JISC raises more than $1,000 through Omaha Gives!

The Joslyn Institute’s first foray into the world of public charitable challenge giving was a resounding success in May. JISC raised $1,087.56 from 13 different donors. Our profound thanks go to all who donated, and to the Omaha Community Foundation, sponsor of the day giving.

More than $3 million was raised on May 22 for 318 nonprofits in Douglas, Sarpy, and Pottawattamie counties, according to Sara Boyd, CEO of the Omaha Community Foundation.

“Omaha Gives was successful beyond our imagination!”

“Omaha Gives was significantly more than last year’s $430. EcoStores included in-store outreach this year. Customizers gave $160. In Lincoln, EcoStores Nebraska participated in a similar day of giving, raising more than $1,432,500. Together, we raised over $3 million for 318 nonprofits from more than 19,000 individuals. This community has a strong spirit of generosity. You proved that over and over again on May 22.”

According to JISC Program Manager Katie Torpy, the ventures will be repeated again next year and JISC likely will again be part of it.

“We’re very pleased with the results of our outreach,” she said.

EcoStores Opens New Doors to Recycling Ideas

When have you reused today? Take some tips from EcoStores and you’ll find a whole new perspective on recycling.

Since 2004, EcoStores Nebraska has been providing low cost, quality salvaged and reused building and remodeling materials—from bannisters and bathtubs to broomsticks and boards.

EcoStores Nebraska helps Lincoln and the surrounding communities reduce landfill waste by providing a place for good used home improvement, building and remodeling materials. These goods materials can be reused to the end of their lifecycle, repurposed or recycled. All these approaches keep materials out of the landfill.

All products at EcoStores Nebraska are sold at low prices to encourage purchase and reuse by the public. Products not sold are marked down to further encourage purchase. Products that are not purchased after several months are promoted in Free Fridays, the first Friday of each month, where inventory is given a final chance to be claimed by the public.

Not only does EcoStores Nebraska provide a place for used materials to reenter the marketplace but it is also proactive in its product stewardship. EcoStores Nebraska takes responsibility for the full lifecycle of its products. The store’s product stewardship begins with acquiring products that are already second-use materials, either previously owned materials donated by citizens and local businesses or incorrectly ordered items donated by contractors. These materials, normally destined for the landfill, come to EcoStores Nebraska for a second life—to be used as intended or to be repurposed as something else.

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Effects of Global Warming

You May Not Know About

We all know that global warming is causing melting ice caps and rising seas, but there are some very direct effects on all of us you may not be aware of.

The USDA is predicting a 2.5 to 3.5 percent increase in the price of food products because of the 2012 drought. The drought, a byproduct of low snowfall followed by high heat, affects about 90 percent of U.S. agricultural land, with resultant effects in the dairy and meat industries too.

Textile production is likely to fall victim to global warming. Both the depletion of natural materials and carbon emissions released by factories are causal factors, as is overconsumption. Clothing prices are rising. Britain’s Forum for the Future predicts that by the year 2025, we may be growing textile materials from bacterial cellulose, an organic, sustainable compound.

There’s a correlation between rising temperatures and diseases, according to a number of zoonotic studies (transmission of infectious agents from animals to humans) including more animal forces contaminating drinking water. As temperatures continue to rise, insects migrate to more northerly regions, often bringing diseases with them. Lyme disease, for example, has increased seven-fold in Maine and twelve-fold in Vermont.

Your insurance rates will likely continue to rise. Over the past seven years, insurance premiums have risen as a result of increased weather-related disasters, including Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Katrina, forest fires, flooding, and more.

Climate change could cause pollen counts to more than double over the next 30 years. More carbon dioxide causes plants to produce more pollen. Finally, as more people move to urban areas, more ground-level ozone and industrial pollution result, causing an increase in emphysema, bronchitis and asthma.

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