



GLOBAL FOOD CRISIS FUND

2015 Global Food Crisis Fund Allocations

Church of the Brethren

Brazil: Prison Garden Ministry \$10,000.00

The Rio Verde congregation of Igreja da Irmandade-Brasil (Church of the Brethren in Brazil) has developed a multi-faceted program working with inmates in the local prison and their families. This work includes a gardening project involving 32 prisoners, which provides food for meals for 400 inmates at the prison. Four charities in the city are also receiving vegetables to improve the meals they serve to people in their programs. A grant allowed this ministry to drill a well, set up irrigation, and purchase vegetable seeds and transplants.

Burundi: Farmer Training \$16,000.00

This partnership with Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services (THARS) is in its second 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 Tutsis and Hutus. Funds were used to purchase seeds, fertilizer, and hoes, and for training seminars, support for trainers, and administrative costs.

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

The recipient of the grant, Shalom Ministry for Reconciliation and Development (SHAMIRED), 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 is the fourth year of this partnership.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Improved Banana Production Training \$2,680.00

This 2-day training seminar on improved methods of banana production in the Democratic Republic of Congo was provided by staff of World Relief staff (DR Congo) and benefited 45 participants involved with agricultural programs of Shalom Ministry for Reconciliation and Development (SHAMIREDE) and Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in the Congo).

Democratic Republic of Congo: Cassava Mill \$4,515.00

Shalom Ministry for Reconciliation and Development (SHAMIREDE), a non-profit ministry with ties to Eglise des Freres du Congo received funds for the purchase of a grain and cassava mill to make flour as a value-added component to its ongoing agriculture work.

Great Lakes Africa Region (Burundi, DR Congo, Rwanda): Project Evaluation \$4,900.00

A program evaluation of three GFCF-sponsored projects in the Africa Great Lakes region (Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo) was conducted by the staff of Eben-ezer University of Minembwe, (DR Congo).

Haiti: Agricultural Mini-Grants \$29,410.00

This was the third year of a 5-year project, building upon work done by Brethren Disaster Ministries' earthquake response. L'Eglise des Freres (Church of the Brethren in Haiti) agronomists are working 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 is the addition of a new staff member whose focus will be on strengthening the work with women in urban areas. A yearly evaluation is included in this amount.

Honduras: "Producing to Grow" Animal Raising project \$42,814.36

Through a partnership with Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG), the GFCF is providing chickens, pigs, bees, or fish to an additional 60 families in 2015. Workshops on animal health, nutrition, and production are integral to this "passing on the gift" project. This grant is part of a 4-year project totaling over \$120,000.

North Korea: Plant Breeding Research \$ 10,000.00

Building upon success over the past 2 years with work on grain and fruit crops, Dr. Robert and Linda Shank added sweet potatoes as a new crop for 2015. Field evaluation materials, lab

improvements, tissue culture materials, seed stock, and greenhouse supplies were purchased. The Shanks continued their teaching of undergraduate and graduate students at Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST). A new emphasis is the distribution of tissue cultured raspberry plants for sloping marginal lands. This is in conjunction with the Ministry of Land and Environmental Planning. The Shanks are serving at PUST through the Global Mission and Service office of the Church of the Brethren.

Rwanda: Potato and Maize Project \$ 10,030.00

This is the third year for this project which is administered by ETOMR (Evangelistic Training Outreach Ministries of Rwanda), a ministry of the Gisenyi Evangelical Friends Church of Rwanda. Agricultural inputs and land rental allowed for the expansion of the project and the inclusion of 60 new families in both an existing potato growing effort and a new maize (corn) growing initiative. 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 \$5,076.00

Two congregations which are part of Mision Evangelica de los Hermanos (Church of the Brethren in Spain) were able to expand their community gardening efforts. One is in the north of the country near the city of Asturias, and the other is on the island of Lanzarote which is one of the Canary Islands. These grants helped to cover the costs of seeds, seedlings, fertilizer, irrigation materials, and some rent. Produce is given to the neediest in the community and the rest is sold to help the project sustain itself. Gardeners have focused on reaching those who are unemployed and not receiving any government services.

US: Boise, ID – Irrigation for Refugee Garden \$3,688.16

The Mountain View Church of the Brethren works in partnership with the Idaho Office for Refugees' Global Gardens program, with gardeners coming from various regions of the world including Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. The congregation received a grant to cover the purchase of a pump and the associated electrical work required for its installation.

US: Circle, AK – Tiller \$4,500.00

This GFCF grant allowed for the purchase of a tiller to be used in a vegetable gardening project in Circle, Alaska. Bill and Penny Gay, members of the Pleasant Dale congregation in Decatur, Ind., have worked each summer since 2003 with local residents. The grant was given to the Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren.

US: New Orleans, LA – Walk-behind Tractor \$6,735.00

In New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward, Capstone 118 was able to purchase a walk-behind tractor or tiller and several attachments for its ongoing community gardening work. The tractor will be used in Capstone's "Sharing Lots" program for neighborhood residents who wish to grow produce to sell at a small farmers' market begun by Capstone with a previous GFCF grant.

US: Roanoke, VA – Nutrition and Cooking Classes \$4,500.00

Casa Renacer is a new ministry related to the Renacer (Roanoke) Church of the Brethren. Together in partnership with Virginia Cooperative Extension - Roanoke Office, nutrition and cooking classes were offered for Spanish-speaking residents of the Roanoke Valley. The goal of Casa Renacer is to offer services to help meet the immediate needs of the Latino community in the Roanoke area. This allocation will fund four nutrition and cooking classes for 20 families over the course of 12 months.

US: "Going to the Garden" Initiative \$9,695.44

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, Waynesboro, VA, Chattanooga, TN, Fort Collins, CO, Westminster, MD, Lexington, KY, Fairfax VA, Sand an Pedro, CA. This brings the 4 year total to \$41,414.24 in mini-grants given to 33 different community gardening efforts across the United States.

US: Bread for the World 2015 Hunger Report \$ 1,000.00

Advocating legislative reforms to provide policy analysis on hunger and strategies to end it

US: Foods Resources Bank 2015 – Member Contribution \$10,000.00

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

US: Washington, D.C. - BVS Position \$15,000.00

In support of the Going to the Garden initiative of the Office of Public Witness and the Global Food Crisis Fund, this grant will cover a stipend, housing, travel costs to visit community gardens, and all other expenses to support this volunteer.

West Africa: ECHO Agricultural Development Conference \$7,980.00

Scholarships were given to representatives from 2 GFCF partners in West Africa to attend a conference sponsored by the Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization (ECHO). A total of 8 delegates attended the conference from Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) and Church Aid Inc. of Liberia.

Total allocations, January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

\$208,553.96

For more information on any of these programs or initiatives, please go to www.brethren.org/gfcf/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 Crisis Fund

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