



# GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

2022

## Global Food Initiative Fund Allocations

Church of the Brethren

### International Allocations

#### Burundi: Dryland Vegetable Production Workshop

**\$4,956.00**

*A training event teaching techniques such as drip irrigation and raised bed construction for dryland vegetable production was held in July in Gitega, Burundi. A long-time GFI partner, THARS (Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services) hosted the event. The GFI sponsored the event and instruction was given by a Uganda-based instructor, working for Healing Hands International, which is headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee. Trainees came from Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo and totaled 25 people. All participants received drip irrigation kits at the conclusion of the course.*

#### Democratic Republic of Congo: Pig Project

**\$7,500.00**

*Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in the Congo) received a grant to support Seed Projects for 9 local congregations. Seed Projects are deacon-led mini development projects. These initiatives included the following agricultural and small business micro-projects: food preparation, basket weaving, pharmacy, community farming efforts to produce cassava, beans, corn, and vegetables. Initial training was provided in 2019 by staff from World Relief in a GFI-sponsored workshop. The workshop challenged participants to return to their local congregations and start small outreach projects that would serve the needs of the most vulnerable in their communities. This is the third time that Eglise des Freres has received support for Seed Projects for a total of \$18,320.*

**Ecuador: Indigenous Food Crops Project****\$9,900.00**

*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 support FBU as it upgrades its dairy production through the purchase of an automated milking machine, and pasture improvement, along with support for training in organic vegetable production, and the expansion of its plant nursery that includes both native and ornamental plants for sale to the local community.*

**Ecuador: Church-based Community Gardens****\$4,500.00**

*FBU received a second grant in 2022 to undergird a new effort to walk with 2 local churches in their efforts to raise healthier food and teach gardening skills to children and youth. One of the churches, in Llano Grande, was founded by the Church of the Brethren and is currently associated with the United Methodist denomination. The second church, in San Isidro de Cajas, has received short-term work teams for Vacation Bible School from members of the Ebenezer Church of the Brethren (Lampeter, Pa.), and is affiliated with the Church of God denomination.*

**Haiti: Tree Nursery and Agricultural Supply Store****\$14,110.00**

*In 2021, leadership of Eglise des Freres d’Haiti began constructing an agricultural supply store in the community of St. Raphael in the Central Plateau region. This new store builds on past agricultural work, shifting to an agribusiness model as part of its long-term goal of greater financial self-sufficiency. Work was begun when the current political crisis in the country forced other ministries of the church (Haiti Medical Project and the national offices of the church) to relocate from the Port au Prince area. The building project expanded to a second floor to house the other ministries. Prices also sky-rocketed for construction materials. This became the second disbursement (\$15,000 in 2021) to complete the construction and purchase agricultural supplies such as seeds, chemical and natural fertilizers, veterinary medicines, and tools, with a portion of the budget covering transportation and administrative start-up costs. Sales are not limited to the immediate community but will extend to Haitian Brethren farmers and their neighbors across the country. Two existing components of this project in St. Raphael are a tree nursery and a fishpond.*

**Nigeria: Soybean Value Chain Project****\$15,000.00**

*This grant was provided to the Agric department of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) to enhance its Soybean Value Chain project. Now in its fifth year (the first two supported by grants from the Nigeria Crisis Fund), this program supports the work of 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. The allocation covers VEA stipends, , farm inputs for VEA demonstration plots (both soybean and maize), advocacy for soybean production processing, and marketing within EN and beyond, a 10% administration fee for EYN's general operating costs is also part of the grant.*

**Nigeria: Thresher Fabrication Workshop****\$11,000.00**

*Two multi-crop threshers were constructed in one week through a 3-way collaboration between the GFI, EYN, and the Soybean Innovation Lab (a USAID Feed the Future Initiative). Eight trainees worked with instructors from Ghana at a metal working shop in Jos, Nigeria. The machines can be adapted to thresh multiple crops by changing the size of screens inside the machines. All parts can be locally sourced, and the participants can now build the machines and serve clients across the country. EYN's Agric department will own and operate the machines built during the workshop.*

