

Nonprofit Chamber of Services
Nonprofit of the Week

This series has been established with the intent of increasing awareness of the many causes and efforts taken on by our nonprofit brethren. If your nonprofit has a particular event taking place during the course of a week, an anniversary for example, please make this known and we will do all possible to accommodate a spotlight that coincides. On behalf of our membership, we wish to say "thank you" for taking a few moments from your busy schedule to learn a bit more about our community of nonprofits.

The **Great Plains Earth Institute**, an environmental education organization seeking to find spiritually integrated solutions to ecological problems, will celebrate their ninth anniversary on February 1, 2006. This organization uses seasonal observances, nature outings, organic gardening opportunities, video programs and discussion circles to get the message out that the Earth is facing a global environmental crisis of unprecedented scope.

Working to build environmental awareness, GPEI hosts earth-centered celebrations at the changing of the seasons – the Equinox and Solstice. With the help of Vista Volunteers, it has started several community gardens. It offers discussion groups on topics such as "Voluntary Simplicity" and "Choices of Sustainability" to facilitate the discussion about our relationship with nature. In addition, this group has hosted youth artistic workshops and parades with an earth-centered theme to educate the future generations of the plight of the Earth. They are currently seeking a new location for their art studio so they can resume hosting the youth artistic workshops.

Rita Robl, cofounder and Resources Coordinator of the Great Plains Earth Institute, has fifteen years of experience working in a spirituality center. She feels the crisis of the Earth is actually a crisis of individual spirituality. To find lasting solutions, individuals must examine their attitudes and values about the natural world and help one another find the courage to change and grow.

In April, the GPEI hosts an annual awards ceremony recognizing earth-friendly individuals and companies. The third annual "Earth Stewardship Award for a Sustainable Future" recognizes three local individuals and/or companies for their environmental friendliness and nominations from the general public are welcome.

Rita Robl and Mary Schoenecker, Office Coordinator, are very excited about the GPEI's upcoming presentation of "The Indigo Evolution." This documentary is about a special generation of children, known as Indigos. The documentary will be presented on Saturday, January 28th at 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. and on Sunday, January, 29th at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10.00.

To find out more about the Great Plains Earth Institute, please call (316) 262-4120 or check out their website at: <http://www.gpei.org>.