

Exceptional Education PHS - SS Membership Drive

Thanks to All of Our New and Renewing Sustainable Sandhills Members!

Our 2009 Membership Drive began in early June, and to date we have heard from more than 80 new and renewing members. As we review our successes, we are reminded that they would not have occurred without the support of our generous members. We also realize that 2009 is a tough financial year for many families and businesses across our region, and hope that if you are able to become a member of Sustainable Sandhills we will hear from you soon.

The Sustainable Sandhills Staff, Board of Directors and volunteers have all been involved in this year's Membership Drive. And a great new partner in the drive is **teacher Jayne Cummings' Exceptional Education Class at Pinecrest High School** in Moore County. These 13 dedicated students stuffed, labeled and stamped close to 2500 letters, inserts and envelopes in late May!

This was part of the job training portion of their class which turned out to be a great partnership for us both. In addition, these students participate in on-the-job training at Golden Corral, Food Lion, Chik-fil-A, FirstHealth and Family Dollar. Our relationship with Ms. Cummings' students began earlier this year when the Pinecrest High School FirstSchool



Garden was featured on the First Annual Urban Farm Tour. **A very special THANK YOU goes out to Jayne Cummings and her class for all of their enthusiastic support for this year's Sustainable Sandhills membership drive!**

And, on behalf of Sustainable Sandhills, Heather Brown and her husband, Chris, treated the entire class and teachers to a pizza party. Along with pizza, the students enjoyed a fresh salad right out of their school garden. "These students did an amazing job with guidance from their teachers - who are so dedicated. Each time I went over to the school, they couldn't wait to see what they were going to be working on next so they could get started right away. This pizza party was the least we could do to say thank you," Heather said.

A few of the benefits of membership in Sustainable Sandhills are:

- Our bi-weekly eBlasts that will keep you informed about our progress and issues affecting our region;
- A range of volunteer opportunities to suit your interests and available time;
- The knowledge that you're protecting our community's environment, strengthening our local economy and improving our quality of life; and
- Supporting the only regional grassroots effort addressing such a broad spectrum of community development and environmental issues.

Here are a few of the successes we have celebrated with our members in 2009:

- **Community Action Teams (CAT).** Our CAT's are a forum for people of like minds and interests to come together and make exciting things happen. The CAT's have "greened" several local schools, united urban farmers, improved recycling programs and weatherized low income homes. If you haven't already joined us at a CAT meeting, please come and bring a couple of friends and project ideas along with you!
- **Sustainable Film Series.** The series began in January, screening films that heighten public awareness of sustainability and encourage community dialogue following each film. An expert is present for each film to help answer questions and guide the discussion. These bi-monthly screenings alternate with CAT meetings and are FREE!
- **Urban Farm Tour.** On April 11th, more than 350 people experienced the First Annual Sustainable Sandhills Urban Farm Tour. More than 20 sites were open to the public in two counties, and our urban farmers showed off their raised beds, compost bins, laying hens, rainwater harvesting systems and beehives. By showcasing a solution to a secure food supply and healthy lifestyle, the Urban Farm Tour was a huge success!

During this last year we have all felt the local impact of our national economic downturn. We've seen families, businesses and local governments struggling across our region. But we are hopeful that Sustainable Sandhills can lead our region's emergence as a model of sustainable community development. With that dream in mind, we hope you'll consider becoming a member today by visiting our website or contacting Heather Brown, our Development Director at brownh@ctc.com.