**Rwanda: Grain Mill****\$15,100.00**

*GFI partner, the Church of the Brethren in Rwanda, has had numerous successful projects over the past decade, mainly focusing on crop and animal production among the Twa people. A mill was purchased, and a small building constructed to house it. Electricity will be installed, and a small piece of land purchased for the new building. The main crop to be milled is maize. The mill will also allow the church to produce pig filled for its growing pig farm.*

**Venezuela: Agriculture Projects****\$12,000.00**

*The Asociacion Iglesia de Los Hermanos Venezuela (ASIGLEH – Church of the Brethren in Venezuela) began 8 agricultural micro-projects for affiliated churches. These efforts include poultry, maize, beans, cassava, rice, and carrot production. The micro-projects are spread out across the country and will serve 600 people in 15 communities in 5 regions of the country including Indigenous people groups.*

## Domestic Allocations

### US: Lybrook Community Ministry (Cuba, N.M.)

\$2,943.00

*Lybrook Ministries (LCM) has been doing gardening work with Navajo/Diné gardeners for nearly a decade. The latest additions to the outreach were a hoop house and a mini greenhouse. These were installed at a local Navajo senior center and Chapter House. Along with the purchase of these structures, LCM also obtained gardening tools, heirloom seeds, and was able to cover the mileage costs for staff to cover large distances between LCM, the senior center, and the Chapter House.*

### US: Pleasant Dale COB – Alaska Garden Outreach (Circle, Alaska)

\$4,200.00

*Members of the Pleasant Dale congregation (Decatur, Ind.), Penny and Bill Gay, have returned to Alaska each summer for a decade, with the blessings and active support of their home church. Circle is a Gwich'n village along the Yukon River. The purpose of the grant is to purchase a hobby greenhouse, fencing, gardening tools, and to transport the greenhouse from Fairbanks to Circle.*

### US: Prince of Peace COB Community Garden (Littleton, Colo.)

\$2,917.00

*The Prince of Peace congregation is partnering with 2 local non-profit organizations, Love INC (In the Name of Christ) Littleton, and Littleton Garden Gang, by offering its land for a community garden. Many community residents live in apartments which offer no opportunities for gardening. The church provides the land, financial resources, and meeting space. Love INC recruits and selects potential gardeners, and the Littleton Garden Gang mentors the gardeners and provides technical support. Church members are intimately involved with each of the local non-profit partners.*

### US: Five Gates Church Garden (Rockford, Ill.)

\$2,500.00

*Five Gates Church is in a USDA designated Food Desert. This community garden is a partnership between the congregation and the Center for Nonviolence and Conflict Transformation (CNCT) – a ministry started by Brethren in Rockford. The congregation provides meals to the homeless and other community members in need through Thursday night suppers, Sunday afternoon lunches, and food distributions. Some produce from the garden will be included in these meals and outreach ministries. Grant funds purchased a rototiller, lumber to construct planting boxes, topsoil and compost, seeds, plans, bulbs, and garden tools.*

**US: Friendship Church of the Brethren (Linthicum, Md.)** **\$1,350.00**

*Taking seriously the challenge to be Jesus in the neighborhood, the Friendship congregation is establishing gathering activities in the neighborhood by providing time and space to spend time together, build community, and open the doors for neighbors to come and worship God. Two community gardens will be part of the movement, with a goal of refurbishing and maintaining a strong and productive garden with opportunities to involve children. One garden will be on the church property, and the second will be at a recovery house. Funds were used for the purchase of fencing, potting soil, a hose reel, landscape fabric, cement blocks for raised beds, and water at the church.*

### **Advocacy and Administrative Contributions**

**US: Bread for the World Annual Hunger Report** **\$500.00**

*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: Growing Hope Globally (GHG)** **\$5,000.00**

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

**US: National Farm Worker Ministry** **\$2,500.00**

*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.*

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Subtotal – International Allocations **\$94,066.00**

Subtotal – Domestic Allocations **\$13,910.00**

Subtotal – Advocacy and Administrative Contributions **\$ 7,500.00**

Total Allocated 2022 **\$115,476.00**

Total Contributions 2022 **\$321,082.47**

For more information on any of these programs or initiatives, please go to [www.brethren.org/gfi/stories/](http://www.brethren.org/gfi/stories/) to see copies of current issues of the GFI newsletter. The newsletter 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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