



GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

2018

Global Food Initiative Fund Allocations

Church of the Brethren

Burundi: Farmer Training

\$8,944.00

This partnership with Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services (THARS) is in its fourth year, with a new grant supporting a Farmer Field School for Sustainable Development 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 reports greatly increased harvests for corn and beans.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Banana, Cassava, Vegetable Project

\$7,500.00

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 seventh year of this partnership. Outside evaluators report that conflicts between the Twa and their neighbors have been greatly reduced through this project.

Dominican Republic: Farmer to Farmer Exchange

\$1,659.00

Agronomists from Eglise des Freres d'Haiti (Church of the Brethren in Haiti) were hosted in the Dominican Republic by leaders of Iglesia de Los Hermanos (Church of the Brethren in the DR) for a week to learn about drip irrigation. A reverse visit is planned for 2019 in order to install a drip irrigation system in Haiti.

Ecuador: Indigenous Food Crops Project**\$5,000.00**

Fundacion Brethren y Unida (FBU – the United and Brethren Foundation) grew out of the work of Brethren missionaries in the 1950s. FBU is completely independent presently and works with youth and young adults. This grant was given to establish teaching and demonstration plots in 5 communities: Picalqui, Cubinche, La Esperanza, Tabacundo, and Otavalo. FBU purchased seeds, seedlings, organic fertilizer, and organized community “fairs” or farmer’s markets.

Ghana: Soybean Learning Visit**\$4,866.25**

Three representatives of EYN traveled to the Soybean Innovation Lab research center in Tamale, Ghana. The focus of the visit was on the processing and marketing of soy products. The team was hosted by GFI consultant, Dr. Dennis Thompson of the University of Illinois (retired).

Haiti: Agriculture Conference**\$500.00**

Four agronomists working for Eglise des Freres d’Haiti (Church of the Brethren in Haiti) attended an agriculture conference – Konferans Agrikol – for Christian non-profits/NGOs in Haiti.

Haiti: Project Evaluation (mid-year)**\$2,550.00**

A soil-conservation and income generation project of Eglise des Freres d’Haiti (Church of the Brethren in Haiti) is being funded through a grant from Growing Hope Globally (GHG), formerly known as Foods Resource Bank. Mid-year and year-end evaluations are required by GHG.

Honduras: Greenhouse Plant Production Center**\$10,000.00**

Long-time GFI partner in Honduras, Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG), constructed a greenhouse in Celaque for the purpose of producing quality vegetable seedlings for 100 farmers across 30-50 communities. The greenhouse employs women who operate it as a business.

Nigeria: Orchard Well Project**\$4,763.00**

A deep well and a solar electrical system and water tanks were installed in Lassa, Borno State, at an orchard and tree nursery operated by EYN’s ICBDP. Funds were also provided to purchase seeds and nursery sacks to plant 7900 trees.

Nigeria: Soybean Extension and Marketing Training**\$1,383.00**

Trainings were held to improve agricultural extension activities and a planting manual related to the Soybean Value Chain project of the Integrated Community Based Development Program (ICBDP) of Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN – the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria).

Nigeria: Soybean Value Chain Consultation **\$2,815.00**

Two U.S. consultants traveled to Nigeria to evaluate the work of EYN's Soybean Value Chain project. The consultants met with EYN agriculture staff and volunteer advisory team. This was both an evaluation and a planning trip.

Rwanda: Potato and Maize Project **\$8,500.00**

This was the seventh 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. 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.

Spain: Church-based Community Garden **\$4,455.00**

Members of Una Luz en las Naciones (Gijon, Asturias) congregation of Iglesia Evangelica de los Hermanos (Church of the Brethren in Spain) minister to those in need in their community through a gardening ministry. Produce is shared with people who are unemployed and with recently arrived immigrants. This was the third year of support to this project.

Spain: Church-based Community Garden **\$3,425.00**

Oracion Contestada is a congregation of the Church of the Brethren in the town of Leon, Spain. The GFI supported this community gardening project for the second year. The harvest was shared with between 25-30 families who had the greatest economic need in their community. Funds were used for a tractor rental, seeds, seedlings, and gardening tools.

Spain: Church-based Community Garden **\$3,850.00**

On the island of Lanzarote (part of the Canary Islands – a territory of Spain) the GFI supported a community gardening effort of Cristo la Unica Esperanza congregation (Church of the Brethren in Spain). This was the third year of this partnership. Produce is shared with community members in need.

Spain: Food Storage **\$7,445.00**

On the island of Lanzarote (Canary Islands), the Brethren congregation Cristo la Unica Esperanza operates a food ministry connected to its community garden. In order to be more self-sustaining, the congregation is selling some produce to local grocery stores. This GFI allocation was used for the purchase of freezers, refrigerators, shelving, and some bulk dry goods. The congregation provided matching funds to cover rent, utilities and local taxes.

Tanzania: ECHO East Africa Symposium**\$7,310.00**

Six representatives from 3 GFI partners in the Great Lakes region of Africa will be attending an agricultural development symposium in Arusha, Tanzania in February 2019. These partners include THARS (Burundi), SHAMIREN (DR Congo) and ETOMR (Rwanda). The conference is sponsored by ECHO (Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization) and offers the opportunity for Christian agricultural development leaders from across the region to gather together to worship, network and learn.

