

## Support the Wild Gift Class of 2010 & Their Projects

### Erica Bertucci

Girls Outdoors Adventures Leadership Support (GOALS) supports and empowers refugee girls by building their confidence and leadership abilities, teaching skills to succeed and introducing them to environmental community organizations.



### Chris Howell

Vermont Farm Tours promotes local food and sustainable agriculture by educating people from diverse backgrounds about the hands and places that produce our food. It supports a regional food system by partnering with local small business, small farmers, and artisanal producers.



### Kirk Rose

The Learning River Project protects and sustains the viability of great local rivers otherwise in jeopardy, starting with one unique and significant river in Stillwater, MN. Building upon a land trust model, the Learning River Project will focus on community development and place inspired action.



*You can support these leaders by mentoring or donating... for more information contact Wild Gift Executive Director Jenna Ringelheim at [jenna@wildgift.org](mailto:jenna@wildgift.org)*

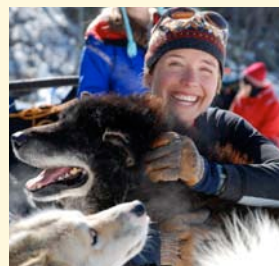
### David Sone

The Earth Justice Initiative (EJI) supports Indigenous communities who are seeking to protect their Traditional Territories in Ontario's Boreal Forest. EJI recruits, trains, and supports young organizers and fosters powerful working alliances with Indigenous leaders and environmental, labor, student, faith, and human rights organizations, to build support for community efforts to secure large scale protection and respect for Indigenous rights.



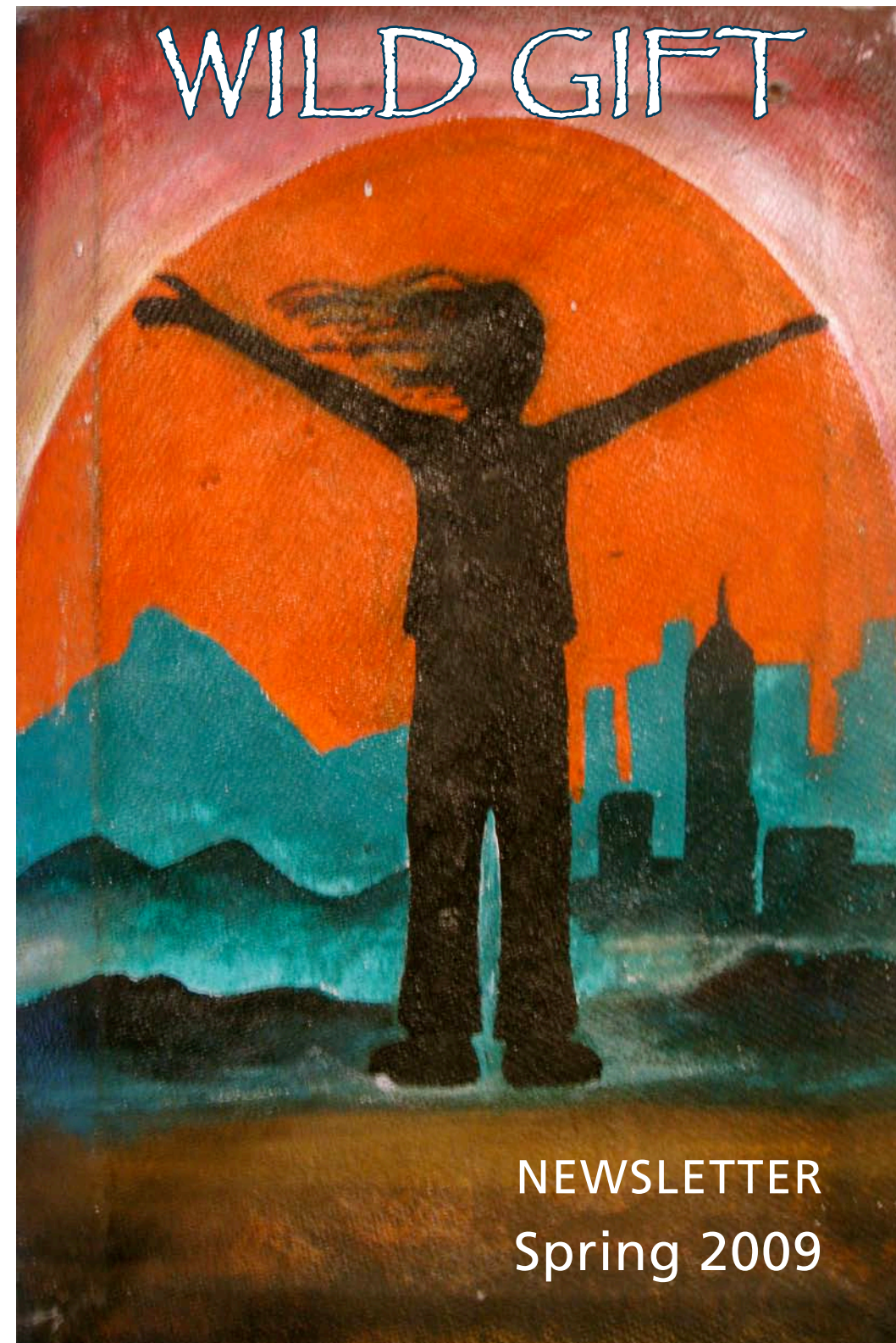
### Amy Voytilla

North American Odyssey will empower students and people of all ages to make changes in their lives, which will protect the world's remaining forests and combat global warming. This educational program stresses the importance of learning and exploration by introducing students to the plants, animals, and people of the wildest remaining places in North America.



