

IYI Hosts Challenge Day



YouthBuild staff and students participated in Challenge Day, a day of experiential workshops and programs that demonstrate anti-violence through the celebration of diversity.

ISLES OVER THE YEARS

- 600 YouthBuild students have graduated
- 428 homes rebuilt (investment of \$45 million)
- 3 historic factories converted – (one of them is just getting underway!)
- 170 community gardens planted
- More than 100 microbusiness owners trained (since 2007)
- 30 parks rebuilt
- More than 850 families counseled in homeownership (since 2002)
- Over 250 families purchased a first home
- 1,500 families counseled in homeownership
- 1,000 street trees planted
- 15,000 youth and teachers trained in environmental education
- 28 family homes saved from foreclosure (since April 2008)
- 1,185 homes tested for lead contamination
- Remediated lead from 39 homes
- 36 community based lead testing technicians trained
- Over 2,500 children and adults trained in lead poisoning prevention
- 600 preschool children and families learned nutrition education
- Last year alone, Isles provided one-on-one home counseling to 93 potential first time buyers and trained 319 individuals in foreclosure prevention.
- Thousands of residents and employers participated in exercise and nutrition activities, neighborhood planning, parent training, brownfields cleanup, and policy advocacy.

BEAT FORECLOSURE

Last year, foreclosures nearly doubled in Mercer County to 3,000. The number of Mercer residents close to losing their homes grew at a faster pace in January 2009 than the previous month, bucking a national trend. In January, 208 properties were hit with default notices, foreclosure auction notices or bank repossession, up from 161 in December.

As a result, Isles recently hired and trained more foreclosure counselors, who understand the range of federal, state and local resources that can help homeowners save the homes they worked so hard to purchase.

Isles' counselors negotiate loan modifications, restructure payment plans, or reinstate mortgages. Isles is approved by NJ Housing

Mortgage Finance Agency (NJ HMFA) to offer the Mortgage Assistance Pilot Program (MAP) to qualified homeowners. MAP program provides temporary financial help (up to \$20,000) to eligible homeowners who are in trouble but want to remain in their homes.



ISLES' YOUTHBUILD INSTITUTE

Extended evening program

Isles' YouthBuild Institute's Extended Evening Program (IYI EEP) is an after school initiative that has been running since July 2008. The goals of IYI EEP are to prepare IYI students with life skills, cultural awareness and historical perspectives that will support their success in school and in life.

IYI EEP also teaches students critical life skills in the areas of basic reading, writing, math, and computer literacy; soft skills including teamwork, negotiation, and communication; self-management including responsibility, personal appearance and public presentation; problem solving and creative decision making; academic and career goals; and health, including nutrition, diet and exercise.

Over the past several months, IYI students and alumni have been introduced to several dynamic programs that have exposed them to new experiences and learning opportunities.



Students participate in Bomba, a Puerto Rican and African drumming workshop.

Bomba Drumming, provided by Nelson Baez, is one component of the Arts in Prevention program, and it is a 12-week workshop, rooted in Puerto Rican and African culture. The workshop teaches young adults responsibility, discipline, critical thinking, problem solving skills, and flexibility. The students are currently working towards a performance at the May 14 Trenton ArtsFest in partnership with the Secretary of State.

Over spring break, nine students and alumni who demonstrated excellent leadership skills, went on a three night, four day trip to the Poconos to participate in a teambuilding retreat. While away, they participated in horseback riding, go kart riding, roller skating, a four hour teambuilding workshop, cooking and housekeeping with their peers.

The Food Basics project led by personal Chef Elizabeth Stelling from Cook Appeal in Princeton, is another IYI EEP component that has been well received by IYI students. Upon completion of the project, students will earn a certificate that demonstrates their understanding of the basics of food preparation, cutting, kitchen safety, restaurant kitchen basics, menu development, and nutrition. Participants in the Food Basics project will be prepared for entry level employment in a restaurant. To assist IYI students and alumni with reaching their full potential, the IYI EEP is offering a 12-week



IYI students ride horses during their four day teambuilding retreat in the Poconos.

meditation workshop, by Acharya Gerish Jha from India, Regal Lady Etiquette for girls by Maybelline Hicks, and Tied to Greatness Etiquette for boys by Alex Ellis. Participants are learning how to take a leadership role in their overall appearance, conduct on the job and at school, relieving stress and making more positive choices.

