



**Change your clothes
Change the world**



**NAACP FORMERLY
ENDORSES RECYCLE
FOR CHANGE**



**FIGHTING TO STAMP
OUT HUNGER IN
OAKLAND**



**SO MUCH TO LEARN,
SO MUCH TO SHARE**

RECYCLE FOR CHANGE NEWSLETTER



Becoming a Part of Positive Change in the World

At Recycle for Change, we want to empower everyone to be a part of positive change in the world.

Through our organization, we believe that everyone can be part of the change. In the current economic environment, not everyone can afford to provide monetary donations, but many have other ways they can support non-profits like ours. Local residents, like you, support us through donations of unwanted clothes & shoes. The sale of those items allows us to subsidize the collection of what is currently over 9 million pounds of clothing each year.

But the impact does not stop there. Not only are we keeping these items out of the landfill, but the sale of the donated clothing enables us to support three other non-profit organizations that train volunteers working in the poorest parts of the globe. These organizations are very important partners; together we can achieve the goals set forth in our mission statement.

This partnership creates an opportunity for people to learn about the human costs of poverty around the world and also the opportunity to do something about it. Together we are educating communities on how to reduce their risk of infection from preventable diseases. We are educating teachers who are an active part of their communities. We are helping organize and train small-scale farmers to increase food production and improve livelihood. And we are creating a safe and supportive environment where children can develop and grow.

Everyone deserves the same opportunities and we appreciate everyone who gives to our organization either financially or by donating unwanted clothing and shoes. We thank you for your continued support and look forward to continuing the fight in protecting the environment and fighting with the poor to make this world a better place for everyone!

In 2015 Recycle for Change provided over three quarters of a million dollars in grant funding for training these volunteers to engage in sustainable development work in Southern Africa, Central and South America, as well as their local communities. For more information please visit <http://www.recycleforchange.org>

Working to Stamp Out Hunger in Oakland Together

Despite the progress the economy has made since the Great Recession, the Alameda County Food Bank statistics show that in 2010, 1 in 6 members of Alameda County relied on their services. In 2014 that number rose, rather than decreased to 1 in 5 relying on their services.

Many organizations are hard at work in Oakland to build stronger, healthier and more resilient communities. A partner organization of Recycle for Change is the long-standing group run by Sister Alice Muhammad, which as of this summer, has a new name: Helping Hands-Together We Thrive.

Sister Alice is stactic to have a new non-profit 501c3 that is set up under her supervision and control. In taking this new step she can build better relationships directly with the vendors who are donating unwanted items. Sister Alice is already dreaming up new vendors to partner with. First on her list are NuCal Eggs, Trader Joes, Walmart, Coca Cola and Gatorade. "So much is wasted by corporations who have product that cannot sell, and there is such a need here in our community for food. The people in East Oakland aren't worrying about what new car they're going to buy or what excursion they're going on next weekend, they're worried about if they are going to be able to keep the roof over their kids' head and where the next meal is coming from."

That is where Helping Hands comes in. Run entirely by volunteers, Helping Hands supports the East Oakland community by providing families with meals support for the week. Each Saturday, rain or shine,

Join us in the fight





East Oakland's line up early out in front of the Rainbow Recreation Center and wait patiently for a bag of food and other supplemental items that are handed out by volunteers at Helping Hands.

It truly takes a village and Sister Alice and her team of community volunteers work throughout the week, every day, receiving and processing donations from the food bank. These items are then inventoried, sorted and portioned out into about 300 bags that are distributed to those in need each Saturday morning. The concept started small when Sister Alice started handing out food at local parks to the homeless out of

the trunk of her car and has now grown to the operation it is today.

But Sister Alice isn't stopping there. With the help of Alexandra Hoffmann from Recycle for Change, the new 501 c3 will allow Sister Alice the potential to expand. With Alexandra's grant writing experience, Sister Alice hopes to secure the funding for her own location to operate out of, as she has overgrown the small space that she occupies at the Rainbow Center.