US: Canton (Illinois) Community Garden**\$1,000.00**

Seeds, vegetable transplants, hoses, lumber for raised beds, and a rain barrel were purchased for this new community gardening project of the Canton Church of the Brethren. Produce from the garden was shared with an area food pantry and church gardeners worked in partnership with a local school.

US: Capstone 118 (New Orleans, Louisiana) - Garden Advocate**\$5,000.00**

In collaboration with the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy in Washington, D.C., the GFI offers \$5,000 grants for a Garden Advocate position through local churches and district ministries. This allows the garden leadership to pay a community member on a part-time basis to assist the volunteer coordinators and to be available to communicate with the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy on food advocacy issues. This is the second year that funds for this purpose were made available to this partner.

US: Champaign (Illinois) Community Garden – Casual Labor Fund**\$1,500.00**

The Champaign Church of the Brethren received an allocation that provided the ability to hire community members with specific un-met emergency needs (rent, utility bills, medical bills, etc.) on a part-time basis to assist the volunteer garden coordinators with garden-related projects.

US: GraceWay (Maryland) Community Garden**\$1,569.30**

The GraceWay Church of the Brethren's community garden (Dundalk, Maryland) serves a community with many African immigrants. The church uses the garden produce to share with low-income families and to teach about the need for healthy food. This is the second year of support for this community garden. Funds were used to buy hoses, lumber for raised beds, fencing, and other garden supplies.

US: Lybrook (New Mexico) Community Ministries**\$15,440.00**

Lybrook Community Ministries (LCM) purchased a tractor in order to expand its gardening efforts to 5 new Navajo communities: Counselor, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, White Mesa, and Nageezi. Along with the tractor, tillage attachments, fencing materials, and materials to construct hoop houses (unheated greenhouses) were also obtained.

US: Lybrook (New Mexico) Community Ministries **\$3,000.00**

One complete solar electricity and refrigeration unit was purchased and installed in one of LCM's cabins. This unit will serve as a demonstration model for a larger project being undertaken by LCM and members of the Navajo community near Cuba, New Mexico. Several Navajo men received training in the installation and maintenance of the units. The goal of the project is to install refrigeration units for families with infants (for formulas and milk,) and the elderly (fresh garden produce and medicines).

US: New Carlisle (Ohio) Community Garden **\$2,000.00**

The New Carlisle Church of the Brethren is part of an ecumenical community gardening project in New Carlisle, Ohio. This effort utilized a GFI grant for the purchase of mulch, top soil, lumber for raised beds, a used tiller and lawn mower, some labor costs, and other gardening supplies.

US: New Carlisle (Ohio) Community Garden - Garden Advocate **\$5,000.00**

In collaboration with the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy in Washington, D.C., the GFI offers \$5,000 grants for a Garden Advocate position through local churches or district ministries. This allows the garden leadership to pay a community member on a part-time basis to assist the volunteer coordinators and to be available to communicate with the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy on food advocacy issues.

US: Potsdam (Ohio) Community Garden **\$500.00**

In its second year, this gardening venture produced an abundant harvest with produce being given to a meal program in Troy, Ohio, as well as for a year-end harvest celebration that was open to the entire community. Specifically, funds were used for seeds, plants and some supplies for the harvest celebration.

US: Puerto Rico Farmer Support **\$36,399.00**

Farmers in Puerto Rico experienced tremendous losses to perennial crops such as citrus, bananas, plantains, and coffee. Through the Puerto Rico District of the Church of the Brethren, farmers in need were identified. Grafted citrus trees and banana and plantain pups were purchased to partially replace losses. Some farmers diversified their operations by purchasing small livestock or planting vegetables in hoop houses.

US: Rockford (Illinois) Community Garden **\$1,500.00**

This garden has grown from 2 garden plots to 10 in its second year. Members of the congregation teach at risk youth how to grow and preserve produce, plant culturally appropriate produce for the community's needs, and create space for urban dwellers to explore gardening. This GFI allocation was used to purchase gardening tools, a rain harvest tank, top soil, and provided some support for the garden director.

US: Washington D.C. – BVS Position

\$5,000.00

A Racial Justice Brethren Volunteer Service position was created in conjunction with the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, and the office of the General Secretary. A volunteer is working with church-based community garden leaders to help identify and address issues of systemic racism and injustice and indigenous people's land rights regarding food insecurity at the local community level.

US: Bread for the World Annual Hunger Report

\$2,000.00

The 2018 report focused on recommendations for policies that would improve job opportunities for low-income workers and argued that improving job opportunities is crucial to overcoming hunger and poverty.

US: Growing Hope Globally (GHG - Formerly Foods Resource Bank)

\$13,000.00

Each year the GFI pays an annual fee on behalf of Brethren congregations participating in GHG Growing Projects.

Total allocations, January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018

\$177,873.55

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.

Church of the Brethren Global Food Initiative Fund

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