



GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

2016 Global Food Initiative Fund Allocations

Church of the Brethren

Burundi: Farmer Training \$20,620.00

This partnership with Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services (THARS) is in its third year, with a new grant supporting a farmer training project reaching 700 participants in 2 separate groups: Self Help Groups (women who experienced trauma during Burundi's civil war), and the Twa people group who have experienced violence and discrimination from Burundi's dominant tribes. Funds were used to purchase seeds, fertilizer, and hoes, and for training seminars, support for trainers, and administrative costs. New this year was support for a clean water initiative.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Banana, Cassava, Vegetable Project \$10,000.00

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, including a new vegetable raising initiative and the inclusion of additional Twa families and Congolese Brethren families who are in need. This was the fourth year of this partnership.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Strategic Planning \$1,180.00

In order to help provide great focus and direction for SHAMIREN, a grant was given to retain an outside consultant to work with the board of SHAMIREN to produce a plan that would guide the organization's development work in coming years.

Dominican Republic: Community Health Evangelism Training \$ 660.00

Six representatives of Iglesia de Los Hermanos in the Dominican Republic attended a week-long training seminar given by Medical Ambassadors. These representatives are responsible to begin training others in their own communities on how to bring about change on issues of health and development. A second seminar will occur in 2017.

Ghana: Soybean Innovation Laboratory Visit \$1,506.00

Representatives from Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) and Church Aid Liberia traveled to Ghana for a learning tour hosted by the Soybean Innovation Laboratory – a USAID project working to promote the development of new soy varieties, products and production methods to help small holder farmers in West Africa.

Great Lakes Africa Region (Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda): Project Evaluation \$7,000.00

Program evaluations of three GFI-sponsored projects in the Africa Great Lakes region (Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo) were conducted by the staff of Eben-ezer University of Minembwe, (DR Congo).

Great Lakes Africa Region (Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda): Twa Conference \$4,000.00

Funds supported a conference with the goal of bringing together representatives of the three GFI partners in the region. Each partner is working with the Twa or Batwa people and this conference allowed Twa leaders in different countries to meet each other, share their work and their challenges, and to encourage each other in their respective ministries.

Haiti: Agricultural Mini-Grants \$35,060.00

This was the fourth year of a 5-year post-earthquake agricultural development project. L'Eglise des Freres (Church of the Brethren in Haiti) agronomists worked with communities on water systems, crop and livestock production in rural areas, and with women in urban areas making value-added commodities such as peanut butter and fruit juices. Of note this year, women's savings and loans groups were added to the overall project.

Haiti: Project Evaluation \$ 4,410.00

Results of this independent evaluation showed significant progress of the agricultural development work happening in the 19 communities where L'Eglise des Freres has a presence. The evaluators also highlighted the challenges faced by staff by reporting that in many cases the church is one of the only functioning institutions in many rural communities.

Haiti: Hares for Haiti \$3,058.00

A GFI grant to Juniper Community Missions sponsored four training sessions on rabbit production. One of these sessions was provided for staff and selected farmers of L'Eglise des Freres d'Haiti.

Honduras: "Producing to Grow" Animal Project \$23,428.91

Through a partnership with Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG), the GFI provided funds to purchase chickens, pigs, bees, or fish to an additional 60 families in 2016 through a "passing on the gift" strategy. Workshops on animal health, nutrition, and production are integral to this project. This year's grant completes the 4-year project totaling over \$125,000.

Honduras: Culture of Peace and Economic Development Project \$5,000.00

Partnering with Iglesia Cristiana Viviendo en Amor y Fe (VAF) in Tegucigalpa, funds were used in VAF's Culture of Peace and Economic Development project, which includes both peace education and business development classes. The total number of direct beneficiaries totaled over 330 people in the two communities, including children, teenagers, women, and men.

Palestine: Patio Gardens \$ 956.00

A student at Manchester University was provided with funds to purchase vegetable seeds, pots, fertilizer, potting soil and gardening tools for a pilot patio gardening project in Hebron. Thirty households participated in this effort.