But a big step like this is going to take a lot of work and support from the surrounding community. If you are interested in supporting Helping Hands' effort to find a bigger location to distribute items with a monetary donation or if you have an in kind donation that you would like to make. Please contact Alexandra Hoffmann via email at alex@recycleforchange.org or by phone at 415-755-3092.

San Francisco Housing Authority Partners with Recycle for Change to keep textiles out of the Landfills

In January 2014 the City and County of San Francisco launched the Zero Waste Textile Initiative encouraging residents and businesses to recycle unwanted apparel, footwear and other textiles. This Initiative is an effort to eliminate the 39 million pounds of textiles San Franciscans send to the landfill each year and help reduce the 21 billion pounds of textile waste generated each year in the United States.

In the spirit of helping San Francisco's Zero Waste Textile Initiative Recycle for Change has partnered with the San Francisco Housing Authority to provide free textile recycling services to its residents. "Working with Recycle for Change educates our residents on the importance of recycling, and creates awareness about the significance of diverting textiles from landfills," says Barbara Smith, Acting Executive Director of the San Francisco Housing Authority.



The SFHA has over 40 sites that provide much needed affordable housing to low income San Franciscans. This partnership will not only help keep these resources from the landfill, but will also help to keep trash costs down for SFHA and also help to support the charitable work that RFC does both here and abroad.

To date, Recycle for Change has placed 21 textile collection boxes at SFHA sites throughout San Francisco and space permitting, boxes will be placed at all SFHA locations for residents to utilize.

In addition to providing these services, RFC is committed to supporting the SFHA and its communities in other ways too. Most recently, RFC donated over 200 children's books for distribution at SFHA's Sunnysdale location for their Backpacks for Kids event in August, as well as provided education outreach on the importance of textile recycling.

This is just one of the many ways we give back to local communities. If you have a school or organization that is interested in partnering with us and hosting a collection box please email us at info@recycleforchange.org.

How Do We Stop Crashing our Climate?

We're had an unseasonably warm year in 2015. Is *this* the new *norm*? Is this our new "climate" in the Bay Area. Fall temps around 80 degrees and no sign of sweater weather? While you can't say definitively that a single weather event's cause is climate change, over the years I have noticed that my native California isn't the same one that I grew up in. And I don't think it is ever going back to the way I remember it. That's just one of the reasons why I got into the resource management field working to save our environment, because I'd rather not accept climate change as the new norm, I want to do something about it. Now.

With climate change upon us, we as a global community are going to have to find ways to change our norms and behaviors and one very important place to start is by looking what we throw away. As a country we must take a harder look at how we handle our waste. And to those that say...Recycling is *hard*, well, tell that to the folks who lost everything to Hurricane Sandy or to those that just lost all they had in the deadly Valley and Butte fires, some of the worst that drought stricken California has ever seen...*those things are hard*, recycling, by comparison, is actually so easy we should be ashamed of ourselves for all not participating wholeheartedly because at the end of the day, we're responsible for the mess we're in. We need to put into perspective the real cost of our laziness towards preventing climate change and get down to business. Today, not tomorrow.

Many areas of the country are already getting down to business, California, a leader in resource management, the most populous of the fifty states, stands proud with a diversion rate of 60%. As a nation, however, we are only at a meager 34% diversion rate, with some states as low as 10%. So this begs the question, as a nation, how do we reduce the amount of waste we create? And for the waste that we can't avoid creating, are there better ways to extend the life of those resources?

A closer look at California's highly successful model might shed some light on the subject.

As legislators recognize, in any community, there are participants that self-regulate and automatically do what is best for the group, however, those people are outliers and it is actually regulation that spurs participation, which was exactly the approach California took with its ground breaking legislation in 1989.

AB 939 (The Integrated Waste Management Act) created the California Integrated Waste Management Board to oversee the mandate that cities and counties divert 25% from landfill by 1995 and 50% by 2000. Cities and counties were given a timeline with which to come up with a baseline for their disposal, upon which they would base future diversion rates and benchmarks. This law also put in place the mechanism to penalize cities that did not meet compliance by 2000.

Over the years, through trial and error, and changing industry norms, we have seen a number of other regulations that further strengthened and supplemented the goals of AB939.

