

# INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY FOUNDATION



*"Communities are miracles waiting to happen"*

## I. WHO WE ARE

The mission of the International Community Service Day (ICSD) Foundation is to help empower Communities to mobilize volunteer resources in their own neighborhoods toward projects involving beautification and renovation of local schools and other facilities that serve children. This mission is based on our belief that the solution to society's problems is the rebuilding of community, which begins with each person. If you challenge people's sense of the possible and give them a place to contribute and improve our world, they will. With each person's contribution community is brought to life.

## II. THE ISSUES WE ADDRESS

According to a report submitted to Congress in 1995, and a May 1997 telecast of World News Tonight, 1/3 of our nation's 80,000 public schools are in disrepair. This means that 14 million Children attend these facilities with their health and education at risk, every day. Deteriorating campuses send a loud message of apathy, neglect, and cynicism to students. Without positive intervention and financial support from the government, the initiative to revitalize the schools and restore self-esteem in our youth must come from the communities themselves.

As a volunteer organization the ICSD Foundation works with students, parents, teachers, local business, religious organizations, and other civic groups to develop service projects that will serve as a catalyst for rallying their community together to reinvest in the education and safety of their children. The planning and execution of these projects takes approximately seven months, with the culmination of the physical renovations valued at \$10,000-\$500,00 per community. We guide each community to discover and build upon the resources that already exist, as well as increasing their confidence to tap into new sources.

Given the present reality of public education and the growing numbers of children growing up under less than desirable conditions, we direct the majority of our work toward urban schools and youth organizations. Over the past eleven years we have found that community work directed toward serving you is the most effective vehicle for rallying disenfranchised communities.

### Who We Serve

Our clients represent the most vulnerable and disenfranchised population of society -- youth living in low-income communities, and the parents and adults who are trying to care for them. More than 75% of the individuals are non-Caucasian, more that 60% are under age of 17.

Our client-base is widely diverse in age, culture, nationality, native language, gender, and income. What they all have in common is that they have been adversely affected by having unsafe or insufficient school and community facilities.

The majority of our partnerships with communities are in large urban settings, including:

- Atlanta, GA
- Los Angeles, CA
- Montreal, Quebec
- Ottawa, Ontario
- San Jose, CA
- Vancouver, British Columbia
- Boston, MA
- Manhattan, NY
- Oakland, CA
- San Francisco, CA
- Toronto, Ontario
- Washington, DC

Due to the dense population of youth and families in these areas, their community-based resources are often overwhelmed and unable to meet the demands placed on them. In these communities, where the demographics are so diverse, we are able to have a greater impact by affecting more people.

### **III. ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Since 1986 the ICSD Foundation has worked with over 200 schools and youth organizations in North America. The purpose of our work is to help communities empower themselves, by utilizing the spirit, power, and resources of volunteerism to transform the quality of life and education for youth.

In the past five years we have received the financial support from several corporations and foundations, including: PeopleSoft, GTE Directories, Cadence Design, Cisco Systems, IntegreTel, Bayshore Press, Surdna Foundation, Comerica Bank, LifeScan, Citibank, Trader Joe's, Putnam Investments, American Express, Y & H Soda Foundation, and Bank of America. With 55% of our funding coming from individuals and matching gifts and 0% from federal or state funding, are working to increase the involvement and investment of corporate leaders & individuals in the work, goals, and impact of our organization.

#### **Goals to be Achieved in the Next Two Years**

- To expand the financial resources of the organization so that we are able to effectively serve more communities.
- To increase the involvement of at-risk youth in the planning, development and leadership of the projects so that they are given solid opportunities to identify and experience their potential as valuable and contributing members of their community.
- To maximize the long-term, positive impacts that our partnerships have on communities by training members to be effective leaders and organizers.
- Assist communities in developing long-term strategies that will address their needs (i.e., after-school activities for youth, educational resources, and public safety).

### **IV. THE BENEFITS TO DONORS**

We are offering you the opportunity to invest in the work and the impact of the ICSD Foundation in your community. Your investment will provide the seed monies for us to partner schools, train and develop their volunteer leaders, and enhance the quality of education for 12,000 children and their families.

When you look around the site of an ICSD project you will see the power of communities in action. Adults and children working together—planting trees on barren lots, wiring classrooms for first time access to the Internet, and building playgrounds on vacant lots.

Involving your employees in one or more of our projects can build stronger relationships between peers, customers, and shareholders, increase productivity and job satisfaction, and engage staff in supporting your commitment to increasing America's ability to produce a well-educated, highly productive workforce for the future.

As an investor in the International Community Service Day Foundation we will work together to develop a "benefits package" that meets your needs and priorities.

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Our purpose is to ignite the spirit of service in communities.

We believe relationship, family, and community are the cornerstones of a healthy and vital society.

We value each person's contribution to the community, the power of commitment to a higher purpose, hands-on involvement, and the legacy we leave to our children. We do this by creating neighborhood projects around which people can rally.

We serve children, community organizations, and the community at large.

## **PHILOSOPHY**

The solution to our society's problems is the rebuilding of community, which begins within each person. If you challenge people's sense of the possible and give them a place to contribute and improve our world, they will. With each person's contribution, community is brought to life.