



GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

2017 Global Food Initiative Fund Allocations

Church of the Brethren

Burundi: Farmer Training \$9,872.00

This partnership with Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services (THARS) is in its third year, with a new grant supporting a Farmer Field School project reaching over 1,000 beneficiaries in 4 villages. Funds were used to purchase seeds, fertilizer, and hoes, and for training seminars, support for trainers, and administrative costs. By utilizing Farming God's Way techniques (mulch-based, precision agriculture), THARS reported the average harvest for beans was 40 pounds of harvest for every 1 pound of seed planted. Corn yielded 74 pounds of harvest for every 1 pound of seed planted.

China: Hospice Nutrition \$5,000.00

You'ai (Brethren) Care, in, Pingding, Yangquan, Shanxi was given a grant to aid in developing a program to improve the diets of hospice and cancer patients at Yangquan You'ai Hospital. Funds were used to purchase fresh ingredients, food processing equipment (yogurt maker, soy milk maker, blender), and some funds for staff salaries.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Banana, Cassava, Vegetable Project \$10,030.00

The recipient of the grant, Shalom Ministry for Reconciliation and Development (SHAMIREN), is a ministry of Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in the Congo). This grant will expand work with the Twa people, and their neighbors who are in need. SHAMIREN works with 300 families on 4 communal farms, representing approximately 1,800 beneficiaries. This was the fifth year of this partnership. Outside evaluators reported that conflicts between the Twa and their neighbors have been greatly reduced through this project.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Transformation Tree Trainings \$4,618.00

SHAMIREN and Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in Congo) partnered with World Relief to host Transformation Tree Curriculum (TTC) trainings for pastors and lay leaders

involved with community development work. TTC is based in scripture and addresses “foundational beliefs concerning God’s compassion for the poor, the root causes of poverty, and (the) call to love and serve on another.” The goal of TTC is to demonstrate the need for spiritual transformation to accompany community development.

Dominican Republic: Community Health Evangelism Training \$ 690.00

Six representatives of Iglesia de Los Hermanos in the Dominican Republic attended a week-long training seminar on community development. This training was part 2 of a program run by Medical Ambassadors International. These representatives are responsible to train others in their own communities on how to bring about change on issues of health and development.

Dominican Republic: Rabbit Raising Project \$4,780 .00

Rabbits and cage materials were purchased in late 2017 with trainings and distribution of animals being planned for 2018.

Ecuador: Agroforestry and Community Gardens \$3,000.00

This is a project of La Fundación Brethren y Unida (FBU - the United and Brethren Foundation), a nonprofit that arose from the work of the Church of the Brethren in the 1950s and 1960s. FBU established 2 agroforestry demonstrations and teaching plots. FBU works with 500 families in the communities of Picalqui and Cubinche. Funds will be used specifically for the purchase of seed, vegetable seedlings, organic fertilizer, wire caging, irrigation equipment, community trainings, and staff transportation.

Haiti: Agricultural Mini-Grants \$23,060.00

This was the fifth and final year of a 5-year, post-earthquake, agricultural development project. L’Eglise des Freres (Church of the Brethren in Haiti) agronomists worked with 18 communities on water systems, crop and livestock production in rural areas, and with women in urban areas making value-added commodities such as soap, detergent, peanut butter and fruit juices. Of note this year, sewing classes were added to make bed spreads and pillows to sell. Over the pasts 5 years, the GFI has given a total of \$205,000 to this effort.

Haiti: Aquaponics \$4,514.94

In partnership with Capstone 118, a model aquaponics system was constructed at the Brethren guesthouse of L’Eglise des Freres d’Haiti in Croix des Bouquets, Haiti. This system combines both fish and vegetable production.

Honduras-Haiti: Staff Exchange \$2,076.38

Together with the Haiti Medical Project of the Church of the Brethren, the GFI sponsored travel and training expenses for agricultural and medical staff from L’Elgise des Freres d’ Haiti to spend

a week learning from Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG) staff in Honduras. Staff from PAG traveled to Haiti in 2016.