In 2013, we saw Chesboro's AB 341 signed into law which recognized that higher diversion was not going to be achieved until we included all the players. This law made recycling mandatory for multi-





family dwellings and businesses. An important component as businesses and industry contribute 60% of the waste going to landfills. This law also upped the ante that AB 939 had initiated, increasing diversion goals to hit 75% diversion by 2025.

However, as studies are showing, the more recycling rates increase, the more difficult it becomes to get incremental increases in diversion. While the shift from 25% to 50% took work, it had a lot to do with a minor mind-shift in the way we think about materials. It didn't require everyone to "buy-into" recycling, however, getting to 75% is certainly going to "take a village" and if we are going to get there then we need to get everyone on board.

Governor Jerry Brown realizes this. For years, California has gone after the "low-hanging fruit" by diverting things like CRV material, plastics, metals, construction debris and yard waste. As any good "waste-geek" realizes, to get increasingly high diversion, you have to look at all materials, not just the easier to recycle items. This year, he has signed several bills that will strengthen the regulations on how particular materials are handled. One particular bill is focused on the actual "fruit" in our waste stream (or all of the food waste to be precise). Without addressing food waste, we'll never get to our 75% goals, not to mention remove one of the biggest greenhouse gas producers in the landfills out and put them to their highest and best use creating compost so this legislation is a step in the right direction.

But it's not just the low hanging fruit that needs to be addressed in achieving our diversion goals and creating a sustainable world. The city of San Francisco is also on the forefront of regulation and progressive Zero Waste goals. Their strict policies on recycling and composting have them on track to become a Zero Waste city. As the SF Department of Environment struggled to hit loftier and loftier diversion goals, they reached out to consulting firms to analyze what San Franciscans were throwing away.

One of the surprising items found in the trash were textiles. The waste audit concluded that San Franciscans were sending 39 million pounds of textiles to landfill each year. That is the equivalent of throwing 4,500 pounds of textiles away *per hour*. What this study revealed was that while they had addressed commodities like paper, metals, plastics and organics, they hadn't addressed textiles. But how do you collect textiles? They are in a different arena when comes to processing and recovery. From personal experience in the waste industry, I can tell you that there are a lot of aspirational recyclers out there. People feel like an item "should" be able to be recycled and so they throw it in the bin and hope for the best. However, the second you throw your bedazzled sweatshirt or two sizes too small jeans in the recycling bin, it's a death sentence. Textiles become unusable when they travel through single stream recycling. Realizing this, San Francisco partnered with several organizations, including ours, Recycle for Change to provide a service they couldn't. Our program comes in where San Francisco's municipal waste and recycling leaves off. We offer a self-subsidized way of recovering textiles from the trash in a way that is convenient for the consumer and at no cost to the city or the taxpayer. Last year alone we recycled over 500,000 pounds of textiles just in the City of San Francisco and we are expanding our outdoor locations and also adding services in multi-family residences where we see a lot of textiles being trashed.

And while San Francisco is leading the way as a Zero Waste city, there unfortunately are other jurisdictions that are moving in the opposite direction passing ordinances that deter recycling rather than promote it. Hopefully through strengthened recycling legislation like we have seen come out of the state Capitol this year, we will eventually see more cities follow the passion for recycling that we see at the state level and with our aspiring Zero Waste city. San Francisco is setting a high bar, we hope other cities are up to the challenge...for our climate's sake.

Six months in Ecuador - Once in a lifetime experience!

BY MARTIN ZVOLENSKY - RICHMOND VALE ACADEMY VOLUNTEER

The second part of my program as a volunteer was one of the best things that could come to me in my life. It literally changed my life in many aspects, it helped me to understand many issues related to poverty. The period in Ecuador lasted six months from October 2013 until end of March 2014. The opportunity to be a volunteer is a once-in- a-lifetime experience that allows you to use all your knowledge in practice, the opportunity to meet new people, the opportunity to share your culture as well as learn a lot about the new one, to learn new skills, to come across a new lifestyle, to discover a lot about yourself, you will be able to reflect on your own values, and the most important aspect of being a volunteer is to help other people!

