

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Special points of interest:

In 2008....

- 85 individuals participated in the GreenFingers Workshops
- 45 separate Trips into Nature were made
- 25 separate venues offered our products for sale
- Our first Floral Design Course was offered
- We initiated an Artists' Workshop
- Our **5th Annual Imagine** program raised \$19,000
- Volunteers logged more than 775 hours with EarthLinks!

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CONNECTIONS — THE HEART OF EARTHLINKS

Dear Friend of EarthLinks,

As it was for many, 2008 was a year of change for EarthLinks. We modified some of our ongoing programs to emphasize possibilities for our participants in job readiness skills. We added a voluntary Artist's Workshop to better meet the needs of our participants to create and be recognized for their value to our community. We continued to make a difference in the lives of the homeless and poor by making connection to Earth, the Great Healer.



Participants start Spring planting

GREENFINGERS WORKSHOP



GreenFingers is a micro-economic program where homeless and low-income persons are engaged in gardening, creation of our products and along the way form a supportive community. In 2008, 63 participants were paid a stipend for their work, and were responsible for creating the products which are sold at craft and church sales throughout the Front Range. In addition to our regular workshop, GreenFingers also embarked in a new direction in 2008 by adding a Floral Design Workshop and an Artists' Workshop to our curriculum. Both workshops were taught by a dedicated volunteer and involved 17 persons from our GreenFingers program and 8 new participants. The Floral Design course is a job training and job readiness course. Of the 11 individuals who took the class, 9 graduated and 3 initially obtained employment, either part or full-time. The Budding Tree Art Studio served 14 persons. This course included course work in different media, and an open workshop where artists could experiment in the medium of their individual choice.

Urban Gardens

In 2008 we continued our care of three urban gardens for transitional and respite residences managed by the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless and Mental Health Centers of Denver. At these gardens, our staff engaged more than 133 persons in gardening, Earth consciousness, and creative projects arising from the gardens. We have found that this is often the first step in healing for these individuals who are so alienated from society

Day Trips into Nature
 Nearly four trips per month were taken in 2008, ferrying 280 people to the mountains, lakes, museums and exhibitions throughout Denver and the nearby front range. Individuals are picked up from the day shelters that serve the homeless and low-income: St. Francis Center and the Gathering Place, and taken for a few hours from the chaos and boredom of their circumstances into the healing welcome of Nature. Always included is a picnic lunch of fried chicken and the "fixins", as so many of these participants survive on a diet of sandwiches on a daily basis.

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IMAGINE

Our 5th annual Imagine Project featured Earth Mama in a well-attended concert held at El Centro Juan Diego. More than



130 people joined us for the program which raised over \$19,000 for our programs. We are so grateful for all the volunteers and corporate sponsors who helped us to attain this goal!



MARKETING

In 2008, sales were held at 25 different venues, in addition to products being offered for sale at our location. Thanks to the tireless work of our volunteers, more than \$27,500 was received from the sale of our products at these locations. Over 50 volunteers gave of their time to help us achieve these sales, which support the GreenFingers program.



VOLUNTEERS

EarthLinks relies on its volunteers, and we could not touch the lives that we do without their efforts. Eight separate volunteers provided more than 145 hours of time to chaperone and lead our Trips into Nature Program. More than 50 individuals volunteered to help with our product sales throughout the year, contributing more than 310 hours over nights and weekends. Regular workshop and garden volunteers help us weekly, contributing more than 200 additional hours each year. The Floral Design and Artist Workshop volunteers logged an additional 120 hours of time.

EarthLinks Financial Report

REVENUE 2008

Grants & Foundations	\$ 47,000
Donations	39,751
GreenFingers Sales	27,637
Imagine Project	19,059
Interest	1,632
Other Income	<u>191</u>

Total \$ 135,270

EXPENSES 2008

Program Services:	\$ 98,416
General Operating	26,408
Fundraising	<u>3,547</u>

Total \$ 128,341