"The Evening Program has brought me closer to people that I didn't know, and it feels like home when everyone is around," said IYI student Tamron Harris. Overall, IYI EEP is successful in providing students a place to enjoy each other's company while broadening their life skills and staying out of trouble.

Meeting for Health



New Jersey and Trenton area leaders come together at Isles' Faith for Health Breakfast, to discuss childhood obesity and our role in preventing the epidemic.

A Work In Progress



A work in progress, Isles' Mill One at One Johnston Avenue is slated for completion in late 2010.

WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE...TAKE A LOOK!
www.isles.org

FROM CLASSROOM TO FIELD – AND BACK AGAIN



Visiting lecturer Robert Harris, center, and seniors Eric Hui and Emily Weissinger discuss the renovation of a vacant factory.

Dr. Bob Harris, co-founder of consulting firm Environ International and longtime friend of Isles, teaches Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE 477): Sustainable Design at Princeton University. This past fall, a dozen Princeton students worked alongside Isles' design team to explore a range of leading edge green design opportunities at Mill One, Isles' textile mill conversion project.

Bob placed the students in a real-life consulting role, and the hefty report that they produced for Isles is chock full of analyses and recommendations. The students analyzed the building's environmental impact, including the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system, insulation, water usage, and drainage. They created a computer model of the building to test assumptions about energy consumption and ways to save energy and water.

In an interview for the *Princeton Weekly Bulletin*, Dr. Harris said "We're not going to deal with global warming adequately if we don't deal with energy use in commercial and residential buildings. The science and the field are expanding rapidly, and we want to introduce students to the synergism that exists between building design components."

Marty Johnson commented, "The students' work comes at just the right time. It gives us rigorous analytical detail and helps us make complex design decisions with confidence. The course is a great way for students to apply what they learn to real world situations. This makes them want to learn and do more, and everyone benefits from Bob's expertise and passion."

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 11

GOLF OUTING

at Cherry Valley Country Club

JULY 11

GARDEN AND HOUSE TOUR

JUNE 6 AND 13

HOME BUYER WORKSHOP

For more information, visit
www.isles.org or call 609.341.4700

CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF WITH PAUL VOLCKER

To achieve Isles' ambitious goals, including the renovation of Mill One and over \$14 million in real estate, Isles has embarked upon a three-year \$12 million campaign. With a recent boost from an anonymous donor, the campaign has raised over \$7.7 million in pledges and gifts.

On June 17, Paul Volcker, Chairman of President Obama's Economic Recovery Advisory Board, Former Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, and Honorary Chair of Isles Capital Campaign will participate in the announcement of the campaign at Mill One.



Spirit Walk



Spirit Walkers participate in a monthly mall walk at Quakerbridge Mall in Lawrenceville, NJ.

FEEL THE HEAT

A whopping 40 percent of New Jersey's carbon emissions come from the heating and cooling of buildings. Older, urban homes that are leaky and substandard are expensive for families, damaging to the environment, and now, a business opportunity for energy companies. In addition, many of the homes that need to be "tightened up" also carry high levels of lead in them.

Isles' Home Energy Action for Trenton (HEAT) project is researching these types of home energy solutions and challenges in the Trenton region. With that info, HEAT is developing new and better approaches to retrofitting homes in all neighborhoods—especially lower income ones.

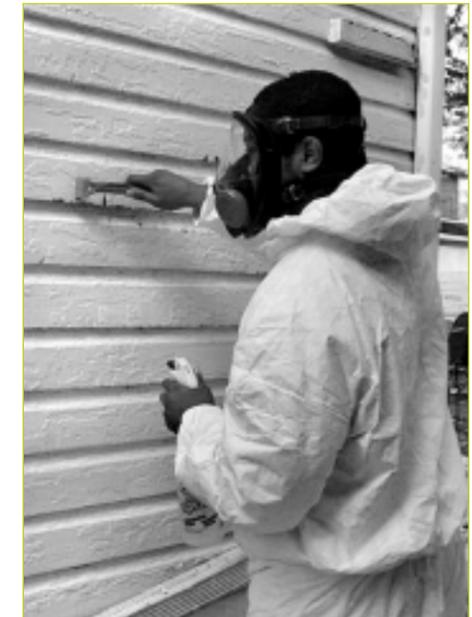
Partnering with Environ, Princeton University, the Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) Company and others, HEAT is forging important new ways to understand energy and environmental challenges.