The project I participated in was Child Aid Celica.

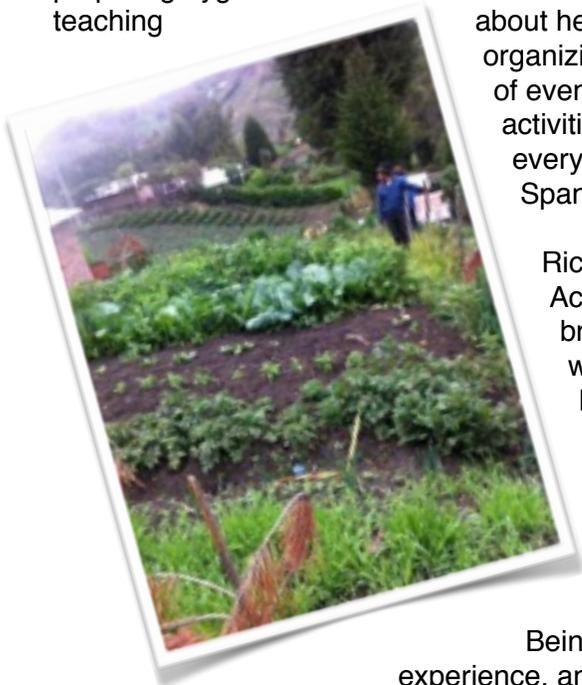
Celica is a small village up in the south of Ecuador very close to Peruvian borders. In the village and in all the communities I was working in, everyone was friendly and they accepted me with open arms. The Child Aid project is a very broad program in which the whole family is involved in and many various activities are carried out in order to improve the quality of life of the family as well as the whole community. During the six months period I was involved in many different task which included almost 1500 families. I was teaching English, preparing hygiene teaching

working with organic gardens, manuals for families, about healthy nutrition, organizing different variety of events and many more activities. And of course everything was in Spanish.

Richmond Vale

Academy along with Humana People to People Ecuador helped me bring my volunteering dream to reality. When I found the Fighting with the Poor project I immediately knew that I want to be part of it. Humana People to People Ecuador supported my creativity throughout my entire six months and gave me free hands to carry out my own ideas. HPPE is not only an organization with which you can volunteer with, HPPE is also a place where you can find great friends not only for the volunteering time, but for even longer.

Being part of the Fighting with the Poor program has been an excellent experience, an unforgettable time which for sure has changed my life.



The Power of Togetherness

BY ZIVILE SESKAITE - ONE WORLD CENTER

“Divide and rule” is a method used in politics since Caesar’s times. It is especially advanced in our days. Politicians and media are splitting populations according to race, religion and gender identities. It is presented as if the world is full of enemies; that we should be afraid of each other and look for personal wellbeing, happiness and “just for you designed” goods to pick in supermarkets among hundreds of the same kind. We easily give in to those charms, and look for our individual happiness.

It is a deformed reality. Fear of people with labels such as blacks, hispanic, gays, muslims, etc. is out of proportion. In essence we are all the same. Politicians and media are trying to confuse us. We all wish to have a home, a meaningful life, respect, happiness for our families and for humanity. The real opposition is 99% vs 1% - the richest 1% and the rest of us. It is the rich, the corporate world ready to poison our air, water, food, to destroy nature, to cause climate havoc, wage wars against innocent people, exploit other human beings for personal benefit. We have to unite and create life where we can be independent from the 1%, silently reject what they want us to buy from them and be self-sufficient and relying on each other.

We, at One World Center in Massachusetts and Michigan, work in the most impoverished parts of the world. Africa is the poorest continent; it has hundreds year-long history of slavery, exploitation by European colonial powers, being trapped in a neo-colonial debt trap and largely devastated by HIV/AIDS epidemic. Brazil is the second most unequal country in the world just recently taken over by South Africa. It might seem at times quite hopeless to dream about a bright future and wellbeing for all in these parts of the world. But it is not when we see how big capacity and will to change their situation people living in these parts of the world have.