Rwanda: Potato and Maize Project \$11,180.00

This was the fourth year for this project 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 with 200 people participating directly in the corn and potato project. A major benefit of the project, beyond the potatoes grown for consumption, comes from the sale of potatoes to buy annual health insurance for participating families.

Spain: Community Gardens \$18,909.00

Four congregations that are part of Mision Evangelica de los Hermanos (Church of the Brethren in Spain) expanded their community gardening efforts. Three gardens are in the north of the country (Gijon, Leon, Oviedo), and the other is on the island of Lanzarote - one of the Canary Islands. Grants helped to cover the costs of seeds, seedlings, fertilizer, irrigation materials, and

some rent. The efforts have focused on reaching unemployed people and immigrants not receiving government services.

US: Champaign, IL – Walk-in Cooler & Electrical Work \$10,000.00

The Champaign Church of the Brethren purchased a walk-in cooler and completed necessary electrical upgrades in the church kitchen. The church's food pantry can now accept more prepared food coming from community organizations and businesses.

US: Lybrook, NM – Greenhouse Materials, Prayer Garden, Intern Expenses \$18,300.00

This GFI grant was used to purchase materials for four large un-heated high tunnels or greenhouses. These structures extend the growing season in this high desert area by several months, allowing for greater production of vegetables for local families. Funds also supported the purchase of fencing, water collection tanks, wooden stands, fertilizer, topsoil, and two tillers, along with some smaller gardening tools. An herb/prayer garden was also developed as a teaching tool to aid in nutrition and cooking classes. In addition, funds were provided to help train an intern to support the community gardening efforts among the Navajo people.

US: Circle, AK and Lybrook, NM – Native Community Gardener Exchange \$6,878.40

Members of the Gwich'in community in Circle, Alaska traveled to Lybrook, New Mexico for a cultural and gardening exchange with members of the Navajo community. A reciprocal visit will be held in the summer of 2017.

US: New Orleans, LA – Garden Advocate Support \$5,000.00

In New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward, Capstone 118 used funds provided by the GFI to partially fund a part-time Garden Advocate to assist the executive director with book-keeping, hosting groups and supervising volunteers. This Garden Advocate will communicate with the Church of the Brethren's Office of Public Witness (OPW) on ways the OPW can support legislative efforts that will benefit local food security initiatives.

US: Salisbury, MD – Community Garden Plan \$2,000.00

The Community of Joy Church of the Brethren is involved with ten other churches, Salisbury University, and local elected officials in the development of a plan to provide locally grown food to the public-school system through community gardens. The GFI grant acts as "seed money" or a "bridge grant" while larger grants are sought from other sources.

US: Bread for the World 2016 Hunger Report \$ 1,000.00

This report advocates legislative reforms to provide policy analysis on hunger and strategies to end it.

US: Twelve Baskets and a Goat \$4,800.00

Church of the Brethren congregations in need of financial assistance were provided funds to host the dramatic presentation "Twelve Baskets and a Goat" performed by Ted & Company. This was an effort to raise funds for Heifer International.

US: "Going to the Garden" Initiative \$8,411.75

In partnership with the Office of Public Witness for the Church of the Brethren, grants were given to church-based community gardens in the following communities: Salisbury, MD (Community of Joy COB), Harrisburg, PA (Harrisburg First COB), Hagerstown, MD (Hagerstown COB), Polo, IL (Polo COB), and Quarryville, PA (Mechanic Grove COB). This brings the 5-year total to \$49,825.99 in mini-grants given to 37 different community gardening efforts across the United States.

US: Community Gardening Gathering \$2,829.92

Representatives from six large church-based community gardens gathered in Milwaukee, WI for a weekend of learning, sharing and planning with staff from the Office of Public Witness and the GFI.

US: Foods Resources Bank 2016 – Member Contribution \$10,000.00

This contribution allows Brethren congregations to participate in FRB Growing Projects, which raise funds for food security programs of ecumenical partners around the globe.

Total allocations, January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016 **\$216,187.98**

For more information on any of these programs or initiatives, please go to www.brethren.org/gfi/stories/ to see copies of recent issues of E-news – the electronic newsletter of the GFCF. E-news is also 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

1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120. Tel 800 323-8039

www.brethren.org/gfi