



GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

2020

Global Food Initiative Fund Allocations

Church of the Brethren

International Allocations

Burundi, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico: COVID Administrative Support

\$20,000.00

Although GFI grants typically support direct program costs, these one-time grants were awarded to support administrative costs for four GFI partners experiencing significant income reductions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The four organizations were Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services (THARS) in Burundi, Fundacion Brethren y Unida (FBU) in Ecuador, Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG) in Honduras, and Bittersweet Ministries in Mexico.

Burundi: Farmer Field School

\$7,530.00

This partnership with Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services (THARS) is in its sixth and final year, with a new grant supporting a Farmer Field School for Sustainable Development project reaching over 3,800 beneficiaries over the 6-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 crop harvests. The 6-yr. commitment to this project exceeded \$60,000.

Burundi: Conservation Agriculture Seminar

\$539.00

A seminar on conservation agriculture was hosted by THARS. This special event brought together 20 key farmer-trainers to reflect on and share experiences gained through the past 4 years of THARS' Farmer Field School project. US Volunteers were present to help act as resources at the seminar.

Democratic Republic of Congo: “Seeds Project”**\$7,530.00**

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 in 2019, deacons were challenged to start small outreach programs to the most vulnerable in their communities. Mini projects for 4 churches received grants in 2019, with 3 more churches being included in 2020. Projects include cultivating sweet potatoes, distributing household items (sugar, salt, soap, masks), vegetable production, food deliveries to prisons and hospitals, and distribution of school supplies.

Ecuador: Indigenous Food Crops Project**\$11,000.00**

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, senior adults, and women’s groups. This grant was given to purchase 2 heifers to enhance the FBU dairy herd, and to purchase seeds and supplies to increase field crop and vegetable production – some for sale and some for sharing with needy families. Vegetables and seedlings will be produced and sold through the formation of a micro-company that includes youth in the community. Since 2017, FBU has received over \$30,000 to support food-related programming.

Ecuador: Strategic Planning**\$2,000.00**

Fundacion Brethren y Unida (FBU – the United and Brethren Foundation) received funds to undergo an evaluation with the assistance of an outside consultant who reviewed current practices and organizational structure to better position FBU to serve the needs of its community, with a careful look at financial sustainability.

Guatemala: Corn Project**\$5,000.00**

This project was developed in connection with the West Charleston COB to work with 60 families. Land was rented and farming inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides) were purchased with this grant. An indigenous agronomist will work with the families in this effort.

Haiti: Vegetable Seeds**\$1,950.00**

Farmers in Haiti have difficulty finding quality vegetable seed. A U.S.-based non-profit organization, Seed Programs International (SPI) provides commercial seed from reputable suppliers at a reduced price. Seeds were purchased and shipped to Haiti for women’s groups connected to the Haiti Medical Project of the COB and made available for purchase to experienced vegetable farmers. This effort is under the direction of Eglise des Freres d’Haiti (COB in Haiti).

Haiti: Project Evaluation**\$3,990.00**

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. Regular evaluations are required by GHG.

Nigeria: Orchard Irrigation Well

\$6,830.00

In 2019, the GFI provided a grant to the Agriculture department of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) to put up a chain link fence to protect a newly planted orchard. In 2020 a grant supported the installation of an irrigation well for this orchard. Water from the well also is used to provide water to connected tree nurseries and animal operations under the direction of EYN's Agriculture department. The orchard will be used as both a teaching tool and as a revenue source for the department.

Nigeria: Soybean Value Chain Project

\$12,500.00

This grant was provided to the Agriculture department of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) to enhance its Soybean Value Chain project. Now in its third year (the first two supported by grants from the Nigeria Crisis Fund), this program expanded to add 15 volunteer extension agents (VEAs). The VEAs work with farmers across northeast Nigeria and assist with technical and marketing advice. The project continued its work with women's groups and soybean processing, as well as providing quality seed and farming inputs for purchase through stores operated by EYN.

Rwanda: Pig Project

\$10,030.00

This project among the Twa people in northwest Rwanda, is in its second year. GFI partner, the Church of the Brethren in Rwanda, established a pig farm in 2019 with a GFI grant. This current round of funding builds upon past work by providing veterinary services and trainings, pig feed, and support for caretakers. Offspring are being provided to individual families as they become available. The GFI allocated a total of \$30,000 to this project over two years.

Spain: Church-based Community Garden

\$4,400.00

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 fifth year of support to this project with total funds provided exceeding \$22,000. Specifically, this grant provided funds to purchase a garden tiller, tractor rental, seeds, sprinklers, and land rental.

Spain: Church-based Community Garden

\$3,520.00

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

need. The grant was used to purchase drip irrigation hoses, land rental, seeds, water, and a mini-green house. This project received more than \$18,000 over 5 years.

Venezuela: Corn and Bean Project

\$10,310.00

This project is directed by the leadership of the Asociacion Iglesia de Los Hermanos Venezuela (Church of the Brethren in Venezuela) and directed by a professionally trained agronomist. The bean harvest will be distributed to families attending 30 churches and their neighbors, with a portion of the harvest to be sold to provide revenue for the ministries of the church in the country. Grant funds are to be used to purchase seed, fertilizer, pesticides, and for land and tractor rental.

Domestic Allocations

US: Brook Park Community COB Community Garden (Ohio)

\$1,837.00

Brook Park COB works closely with many local organizations to promote food security in its community. This grant allows the congregation to purchase lumber to build raised bed to make its garden plots more handicapped accessible.

US: Capstone 118 (New Orleans, La.) - 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 fourth year that funds for this purpose were made available to this partner.

US: GraceWay International COB Community Garden (Dundalk, Md.)

\$2,000.00

The GraceWay congregation's community garden serves a community with many African and S. American 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 third year of support for this community garden. Funds were used to buy lumber for raised beds, soil amendments, fencing, and other garden supplies.

US: Linville Creek COB Community Garden (Broadway, Va.)

\$1,000.00

Fencing materials and hoses were purchased for a new community garden. Church members plan to reach families living in government subsidized housing.

US: New Carlisle (Ohio) Community Garden

\$9,153.50

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 to purchase lumber to refurbish raised beds, as well as using part of the grant to pay some community members on a part-time basis to assist the volunteer coordinators through a casual labor fund. The project has recently taken control of a 9-acre vacant lot owned by the local school district.

US: Osage COB – School/Church Partnership (McCune, Kan.) **\$4,998.82**

This grant provided the materials to build raised beds inside an existing high tunnel (unheated greenhouse) at an alternative high school. The Osage congregation and the school work together with other community groups in a partnership called The Garden Group. Church members provided volunteer labor to construct the beds and care for plants during summer months when students are not present.

Advocacy and Administrative Contributions

US: Growing Hope Globally (GHG - Formerly Foods Resource Bank) **\$14,742.00**

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

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

Each year the GFI contributes to the publication of Bread for the World’s annual Hunger Report in support of advocacy for domestic and international food security.

US: National Farm Worker Ministry **\$1,000.00**

The National Farm Worker Ministry is a faith-based organization which supports farm workers as they organize for justice and empowerment. Each year the GFI contributes to this ministry.

Subtotal – International Allocations **\$107,159.00**

Subtotal – Domestic Allocations **\$ 21,989.82**

Subtotal – Advocacy and Administrative Contributions **\$ 16,742.00**

Total contributions, January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 **\$145,890.82**

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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