Since 1980 more than 10,000 Development Instructors (DIs) from more than 75 countries took part in our programs. Together we educate teachers, mobilize farmers into clubs, teach women how to take care of family’s health and nutrition and start up income generating activities, we educate people about HIV/AIDS and other deadly diseases. We bring knowledge and skills of how to be self-reliant and build a better future for ourselves and our fellow human beings. And there are many grassroots organizations



like us working to achieve the same goals. That multiplies our efforts and gives hope that by working together we can make a change.

Humans, are social animals. We survive if we organize together. Only organized we can take upon ourselves big issues. We aren't separated from each other; we aren't in competition with each other. We all have different strengths. Together we have many ideas. If we nurture those strengths, share our ideas and work together as a team we can create a good life for everyone. Alone the world changes you. Together we change the world.

Teacher Training College in Malawi

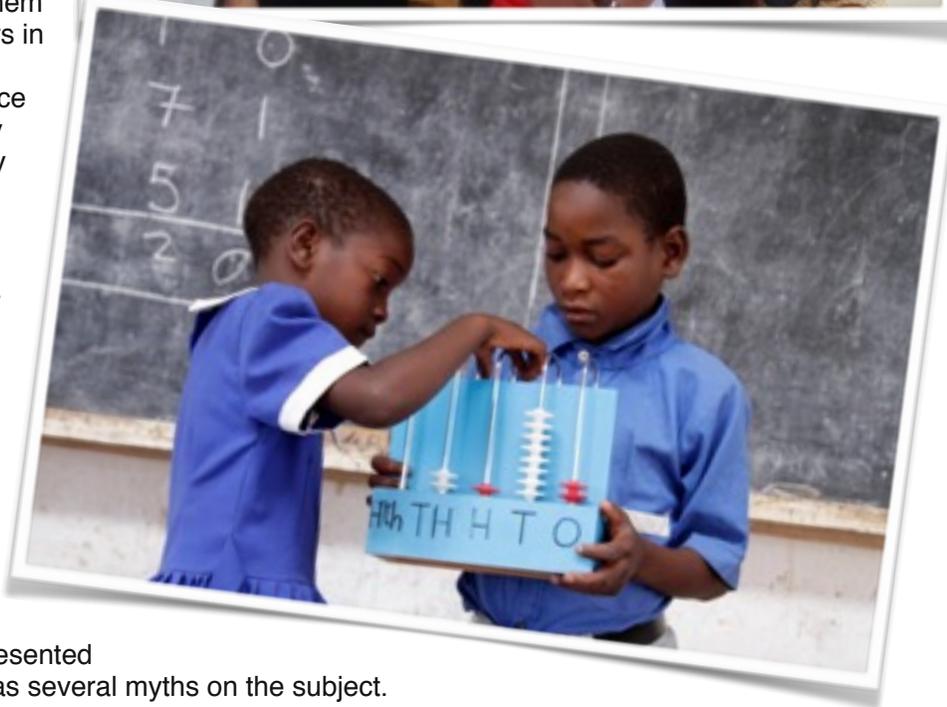
BY SEEUN - ONE WORLD CENTER VOLUNTEER

I started working as a co-core group teacher at a Teacher Training College in Malawi, and we have 17 students each. It meant much more responsibility than what I expected. I also worked as a community teacher and I taught business sustainability for agriculture.

The core groups at the Teacher Training College have a fixed program and schedules and organize additional activities as well. Right now, the students are very busy because of their preparation for the National Exam which will certify them as Public Primary School Teachers in Malawi. After this exam, they are going to start their teaching practice period, in order to show what they learned at the college, before they graduate. Part of their activities included a campaign in a village during two weeks focused on Malaria and HIV/AIDS prevention. They will not be your average teachers but also leaders for their communities!

The group of students is in their second year of the program. They get lecture courses daily and three times a week the core group teacher should also give them additional courses. My last course was 'Myths and facts about the poor' in which I presented some reasons of poverty as well as several myths on the subject.

As a personal initiative, I have also become the librarian for the school. I made library cards to give to borrowers and keep records registered in a notebook. I also made some rules and systems to make everything more efficient. Information on the library was discussed with the students, and some of them participated very actively in the discussion.



