



GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

2019

Global Food Initiative Fund Allocations

Church of the Brethren

Burundi: Farmer Field School

\$7,919.00

This partnership with Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services (THARS) is in its fifth year, with a new grant supporting a Farmer Field School for Sustainable Development project reaching over 3,000 beneficiaries over the 5-year life of the project. 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: "Seeds Project"

\$3,320.00

Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in the Congo) received this grant to support new church-based outreach initiatives or "Seed Projects." After receiving training for deacons from World Relief staff, participants were challenged to start small outreach programs to the most vulnerable in their communities. These mini projects for 4 churches include cultivating sweet potatoes, distributing household items (sugar, salt, soap), vegetable production, and distribution of school supplies.

Dominican Republic: Multi-crop Thresher

\$1,235.00

In partnership with Harvest Chapel Mission (HCM), a multi-crop grain thresher was built. The thresher design was from the Soybean Innovation Lab – a Feed the Future initiative of the USAID and the University of Missouri. The completed thresher will be shipped to the DR to be tested and used by members of Iglesia de Los Hermanos (Church of the Brethren) in the DR. The long-term goal is to fabricate more threshers in the DR.

Ecuador: Indigenous Food Crops Project**\$10,000.00**

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 build 2 new greenhouses – one movable and the other permanent. FBU will produce native herbs, microgreens and vegetables. Funds will also be used to purchase organic fertilizer, seeds, vegetable seedlings, and to organize “fairs” or producer only farmers markets.

Haiti: Project Evaluation**\$2,670.00**

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**\$3,500.00**

In 2018, 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. Shortly after completion, a small tornado hit the greenhouse causing structural damage. This grant was sent to help cover the cost of repairs and to purchase seeds to start again.

Mexico: Water Harvesting Project**\$2,200.00**

Through a partnership with Iglesia Jesucristo El Camino (His Way COB) in Hendersonville, North Carolina, water tanks and rain gutter supplies were purchased to support a water harvesting project at a school in the community of Aguita Zarca, near Durango, Mexico. Rainwater is collected and stored to be used for watering fruit trees and vegetables.

Mexico: Community Center Kitchen Supplies**\$5,000.00**

A community center in Tijuana, Mexico, feeding approximately 75 children and 30 adults daily was recently rebuilt after a fire by Bittersweet Ministries. This grant was given for the purpose of purchasing kitchen appliances, cups, dishes, silverware, tables and chairs.

Nigeria: Orchard Fence**\$5,260.00**

A newly planted orchard was facing theft and damage by livestock. This grant allowed the Agriculture department of Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN) to put up a chain link fence to protect this investment. Other crops are planted between the trees while they are growing using

drip irrigation in the dry season. The orchard will be used as both a teaching tool and as a revenue source for the department.

Nigeria: ECHO Agricultural Development Conference

\$505.00

Three staff members from EYN's Agriculture Department traveled to Jos, Plateau State, to attend an agricultural development conference sponsored by Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO). This grant covered registration and travel costs.

Nigeria: Preliminary Assessment of Soybean Market Potential

\$1,000.00

In February (2019), members of the EYN Soybean Value Chain Team met with several potential partners in Abuja to discuss the possibilities for marketing soybean and strengthening the work of EYN's Integrated Community-Based Development Program (ICBDP). Funds were provided to cover costs for EYN staff to travel to the meetings from EYN Headquarters.

Rwanda: Pig Project

\$20,000.00

This is a new project among the Twa people in northwest Rwanda. GFI partner, the Church of the Brethren in Rwanda, is building a barn at a central location to house pigs for breeding purposes. Offspring will be provided to individual families as they become available. Along with building materials for the barn, GFI funds will cover the costs of veterinary services and pig feed.

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 fourth year of support to this project.

Spain: Church-based Community Garden

\$3,600.00

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 fourth year of this partnership. Produce is shared with community members in need.

