



## From the Desk of Julie Schwab, OP

Spring brought lots of changes at EarthLinks. The plants in our garden announced themselves early with energy for life and growth. Our compost bins that steamed all winter were ready with nutritious possibilities to create a lush, vivacious garden. Each week we exclaimed to each other (and to the plants and bees and worms) how much the garden was changing and growing with or without our tending.

Another change that spring brought to EarthLinks is a change in staff. I have had the incredible privilege to work at EarthLinks for 3 years and ended my time there May 31st. I belong to a community of women, Dominicans of Sinsinawa, who have asked me to relocate to Wisconsin and serve on our leadership team (executive committee). This was a difficult decision for me because there is no other place on the planet like EarthLinks—where people reach out to each other and to the planet creating a healing environment for all. I will profoundly miss working at EarthLinks and will continue being connected because I am already on the Board of Directors.



*At a farewell potluck, Cass (left) wishes Julie (right) all the best on her journey after EarthLinks.*

The participants, staff, volunteers, and garden at EarthLinks taught me about community and how each of us belongs to the whole and to each other. In these complex times of growing polarities in our society, EarthLinks offers a way of being in the world that we would all do well to emulate.

The changes in staff have already brought a vivacious energy to EarthLinks.

Cody and Mary Nelle bring the wisdom of continuity, while Shelby and Kelly (summer staff) bring new energy and a wealth of gifts to share. They invite you to stop by and visit and take a stroll in the garden!

**I encourage you to continue to support this amazing organization in any way you can.** Our world is a better place because EarthLinks is in our midst, cultivating life and community along with people who have known despair, profound poverty and isolation. We all need an EarthLinks in our life—a place where we are reminded that we belong to each other and to a planet that needs us.

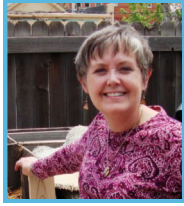
Thank you, to each of you, for your support over these years and for your support into the future.

Gratefully,

*Julie Schwab*

## From the Director

Kathleen Cronan, Executive Director



When I joined EarthLinks two years ago as its Co-Director with Julie Schwab, OP, it was a bittersweet opportunity as Bette Ann Jaster, OP, cofounder of EarthLinks, had just been elected to leadership of her Dominican community and was leaving EarthLinks after directing it for 13 years. Now, two years later, history repeats itself as we say goodbye to Sr. Julie for the same reasons. It has been my good fortune to serve as a Co-Director of EarthLinks with Sr. Julie. We have been privileged together to form community with our participants.

When I came to EarthLinks two years ago, little did I know that I had embarked on a new education on the issue of sustainability that would include worm wrangling, bee keeping and bat care. While so important to our mission here at EarthLinks, these things never took precedence over the needs of the people that also form our EarthLinks community. I learned for example that “Earth” should always be capitalized, and not be described as “the earth”, unless I would refer to Mars as “the mars”. “New Cosmology” became part of my everyday vocabulary. Racism and privilege took on new, deeper meanings. So it is with sorrow that I see Julie leave her Co-Directorship at EarthLinks, yet it is with gladness that we welcome her to our Board of Directors. We wish her and her Sinsinawa community well in the next years of Julie’s leadership.

As is often true with change, there are also many positives. We are excited that Cody Meinhardt is joining our paid staff, and the enthusiasm of Kelly Shinn and Shelby Schneebeck is contagious. Our volunteers keep us motivated and on top of our game. One volunteer, Craig Siracusa, spent weeks crawling around our garden in the rain, putting in a new watering system. Our participants worked hard to get the planting done in our garden; now it is the daily harvesting that will keep our flowers and vegetables blooming until final harvest. Visitors from volunteer groups from the metro area and from across the country have helped us tackle some of the larger projects. The result? Come down and visit our workshop and garden. It is truly a place of hope.

Funding for all of our programs is a constant struggle. Especially now, with so many in need, we need your help. Our workshop program is full and we see more people than ever struggling to get by. And yet, just last month we were thrilled to see one participant obtain a subsidized apartment which literally took him off the street. For some of our participants, the earnings they make at EarthLinks make the difference between being homeless and being housed. For all of the participants, their earnings in crafting and caring for our garden are precious. We ask that you invest in this program – you will be richly rewarded in dividends that you cannot even imagine!

Thank you for being part of the EarthLinks community.



## A Garden of Hope

Cody Meinhardt,  
Program Director

This time of year, the world is full of hope, new life, and the potential for great things to come. The hard work our community put into the garden this Spring turning compost, installing a new irrigation system, planting seeds and transplanting starts is paying off. The garden takes my breath away on mornings when I walk out to collect flowers with our participants — bees buzz in the sunshine, purple lobelia drip down the sides of planters, yellow flowers peek out from tomato stalks, and striking blue columbines wave in the breeze. I can't help feeling hopeful and at peace when I am at EarthLinks, and I know this feeling is shared by many of our participants.