We face many challenges here daily. But the work continues and we find ways to overcome them. Together we hope we are making the world a better place for everyone, a little bit at a time.

Community Living

BY MANUEL ARENAS - ONE WORLD CENTER

When you are not at home, you start missing everything; first you miss your mom, then your own bed. Here you cannot eat everything in the freezer because it is for the entire week and it is not only for you. Nobody will clean your bedroom; you have to wash your own clothes and sometimes you have to cook, but not only for you, for everybody in the community!

And then, you realize that you are not alone just working for somebody else; you are here living with other people like you, who will be there for you when you need it. There are those who will teach you about so many new things and those who share everything with you. Maybe you don't even speak the same language, or have the same traditions, or think like them, but when you don't want to be alone, you will have somebody next to you talking, having fun, studying, or simply being quiet sharing your company. If you want time alone you can go to the forest next door; sit down on the grass or just be in your computer; nobody will bother you.

Here you are always part of a group, the group of people whom you arrived with, the group of people that come from the same country, the group of people who like sports or those persons whom you feel comfortable with.

In this community life you have to cook, wash dishes, clean bathrooms, take out the garbage, work in the garden, take care of the chickens, mow the grass, mop, sweep, vacuum, recycle... there are a lot of things that have to be done, in order to keep a good environment in the community.

Because we live in a community we can take care of things together and enjoy our environment during the day, every day.

Suddenly, you don't remember that you are not in your home; now you feel like home, with new sisters and brothers, eating nice food, watching movies, talking about how was your day or going to town to buy ice cream; things that you used to do in your country, but in a little different way.

After a busy and productive day, you are ready to go back to your dorm room to rest, but first you call your parents, who are very proud and happy because you are doing something good for you and for humanity; and they'll tell you those words that you want to listen to support yourself and keep going, because the work we are doing here is just too important: Fighting Shoulder to Shoulder with the Poor.



So Much to Share, So Much to Learn

BY HELENA VELDT - RICHMOND VALE ACADEMY

My passion is to travel and help people. I finished high school last year and I was not sure of what to study and I wanted to follow my passion before I made a decision on what to study, and I also wanted to gain some experience. My decision of joining Richmond Vale Academy's Climate Conference was a perfect first step out of school. I can honestly say that I have learnt so much I did not know about before and I am grateful for the experience I have gained here so far.



I am part of the 6 months Climate Compliance Conference; we concentrate on a lot of practical work although we still have some theory studying too. I am now half way through my course and it has been very productive and fun too. We have different periods in this course, first we get to know the school and learn our different responsibilities. Then we have a period called "Making Richmond Vale Academy Climate Compliant" where we choose different projects on how to make RVA Climate Compliant.

Our team chose to concentrate on making our own bio-char production, a worm production, a recycling garden and a low cost gutter irrigation system. Now we are in the period called "Making St. Vincent and the Grenadines Climate Compliant". So far we have made plans and lessons for two schools, which we go to every Thursdays and we teach the children topics about Climate change and how to prevent it. We have participated in encouraging the schools in SVG to register for the treelympics, which is a tree planting activity. We have done beach clean ups and are still going to do some more in this period. We have also helped Sacca, who works in Beach Front Fitz Hughes, he has a project where he buys plastics bottles and cans and then send them to Camden Park where they are recycled, we helped him and the community by going to the different villages and collecting the bottles and cans. By this we also made more people aware of what this project is and how they can help.

On a more personal level, I feel very happy to be here as I feel good about what I have done and what I have contributed in trying to make a change. Also being so far from home, which is Mozambique, has been a challenge but I know I have gained so much and I have become much more independent and learnt how to take care of myself even more. I have grown up a lot and I can now see how strong I am.

I have gotten to meet so many different people from different countries and different backgrounds. I like how we have so much to share and so much to learn. Also the people from St. Vincent, they are very kind and it has been an amazing opportunity for me to get to know them and hear about their lives and learn so much from them in the process.

