

Sharing, Inc.

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Dear Sharing Friend,

"We have tomorrow
Bright before us
Like a flame

Yesterday
A night-gone thing,
A sun-down name.

And dawn today
Broad arch above the road we came.

We march!"

This poem, entitled Youth by Langston Hughes, seems just right for today although it was first published in 1924. My heart beats wildly with joy at the thought of what it means for our country, now and well into the future, that our forty-fourth President is African and American.

Over the years, the visuals alone will subtly work on our imaginations. For each of us, white as well as Black, Asian, Latino and Native peoples "young, black male" will lose its negative connotations. For most of the twentieth century and earlier images of Black people were absent from textbooks, magazines and advertisements. And when they were portrayed on television, with few notable exceptions, negative stereotypes prevailed. The reason that Sharing has sent to students in the south ONLY books by and about African Americans is precisely to counteract that reality.

The groups, which Sharing has been supporting for many years, have always had as a priority supporting and mentoring Black youth whose families are economically poor. These groups; the Federation of Southern Coops/Land Assistance Fund, the House of Joy in Okolona, MS, the Kemetic Institute in Mound Bayou, MS and the Twenty-first Century Youth Leadership Development Project in Selma, AL will be receiving funds from this year's Walk. **At least 94% of money raised by the Walk goes directly to these carefully chosen groups.**

Good Friday Walk - April 10, 2009

How can it be true that my first Walk was thirty-seven years ago when I can vividly recall much of that day, March 31, 1972? The Spirit of God has wrought unimagined consequences from that simple desire to connect my faith with the reality of injustice in the world on the day we commemorate Jesus' sacrificial love.

As my friend Charlanne Van Wormer once put it, "Good Friday has changed from a solemn observance to a sacred celebration of unconditional love in which the Christspirit lives in people of every race, gender and religion".

If you've never participated in a Good Friday Walk, either with a large organized group, or with just one or two others, why not **make this your year?** The combination of walking on the day Jesus did, hurting, though not as much as he did, knowing that one's sacrifice brings tangible relief to others' as his did will make the experience one of the spiritual highlights of your year.

Sharing's Christmas Love

Thanks to a generosity of time, talent, and treasure Sharing was able to send the following to children in Alabama.

- **840 Awesome books, by and about African Americans!**
- 195 beautifully dressed Black dolls
- 64 gorgeous baby blankets beautifully boxed
- 126 doll blankets
- 27 colorful baby bibs
- 43 small stuffed animals
- 120 basketballs
- 36 small sports balls

With hope that peace will grow and violence will diminish in our world.

*Shalom,
Kay Doherty*