A Princeton University Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS) class is just now wrapping up a year-long energy study of a typical Trenton home. Students and

faculty work with Isles to gain a deeper understanding of how building energy dynamics work while helping a Trenton family save as they test the best approaches to auditing and retrofitting urban homes. Emily Weissinger, the EPICS student leader, says: "Isles has given EPICS students the opportunity to get out of textbooks and into the real world. Being able to work with a resident in our community has been a truly unique educational experience."

Isles also collaborates with PSE&G as they enter the energy audit and savings business. Targeting lower income households, Isles conducts outreach, educates families about PSE&G services, qualifies them for energy services, tests them for lead, and helps PSE&G create an effective model that can later be brought to the rest of New Jersey. Isles' partnerships enable HEAT to acquire, and then share information about the best ways to save energy and money and create jobs.

For more information on HEAT, please contact Julia Taylor at 609.341.4713.



A Healthy Homes inspector performs lead abatement on a Trenton home.



MICROBUSINESS CLASSES NOW IN SPANISH

Isles' Microbusiness services are expanding! Starting spring 2009, we are offering our 10-week training class, Build Your Own Business (BYOB), in Spanish. Since the inception of BYOB in 2007, almost 100 budding entrepreneurs have completed the training course. BYOB helps trainees test the feasibility of business ideas and create business plans. BYOB's expansion was made

possible by vital funding from private donors and the NJ Division of Women.

Norma Diaz, Asset Building Manager will lead this effort. Norma comes to Isles from Accion NY, a successful microlender that supports those without access to traditional sources of credit. Peter Rose, VP of Isles' Financial Self-Reliance Department is excited

about Norma's addition to the team. "We couldn't have found a better match to develop Isles' Spanish language services. Norma brings the energy and skills needed to both perform the training and support those wanting to turn their plans into businesses." For information on Isles' BYOB Services (English or Spanish), contact Norma at 609.341.4791.



Ready, Set, Grow



Preschool students visit a local farm to explore and learn about how their food is grown.

Isles' Ready, Set, Grow (RSG) project brings a new way to encourage pre-school families to adopt new eating habits – and set their children on a path to lifelong health.

We conduct monthly workshops for parents, sharing culturally appropriate techniques to prepare fresh vegetables in quick, easy, and inexpensive ways. Everyone eats, and they take home a recipe that is easy to prepare at home. Isles also partners with Fernbrook Farm of Bordentown, where families visit to see a working farm and learn about the environment, agriculture, and health.

Participating daycare centers include Children's First Academy, Kids "R" First and YMCA.

For more info contact Meredith Taylor –
mtaylor@isles.org

TUCKER STREET GETS ENERGY INSPIRED RENOVATION



Tucker Street getting a facelift. Sponsors include NRG Energy, NJ Board of Public Utilities, SunPower and SJ Industries.

After a year spent renovating the 20,000 sq ft former factory, Isles is poised to announce the completion of Isles' Training Center at 33 Tucker Street in Trenton. The extraordinary generosity of NRG Energy made the complete renovation possible. Headquartered in Princeton, New Jersey, NRG is a global energy company that donated over \$1,000,000 to make this renovation possible. Founded in

1989, NRG owns and operates a variety of energy plants worldwide. A celebration and ribbon-cutting will occur within the month.

Isles' Youthbuild Institute (YI) will be located on the first floor. New multi-media classrooms, offices and training spaces will support the academic, vocational and life skills offerings at the award-winning Institute.

On the second floor, Isles is locating the Center for Energy and Environmental Training. (See "Green Collar Jobs" article.) Other donors include SJ Industries of Folsom, New

Jersey; SunPower, headquartered in California; and the Board of Public Utilities' Clean Energy Fund.

Improvements include all new, high efficiency heating, cooling, ventilating, electrical and plumbing systems; a new elevator; new windows for day lighting every classroom; core and shell insulation, and a new

sprinkler system. The entire building is fire code and ADA compliant, with enhanced building security systems.

SunPower designs, manufactures and delivers high efficiency solar electric technology worldwide. SunPower is providing training, design, installation and materials assistance to the solarization of the building. SunPower personnel have conducted solar training for YI students and graduates.

SJ Industries provided \$10,000 to offset the training and materials costs for the solar array installation. The photovoltaic (PV) system, installed on the rooftop of the training center, offers students the opportunity for hands-on learning in solar PV installation. It will also serve as an ongoing training tool for future students.