India: Rural Service Center \$8,210.00

The Rural Service Center (RSC) provides services to local farmers in Ankleshwar, Gujarat State, with proceeds going to allow the RSC to support work in areas of even greater need. Funds were used for land leveling activities (terracing) to allow for irrigation; seeds and fertilizer for crop trials; classes for adults in modern farming techniques, hygiene, sanitation and bio-gas production; as well as costs associated with tractors and program staff salary and transportation needs.

Mexico: Children's Feeding Program \$1,000.00

A new stove and refrigerator were purchased for a feeding program run by Bittersweet Ministries in Tijuana, Mexico. The program serves meals to 80-100 people a day at Bittersweet's day care center. Communities served include Cañon of the Carriages, Salvatieras, La Nueva Aurora, and other local neighborhoods in Tijuana.

Nigeria: Agriculture Conference \$2,750.00

Staff from the Agriculture department of the Integrated Community Based Development Program (ICBDP) of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa aNigeria (EYN) were able to attend a nation-wide agriculture conference in Jos, Plateau State, sponsored by ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization).

Rwanda: Potato and Maize Project \$12,500.00

This was the fifth year for this project among the Twa people which is administered by GFI partner Evangelistic Training Outreach Ministries of Rwanda (ETOMR), a ministry of the Church of the Brethren in Rwanda. Agricultural inputs and land rental allowed for the expansion of the project to reach over 700 beneficiaries in the corn and potato project. A major benefit of the project comes from the sale of potatoes and maize flour to buy annual health insurance for participating families. Children of the Twa are also starting to attend school.

Rwanda: Transformation Tree Trainings \$4,618.00

SHAMIRED and Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in Congo) partnered with World Relief to host Transformation Tree Curriculum (TTC) trainings for pastors and lay leaders involved with community development work. TTC is based in scripture and addresses "foundational beliefs concerning God's compassion for the poor, the root causes of poverty, and (the) call to love and serve on another." The goal of TTC is to demonstrate the need for spiritual transformation to accompany community development.

US: Lybrook, NM – Navajo Food Outreach Program \$3,000.00

Members of the Tokahookaadi COB will provided fresh produce to neighbors who were food insecure, giving instructions on how to cook and prepare meals with the produce and invited them to join cooking classes at the church. For a period of two years, fresh produce will be purchased to augment the vegetables and herbs currently being produced in the community gardens of Lybrook Community Ministries. Ultimately gardeners from the congregation plan to establish home gardens for many of their neighbors.

US: Circle, AK – Fencing & Greenhouse Materials & Van \$1,800.00

This grant was given to enhance the gardening ministry of Bill and Penny Gay of the Pleasant Dale COB (Decatur, IN) together with the Gwich'in people in Alaska. Along with funds from other contributors, \$500 was given to help purchase a van for the project.

US: "Going to the Garden" Initiative \$5,000.00

Grants were given to church-based community gardens in the following communities: Dundalk, MD (Graceway COB), New Carlisle, OH (New Carlisle COB), Postdam, OH (Postdam COB), Rockford, IL (Rockford Community COB), Salisbury, MD (Community of Joy COB in partnership with CATA - Comite de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agricolas). This brings the 6-year total to \$54,825.99 in mini-grants given to 41 different community gardening efforts across the United States.

Venezuela: Rice Growing Project \$6,650.00

The project is an initiative by the Asociación Iglesia de Los Hermanos Venezuela (ASIGLEHV or Church of the Brethren in Venezuela) y Fundación Cristiana Restauración (Christian Restoration Foundation of the Church of the Brethren in Venezuela). The harvest is projected to be over 50 tons. It will be distributed to Brethren church members in need, and community groups. Funds were used specifically for the purchase of seed, fertilizer, pesticides, tractor rental, and rent for farmland.

Total allocations, January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 **\$113,169.32**

For more information on any of these programs or initiatives, please go to www.brethren.org/gfi/stories/ to see copies of current issues of E-news – the electronic newsletter of the GFI. E-news is available in print form to all Brethren congregations via the Source packet and to anyone upon request.

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