EarthLinks creates a space for love and healing to enter the lives of those who are marginalized in our society. In the Workshop we focus on being present to the beauty all around us, as well as inside us. We gain the renewed strength that comes with being connected in community. One participant, working to find employment after losing his job and lacking the documents needed to be hired elsewhere, shared his new interest in admiring flowers on his morning walks to the light rail. *"I see all this beauty, and I can forget about everything that's bothering me. I think to myself, 'this is going to be a good day.'"* When Earth so readily shares her beauty with us in flowers and in community, how can we not feel hopeful for all that is to come?



## Ride the Rockies: YES... We did it!!

Beth Lindroos, Nature Trips Coordinator

Linda Cortes and I rode 412 miles up and down six Colorado mountain passes from June 11th to 17th, 2011. It was truly an awesome experience in every sense of the word. Under beautiful skies, we rode past fields saturated with color: literally thousands of purple lupine, red penstemon, golden peas, arnica, arrowleaf balsamroot. We saw lambs, calves, horses, and those who take care of them every day. The snow fields we pedaled past up high fed the powerful waterfalls and rivers raging down the mountains. We enjoyed the hospitality of small mountain towns and the unending support of the *Ride the Rockies* staff and volunteers. We were humbled by the strength and determination of other cyclists. There were at least a dozen paraplegics riding hand-cranked cycles, a couple of folks from Special Olympics, and many others from various ages and backgrounds. **And thanks to your generous support, we raised \$1,500 for EarthLinks!** These funds will support the direct programming needs of this unique organization.

**Thank you, thank you, thank you!**

## Program Updates

**The EarthLinks Workshop:** Our Workshop continues to provide our participants with meaningful work creating Earth-friendly crafts, a supportive community, creative expression, and connection with Earth in the Peace Garden.

**Floral Design Course:** EarthLinks collaborated with the Empowerment Program this Spring to offer a new session of the Floral Design Course. 10 women graduated on March 28, equipped with a professional design portfolio, a paid internship offer, and the skills necessary to pursue a career in the floral industry. Many thanks to our instructor, Judy Vanderbosch!

**Day Trips into Nature:** Thanks to a generous donation we have revived our popular Day Trips into Nature Program! See our website for photos from this summer's trips to Roxborough and Eldorado Canyon State Parks.

## 2010 at a glance...

- 61 individuals participated in the Workshop.
- 103 participants went on 16 Day Trips Into Nature.
- 71 separate venues offered our products for sale, generating over \$42,000 for EarthLinks
- 11 persons completed our Floral Design Course, preparing them for employment in the floral industry.
- Our 7th annual fundraiser, "Imagine" raised \$22,700.
- Volunteers logged over 2600 hours in sales, office and garden work, fundraising, and other services. *Many thanks!*

## Say Hello to Our Newest Staff!



From left, EarthLinks' newest staff: Cody, Kelly, Cass, and Shelby.

• **Cody Meinhardt** is our *Program Director*, staying on staff with us after a year of service with the Colorado Vincentian Volunteers. From Kansas, Cody is a graduate of DePaul University with a degree in French and Public Policy. Cody coordinates the EarthLinks Workshop program, development, social media outreach, volunteer coordinating, and more.

• **Kelly Ann Shinn** is our new *Program Associate*. She has an undergraduate degree from Luther College, and is pursuing a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Denver. She grew up in Arvada, Colorado, and is back in the mountain air after twelve years away. Kelly can be found most often out in the Peace Garden tending to worms, weeds, and watering.

• Our *Program Intern*, **Shelby Schneebeck**, is a Colorado native completing her bachelors in Political Economy at Regis University. Shelby is working with us through Romero House, an intentional community program at Regis.

**earthlinks** is a non-profit organization that provides a work program for people who are homeless and low-income to learn skills and create Earth-friendly products that sustain people and the planet.

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# Imagine 2011!

Join us this fall to celebrate 15 years of EarthLinks at our annual fundraiser, Imagine! **Imagine 2011** takes place on **Thursday, September 15, from 6 to 9 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall (1555 Grant St., Denver)**. Purchase your tickets for only \$25 today in our online store: [www.EarthLinks-Colorado.org/shop](http://www.EarthLinks-Colorado.org/shop).



## From the Board

Margaret Swahn, Board President

We are getting ready for our 8th Annual Fundraiser, *Imagine*, which will take place on Thursday, September 15, 2011, with a wonderful mixture of Food, Friends and Fun. We hope that you can join us, sponsor us or provide a gift basket for our auction. Historically, 15% of our annual income is raised at our annual fundraiser. Another 15% comes from the sales of our products, so remember our products when you next need a gift or other purchase. The balance of our annual income comes from foundations, grants and people like you and me. Colorado taxpayers are entitled to a 25% state income tax credit in addition to any other allowable deductions, for gifts of \$100 or more. We are grateful for your gifts, be they large or small. If we pull together, we truly can make a difference in the lives of our participants, and just maybe, create a better Earth.