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## Notes from the Field

**Justin Hellier '09** will be attending the University of Washington this fall, entering concurrent degree programs: a Masters in Public Affairs from the Evans School with a focus in public policy and management, and Masters of Science in Forest Resources, a science degree focused on urban forestry and ecological restoration.

**Amanda Marino '09** was offered a position in the Class of 2013 at the Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Upon completion of her studies, Amanda's goal is to have a career in conservation medicine where she can treat wildlife, protect habitat, and improve the quality of life for both animals and people.



**Allison Rogers '08** is working as a Program Manager for the U.S. Government's "Green the Capitol" initiative. For more information, visit: [cao.house.gov/greenthecapitol/](http://cao.house.gov/greenthecapitol/)

Allison meets President Barack Obama >>



**Cody Hopkins '08** and his Wild Gift project, Falling Sky Farm, are featured as the cover story in the June 2009 issue of *Rural Arkansas* magazine. You can download the article at: [www.aecc.com/pdf/june09RAweb.pdf](http://www.aecc.com/pdf/june09RAweb.pdf)

**Viraj Puri '05** and his new business venture Gotham Greens won the top prize in the NYC Green Business Competition. Gotham Greens will provide NYC premium quality, pesticide-free vegetables and herbs, grown in sterile rooftop greenhouses using clean, renewable energy and captured rainwater.



**Lauren Baumann '07, Viraj Puri '05, and Brian Salazar '08** were awarded 2009 Fellowships from the Environmental Leadership Program.

**Rachel Barge '09** was honored with the Green Youth Hero award at the Friends of the Earth Green Ball.

Rachel accepts her award from author Paul Hawken >>



**Greetings from Sun Valley!** I'll keep this letter short and sweet so you can spend your time reading about what really matters -- the remarkable accomplishments of our Network of Leaders, including the five new Wild Gift recipients of the Class of 2010 who will head into the wilderness this summer.

Thanks to your support, the economic slowdown hasn't slowed us down. But, as we all know, it is a difficult time for nonprofits and we need your continued support now more than ever. We are especially focused on bringing in new donors to help us empower a generation of leaders, thinkers, and entrepreneurs who are working collaboratively to bring Peace to Humankind and balance with Wild Nature!

We now have a number of fun (yes, fun!) ways to give. Please see the insert for details.

Thanks for your support!

*Jenna Ringelheim*

Jenna Ringelheim  
Executive Director



<< Jenna on the Bremner Glacier, Alaska, during her Wild Gift trek

**WILD (adj.):** in a natural state; not tamed or domesticated or cultivated.

**GIFT (n.):** a talent, endowment, aptitude, or inclination.

*"We believe that wildness – diversity and dynamicism – stands in vital contrast to domestication – uniformity and stagnation – and is, therefore, a vast resource for learning and creativity."*

- Bob Jonas, Wild Gift Founder

**COMING SOON...**  
**The 2nd Annual Local Wild Film Festival**  
[wildgift.org/localwild](http://wildgift.org/localwild)

Films celebrating the Wood River Valley and beyond.  
Saturday, June 27th, 2009 at nexStage Theatre in Ketchum, ID.



## The Power of a Network: George Njoroge's story

Two years ago, a young Kenyan community activist named **George Njoroge** discovered our website and applied for a Wild Gift. Visa restrictions precluded him from traveling to the U.S., making him ineligible for our wilderness treks, but Wild Gift founder Bob Jonas took a keen interest in George and visited him in Kenya. Since then, George has remained an active member of the Wild Gift Leader Network, benefiting from Bob's mentorship and support from the Tyler Rigg Foundation. Below is a summary of George's KEYS project, in his own words.



"Korogocho is a Kikuyu word which means wreckage – nothingness – emptiness. It is an informal settlement of 300,000 souls nestling around the biggest garbage dump in Kenya. Predictably the community is characterized by socioeconomic and political marginalization under atrocious environmental conditions. However, a number of collective communal efforts have been instrumental in uplifting the socioeconomic well-being, leadership and governance in the community.



<< The living conditions in Korogocho



KEYS project workers producing materials from salvaged waste >>

The KEYS (Korogocho Environmental Enterprising Youth) project is implemented in context of massive youth unemployment that exists through out Kenya and especially for slum dwellers. The project builds on efforts by disadvantaged youth in Nairobi's Korogocho slum to create micro-enterprises based on waste salvaged from garbage in the nearby Nairobi City Council dump site, as well as to confront the environmental sanitation challenges in the Korogocho community.

I believe that local initiatives for empowering the youth with the capacity to achieve social harmony, dignity, incomes and environmental stability can become a model that can be replicated in slums settlements throughout the country."

Note: The logo on the cover was painted by a member of the KEYS Art Project.