

March 2010

I just returned from 3 incredible months in Venezuela, and now there is even more to be done locally with the GIVE shirt movement! Yesterday I spent all day and night continuing to catch up, including fulfilling 3 orders, one of 7 shirts (of course, to be given to family and friends)! And when a potential roommate came to see the house we spent over an hour talking about the many possibilities with the GIVE shirt! I'm continually ever more excited about where this is going...

But let me say a bit more about the GIVE shirt in Venezuela. It was amazing. Of course, almost all I wore there (as here) was GIVE clothing. And almost everywhere I went in the country people - locals and foreigners alike - were very interested in the movement. Some bought the GIVE shirt, some were given one, and many others want and intend to invest in one/some. Next time I'm definitely bringing more! It was truly a magical experience of giving, being given to, and further spreading the concept of giving.

Some quick updates:

The volunteer website developer said that the new and vastly improved website should be pretty much finished this week.

The 501 (c)(3) official non-profit status process is back in motion.

I'm planning a 24-hour Health & Giving Runathon in May to raise awareness about health and giving, as well as money for theGIVEshirt.com and other charities.

I'm in communication with InStep (<http://www.runinstep.com/>) about the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual GIVE Shirt 5k.

There are many other potential events on the horizon.

The GIVE shirt is being promoted by numerous organizations and websites (info to be included on the new theGIVEshirt.com website).

And Ashley (<http://www.msruntheus.com/>) is now running across America!

The GIVE shirt is now also available in **GREEN (Unisex S-XXL & Ladies XS-XXL)**, to coincide with giving to our environment and future generations (e.g., by using 100% ORGANIC Sustainable Cotton shirts). Also \$15 + \$5 donation.

And there are athletic Nike Dri-Fit GIVE **shorts, tank tops, tights, socks, and gloves** in addition to the **Compression T-Shirts** and **Long Sleeve Shirts!** Colors vary, and prices are below Retail, but include printing, tax, shipping to and from the printer, other costs of running the movement, and - as always - a \$5 donation to a charity of your choice!

Of course, we still also have (add \$5 donation to prices):

- Adult unisex - Special Limited Edition Dark “Midnight” Navy Blue - S-XL - \$15
- Adult unisex - black - S-XXXXL - \$15
- LADIES style/cut! - black - S-XL - \$15
- YOUTH sizes - black - XS-XL - \$15
- TODDLER sizes - light blue - 2T, 3T, 4T - only \$10!
- INFANT sizes - light blue or pink - 6M, 12M, 18M, 24M - only \$10!
- INFANT 1-PIECES! - light blue or pink - 6M, 12M, 18M, 24M - only \$10!
- Assorted colors and sizes of American Apparel T-Shirts - only \$10!

And there are still discounts on each additional GIVE shirt - the 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> shirts are \$1 less, 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> \$2 less, 10<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> \$3 less, 25<sup>th</sup>-99<sup>th</sup> \$4 less, 100<sup>th</sup>+ \$5 less!

It’s T-Shirt weather again, so please wear your GIVE shirts, and share its message with others! And those of you who’ve given GIVE shirts to others, can you please send me their e-mail addresses so they can also receive this periodic newsletter update! Thank you!

In closing, I’d like to briefly share an especially rewarding Venezuelan experience of giving. My last week there I stayed with a friend who I met 2 months earlier. She lives in a small home with her mom, dad, sister, other sister, and nephew. Sebastian is such a sweet 6 year-old. I felt a special bond with him, and wanted to leave a tangible part of me with him. Then I realized, maybe one of the tight compression Nike Dri-Fit T-Shirts would fit him? They didn’t. But there was one more – my favorite shirt. It was not for sale though, and I had told everyone previously that I couldn’t sell it to them (because I loved it so much, it was the only one I had, and I couldn’t get anymore!). I offered it, too, with - admittedly - a bit of inner reluctance. It fit Sebastian more or less, and as soon as he had it on he said, “It’s my favorite shirt! I want to wear it now.” He immediately wanted to play basketball in it, so we did. I’m told that he wants to wear it every day. I’ve never felt better giving a GIVE shirt. To give what is most treasured – now that’s rewarding...

give,

Thomas