US: Bridgewater (Virginia) Summer Garden Coordinator

\$8,000.00

Two grants were supplied to the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren to support a stipend for a student at Bridgewater College to work as a garden coordinator, as well as funds to purchase a walk-behind tractor. The student is responsible for broadening the volunteer base for the garden and developing community fundraisers to increase the sustainability of the garden.

US: Capstone 118 (New Orleans, Louisiana) - Garden Advocate

\$3,000.00

In collaboration with the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy in Washington, D.C., the GFI offers 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 third year that funds for this purpose were made available to this partner.

US: Champaign (Illinois) Community Garden – Casual Labor Fund **\$5,000.00**

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. This is the second year of support for this project.

US: Community of Joy (Maryland) Community Garden **\$3,500.00**

The Community of Joy congregation began a new venture working with an alternative school for at risk students in Salisbury. Materials to construct a movable high tunnel (unheated greenhouse) as well as topsoil were acquired with funds from this grant.

US: Harrisburg (Pennsylvania) Community Garden **\$1,500.00**

This garden was established in 2016. In 2019 the Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren received a grant to cover an expansion of the garden. Funds were specifically used for the purchase of topsoil, seeds, seedlings, fencing, paint and other gardening supplies.

US: Kissimmee (Florida) Community Garden **\$1,000.00**

The Nuevo Comienzo congregation meets in the Deerwood Elementary school building. Funds are to be used for lumber to build raised beds, seeds, seedlings, tools, and ground cloth. Students receiving non-perishable items through a weekend food program will be able to receive freshly grown produce.

US: Lafayette (Illinois) Community Garden **\$2,114.45**

This community garden is in its fifth year; however, the garden was not handicapped accessible. This first-time grant from the GFI was able to help the Lafayette Church of the Brethren purchase the lumber, topsoil and trellis materials to build extra tall raised beds.

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

Lybrook Community Ministries (LCM) began a gardening project with a local elementary school. The garden will provide hands on opportunities for school students. Topsoil, fencing materials, plants, seeds, hoses and cement blocks were purchased with the grant.

US: Lybrook (New Mexico) Community Ministries – Solar Refrigeration Project **\$8,000.00**

LCM installed solar panels and batteries as part of a larger solar refrigeration project among Navajo elders and families with infants near Cuba, New Mexico. Several local men received training in the installation and maintenance of the units. This grant helped provide refrigeration to 10 households.

US: New Carlisle (Ohio) Community Garden Tractor **\$15,000.00**

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 a used garden tractor. The project has recently taken control of a 9-acre vacant lot owned by the local school district.

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. This is the second year of support for this project.

US: Oakton (Virginia) – SNAP Matching Funds **\$5,000.00**

The Oakton Church of the Brethren received a grant to support matching funds for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients at a local farmers market in Reston (Va.). Matching funds had previously been available from another source. Most of these funds were unavailable in 2019 and the GFI supplied a 1-time grant to fill the gap.

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

Funds were used to purchase lumber for raised beds, topsoil, a garden shed and tools.

US: Puerto Rico Farmer Support **\$51,605.00**

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. The 2-year total given to farmers in Puerto Rico was \$88,004.

US: Raleigh (North Carolina) Community Garden **\$1,000.00**

The Iglesia Cristiana Pueblo de Esperanza congregation, working in partnership with Neighbor 2 Neighbor (a local faith-based non-profit), received a grant to revitalize a community garden in Raleigh. Funds were used to install an irrigation system and to purchase topsoil, seeds, and other gardening supplies.

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

This garden is in its third 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 a tiller, lumber for raised beds, fruit trees, seeds and other gardening supplies.

US: Tonganoxie (Kansas) Community Garden**\$1,000.00**

Camp Mt. Hermon started this garden in response to community food needs. Summer campers will help in the garden, participate in food preservation activities, and learn about hunger-related issues both locally and globally. Fruit trees, lumber for raised beds, topsoil, seeds, and other gardening supplies will be purchased with these funds.

US: Growing Hope Globally (GHG - Formerly Foods Resource Bank)**\$15,097.00**

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

Total allocations, January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

\$201,980.45

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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