## Craft Products from the EarthLinks Workshop

When you support us by purchasing the Earth-friendly fruits of our labor, you're completing the circle by sustaining Earth and helping another on the road to wholeness. See our entire catalogue of craft products below. All items are available in our online store ([www.earthlinks-colorado.org/shop](http://www.earthlinks-colorado.org/shop)), in our showroom (2828 Larimer St., Denver), or at various sales markets throughout the year (see Page 4 for a calendar of upcoming sales).

### Bee Works Soap Bars



\$7.50

Our soap bars are handmade with all-natural ingredients, including beeswax and honey from our local beehives.

### Lotion Bars & Spritzers



\$3.00-  
\$15.00

Our spa products, including Bee Works Lotion Bars and Essential Oil Spritzers, will keep you calm, refreshed, and energized all day!

### Gourd Jewelry



\$10.00-\$12.00

Unique jewelry handmade from locally-grown Gourds! Makes the perfect Earth-friendly gift!

### Vases & Flower Bowls



\$14.00-  
\$23.00

The pressed flowers on our glass products will illuminate your home for years to come!

### Bookmarks



\$3.00

Our famous Bookmarks are decorated with pressed flowers and inspirational quotes.

### Greeting Cards



\$3.00

Pressed-flower Cards are perfect for sending love from the garden on any occasion!

### Card Holders



\$6.00

Keep your IDs, gift cards, or credit cards in style with our Card Holders, complete with flowers and our famous quotes!

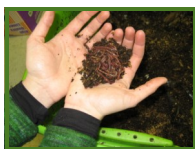
### Checkbook Covers



\$10.00

Take the garden with you as you shop! Decorated with pressed flowers and famous quotes.

### Worm Compost Bins



\$30.00

Create beautifully rich soil for your garden or house plants! Bins come complete with a pound of Red Wigglers.

### Mason Bee Boxes



\$42.50-\$47.50

Provide habitat for pollinators in peril with a Bee Box made from reclaimed wood!

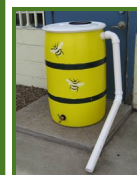
### Bat Boxes



\$85.00-  
\$120.00

Help protect our bats with a single- or double-chamber Bat Box from EarthLinks!

### Rain Barrels



\$119.99-  
\$140.00

Our popular rainwater irrigation systems can be custom painted by our amazing artists!

## Sign Up for Our E-Newsletter

Help us reduce the amount of paper used for our newsletters, and the costs of printing and mailing them. Please sign up to get EarthLinks' newsletter via email. Send us an email at: [cody@earthlinks-colorado.org](mailto:cody@earthlinks-colorado.org) and we'll add you to our e-list. Thanks for helping us save money and natural resources!

See more photos and news of our programs on our website:

[www.EarthLinks-Colorado.org](http://www.EarthLinks-Colorado.org)



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Please join us for our annual

## Imagine Fundraiser!

**Thursday, September 15th**  
**6 pm — 9 pm**

Knights of Columbus Hall  
1555 Grant Street  
Denver CO 80203

*Tickets are \$25.*

*Purchase tickets in our online store:  
www.EarthLinks-Colorado.org/shop*

## Upcoming EarthLinks Sales:

For the most up-to-date list of EarthLinks sales, see our website or email [cody@earthlinks-colorado.org](mailto:cody@earthlinks-colorado.org)

July 19:	YMCA of the Rockies Art & Craft Fair, Estes Park
July 28-31:	Denver County Fair, Nat'l Western Complex, Denver
October 22:	Broadmoor Comm. Church Alt. Gift Fair, Colorado Springs
October 29:	Light of the World Seniors Craft Fair, Littleton

*Do you like our new logo?*

We are so grateful to John Rassman of Rassman Design and his talented team who created our new logo! We think it does a great job of telling who we are with just a picture and a few words. Thank you so much John and Team!

## Summer Savings!

Now is the perfect time to start shopping for upcoming birthdays, weddings, and holidays! Start your search at the EarthLinks Online Store, where special sale items will be posted all throughout the summer.

Check frequently to find the hottest deals!

*See Page 3 for a full list of our Earth-friendly craft products.*

### EarthLinks Staff:

**Cass Cronan**, Executive Director • **Mary Nelle Gage, SL**, Marketing Director

**Cody Meinhardt**, Program Director • **Kelly Shinn**, Program Associate • **Shelby Schneebeck**, Intern

**Board of Directors:** Margaret Swahn • Jeannine Halloran, OP • P. Daniel Hopkins • Bette Ann Jaster, OP  
Susan Goldbach • Edith Crowley • Natalie Moomaw • Patricia Riley • Julie Schwab, OP

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