



2014 Highlights | Donations at Work



EDUCATE & TRAIN



On June 23, 2014, Doug Moreland and 18 of his peers graduated from Isles Youth Institute (IYI) during a ceremony held at Grounds for Sculpture.

This is IYI's 19th graduation. Over 900 young adults have studied at IYI, where they can earn a diploma, gain valuable life skills and construction training, and help redevelop their communities.



This year, three graduates enrolled in vocational training in HVAC, four have completed Mercer County Community College's Certified Nurses Aide program, and Doug Moreland passed the United States Air Force pre-entrance exam and is awaiting assignment.

This year's school redevelopment projects included:

- Landscaping the State Museum.
- Environmental restoration at Island Beach State Park.
- Painting and organizing at The Martin House thrift store in Trenton.



REVITALIZE COMMUNITIES

Under Isles' lead, with help from the Trenton Neighborhood Restoration Campaign and the Rutgers Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability, we surveyed and mapped every property in Trenton. Completed in just seven weeks, the survey included over 30,000 properties. One finding: 23% of all properties are vacant.

A new interactive site that offers key information to public and private leaders can be found at www.restoringtrenton.org.

Other projects include: Saving the Cass Diner, beginning construction on the Mill One Nonprofit Center, murals, affordable houses, and more.

For more details of ongoing projects, visit www.isles.org.





GROW ASSETS



Family self-reliance requires financial stability. Isles provides innovative financial solutions to increase assets, help first-time homebuyers make educated choices, and counsel lower-wage workers.

This year:

- 56 families created detailed saving and spending plans.
- 62 new families and 104 total families received Isles Financial Solutions services.
- Four first time homeowners purchased houses.

"I just wanted to say 'thank you' for assisting me in one of the biggest accomplishments in my life. Thank you for listening, and believing in my goal...Thank you for finding a way to help me... At first I thought it was a dream, but now it is becoming a reality."

-Marie S. Rochelin , a first-time homebuyer



LIVE GREEN & HEALTHY

Older homes in Trenton often have leaky roofs, lack energy efficiency, and threaten residents - especially children - with lead and other contaminants. Isles trains and hires local workers to tackle all of these issues at one time. More than 160 homes were weatherized in 2014 and 12 more renovated. Ms. Willie Young's was one of them.

"Thank you and your whole company for being such a great blessing...Everyone was so great and kind, they felt like my kinfolk."

-Willie Young, 90, after receiving a new heater in her home.

Isles' new incubator garden offered hands-on training to ten beginning gardeners.

In total, Isles supports 60 gardens. This year, we grew closer to our goal of "a garden in each school" in Trenton, with eight additional school gardens. Now 20 schools utilize these gardens for hands-on lessons and healthy food.



Your gift really helps! To donate or make a pledge, call 609.341.4721 or visit www.isles.org/donate.