I love how all the students here even with all our differences, still get along and I am grateful for the different personalities I have met and for the stories that I have heard so far. I can definitely see that my personality has grown more than I expected it to. I have always been a shy person but here I have learnt to put myself out there and to speak, not just listen.



NAACP Formally Endorses Recycle for Change Environmental Stewardship

The Hawaii-California NAACP State Convention 2015, citing Recycle for Change efforts in promoting environmental stewardship through the recycling of textiles and noting their commitment to giving back to communities most effected by climate change, passed a resolution formally acknowledging Recycle for Change as a partner with the NAACP in the fight for environmental justice.



“Recycle for Change has been a leader in serving our community,” said NAACP President Alice Huffman. “We are proud to support their efforts to remove textiles, reduce CO2 pollution and provide easy access for our communities to recycle their clothes.”

“Environmental Justice is an issue we take seriously and Recycle for Change is a partner with us in leading this fight,” Huffman added.

In NAACP panel discussions it became markedly clear that the link between climate change and environmental justice was undeniable. Left unaddressed the consequences will be dire for working families and especially for people of color. The panel discussed the inextricable link between a healthy planet and healthy families. The air we breathe, the water we drink and the soil in which we grow our food all play a role in human health.

The NAACP has been at the forefront in promoting environmental stewardship because economically disadvantaged communities are hit the hardest with the impact of pollution.

Jacqueline Patterson, Director of the Environmental and Climate Justice Program for the NAACP gave a presentation showing the link between the environment and our health. Climate change has a disproportionate impact on communities of color in the United States and abroad. The NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program’s purpose is to educate and mobilize communities to address this human and civil rights issue.

“One topic that kept resurfacing was the need for enriching youth engagement.” Patterson said “All panelists all agreed that the key to bringing environmental issues to the forefront and enacting meaningful change begins with engaging our youth, teaching environmental justice issues in the classroom, and finding ways to get youth involved hands on in climate action.”

“Recycle for Change is actively working in the Bay Area to conduct environmental outreach and engage the local youth and we support these efforts.” Patterson said.

Recycle for Change spokesperson Alexandra Hoffmann noted that NAACP support would help to educate the public and especially government officials of the benefits of recycling textiles.

“The NAACP is a powerful voice to the underserved communities we service.” Hoffmann said. “Recycle for Change is proud to have the NAACP as a powerful ally in our fight for environmental justice.”

“Recycle for Change is committed to help end climate change and poverty and those efforts are strengthened by this new partnership.” Hoffmann added.

Recycle for Change is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that collects and recycles used clothing and shoes to protect the environment and support sustainable development work across the globe.

In many cities around the San Francisco Bay Area they are the most readily available (or even the sole) environmentally responsible option for people to dispose of their unwanted clothing and shoes. Recycle for Change helps save resources and lessen environmental impacts by reducing waste.



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RECYCLE FOR CHANGE NEWSLETTER

Since 2000, Recycle for Change has been dedicated to helping those most affected by global climate change and poverty worldwide.

Recycle for Change has had an established textile recycling program for over 13 years now. What is great about the program is that it is self-subsidized. It costs the taxpayer nothing and the income generated from the collection of the used clothes and shoes donations funds the collection program in over 11 counties. This program not only keeps textiles out of the landfills providing residents with an easy, accessible and convenient method of recycling, it saves the already resource strapped cities and counties from having to create the infrastructure to develop their own collection program.

Our clothing collection boxes help save resources and lessen environmental impacts by reducing waste. The benefit of our boxes goes beyond the environmental one, the proceeds generated by the sale of used clothing funds three other non-profit organizations with programs aimed at mobilizing and supporting communities to take up the fight against poverty.

Recycle for Change's mission is to fight worldwide poverty, to empower ordinary people to do the same, to reduce carbon emissions and create a sustainable future for all. Recycle for Change recognizes that the earth's resources are finite and that preserving these resources is crucial to the well being of future generations.

Recycle for Change is a Public Charity as defined under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code. Qualified donations to Recycle for Change are tax deductible.

Federal Tax ID # 94-3371033

For more information visit: www.recycleforchange.org

