

Trees for Sacred Places: TESTIMONIALS



Temple Isaiah was delighted to receive the free trees from the Trees for Sacred Places program. The added expertise from the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay was a true bonus. It is a beautiful and well organized project. It has transformed our wide open spaces - - we are looking forward to the growth of the trees and to be able to enjoy their shade. Not only do the trees enhance the value of our property but they will help to improve the Chesapeake Bay. It is a win-win project. This hands on activity attracted new volunteers that had not been engaged before-folks that really wanted to DO something with their hands. One active Board member said that he felt a true sense of enlightenment by digging the hole and planting the tree. He was excited and felt reconnected to nature.

~Betsy Singer, Chair, Temple Isaiah Sacred Grounds Committee



The entire process was a great experience. We did have a lot of help and it went much faster than anticipated... It was a beautiful day. I am so happy every time I pull into the parking lot and see our little sticks. Thanks for all your hard work! Hope we can work together again.

~Peace, Rev. Mary Elliot, Pastor at Christ the King Episcopal Church



The workshop was beautiful. Loved the Web of Life activity--- great! Showed that the environment is a system – what happens to the whole system when one part is removed.

Everyone could participate in this program! -- for all ages, all abilities

~Rosie Perthel, Geneva Presbyterian Church



Rabbi David Shneyer said of the 70 trees planted at Am Koleh Sanctuary and Retreat Center for Sukkot:

70 trees are representative of the prayers for peace for all the nations traditionally offered on Sukkot. We dedicate ourselves to healing the earth and working for justice and peace among all the nations of the world. Thank you for coming out for Sukkot and the Tree Planting. Your teachings were excellent and very much appreciated....God speaks to us from the beauty of the trees.

~Rabbi David Schneyer, Am Koleh Sanctuary Retreat Center

Here's [a video about their tree planting day](#).



Kolya, with the Interfaith Partners of the Chesapeake did a wonderful job giving us some real life lessons in the value of clean water and native trees in our environment. I have worked with her at several churches in Anne Arundel County as well as the Watershed Stewards Academy and truly appreciate her support.

~Chris Gordon, Environmental Ministries Coordinator, Holy Family Catholic Church, Master Watershed Steward, South River and AA County



My records show a total of 58 volunteers – largest from Towson Unitarian Universalist (TUU) and the Kiwanis Key Club from Dulaney High School.

Very positive day – thanks to TUU. Ready to do more of this!!!! (Green Team Coordinator, Samantha Saalfield in foreground)

~Charlie Conklin, past Board Member, Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake, Gunpowder Valley Conservancy



On behalf of Washington Adventist Hospital, thank you Kolya and everyone else for the opportunity to participate in this worthwhile, environmentally-responsible partnership.

~Marc Bloom, Executive Director, Community Relations/Support Services, Washington Adventist Hospital



WAU would like to thank for your contribution to Service Day Spring 2015! The message was quite provocative and resonated with us all. We will remember to "send downstream what we would desire to receive from upstream." We pray this is not the last time we are able to partner with IPC, WAH, and the city of Takoma Park in service. May God richly bless you and increase your ministry.

~ Kaneil Williams, Washington Adventist University Chaplain of Missions



This past fall (2014)we planted 91 trees on our three acre property. Nearly 50 people of our parish participated including children as young as three. The project gave birth to a green committee which has now installed energy efficient lights and is looking at a rain garden and rain barrels. Some of our "planters" are turning parts of their lawns into forests too.

~Pastor John Burk, Holy Communion Lutheran Church

Video testimony: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aFWHu2pV34>



Diminish lawn and increase perennials and native plants.

Connect with the small stream on our property.

~ Trees for Sacred Places Workshop participant, Holy Communion Lutheran Church