



GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE



Allocation Report

2025



Church of the Brethren

L to R, Comunidad de Fe Acuaculture, Dominican Republic; Farming God's Way, Church of the Brethren in Burundi; East Dayton (OH) Fellowship Community Garden, harvest. Bottom, East Dayton Fellowship green beans.



Batwa community members and Pastor Etienne Nsanzimana greet GFI Manager Jenn Hosler

Grant Allocations Overview

2025

- ✓ **Total distributed in 2025: \$138,364.00.**
- ✓ **International allocations totaled \$95,286 across eight grants in seven countries.**
- ✓ **Domestic allocations totaled \$35,078 across nine U.S.-based Church of the Brethren congregations in four states.**
- ✓ **In 2025, GFI contributed \$8,000 as administrative support for organizations doing advocacy and organizing on hunger, food security, and farmworker justice.**

As followers of Jesus in the Church of the Brethren, we believe that Jesus cares about our spiritual hunger and our physical hunger (e.g., Mt. 5:6; Lk 6:21; Mk 2:23-28; Jn 6:1-15, 6:35-40).

Following Jesus through faithful love and service involves addressing hunger and food insecurity.

About Global Food Initiative (GFI)

Global Food Initiative (GFI) has been a Church of the Brethren ministry for more than 40 years, empowering people to meet their nutritional needs, to farm sustainably, to feed children, and to create livelihoods. Donations to the Global Food Initiative Fund support food security and hunger-related initiatives in the US and around the world, through the power of grantmaking (allocations). Many GFI grants support global Church of the Brethren denominations as they minister in under-resourced contexts with high poverty levels, social inequality, unstable political circumstances, ongoing violence, and other challenges.



Church of Brethren in Burundi, Farming God's Way

\$138,364 Total distributed	8 International grants	7 Countries served	9 U.S. congregations
---------------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------------	--------------------------------

Your Donation Makes an Impact

Donations to the Global Food Initiative Fund supported practical, faith-rooted responses to hunger through international partners, U.S. congregations, and trusted food justice organizations—expanding access to food, clean water, sustainable agriculture, nutrition education, and livelihood opportunities.

Farmers and communities built long-term resilience through sustainable agriculture trainings, school gardens, small animal microbusinesses, and improved crop processing and storage.

Families gained more reliable food access through church food pantries, community meals, Blessing Boxes, fresh produce from church gardens, and garden education.

Clean water came closer to home for families, reducing the burden of long walks for water and supporting health, school attendance, and daily life for women and children.

The church's witness for food justice expanded through partnerships that strengthen hunger advocacy, global food security, and farm worker justice.



Akron First (OH) Church of the Brethren Blessing Box

International Grants



Tilapia ponds, Community of Faith Church of the Brethren (IHCF)

In 2025, these GFI grants supported Church of the Brethren congregations in Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington to respond to local hunger through their local church ministries.

Ministries funded by domestic grants include community gardens, garden training, food pantries, Blessing Boxes (or Little Free Pantries), community meals, and more.

Advocacy & Administrative Grants

These GFI grants supported broader hunger advocacy and partnerships through Bread for the World, Growing Hope Globally, and the National Farm Worker Ministry.

Seven countries received international grants in 2025. These grants supported Church of the Brethren partners and nongovernmental organizations in Burundi, Ecuador, Honduras, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, and Venezuela through projects including grain mills and storage containers for subsistence farmers, clean water access, agricultural extension training, school gardens and nutrition education, and church-based agricultural development.

Domestic (U.S.) Grants



East Dayton (OH) Fellowship Garden



National Farm Worker Ministry board visit with ALAS, Half Moon Bay, CA,

Burundi \$4,906.00
The Church of the Brethren in Burundi


Project - Farming God's Way trainings: This grant supported two Farming God's Way training courses for 80 farmers in two Church of the Brethren communities. The trainings introduced conservation agriculture practices that improve food security, conserve water, protect soils, and reduce reliance on costly chemical inputs through methods such as no-plow planting, cover crops, biodiverse crops, compost, and animal manure.

Farming God's Way participants celebrate in Gihanga, Burundi

Ecuador \$8,000.00
La Fundación Brethren y Unida (FBU - the United and Brethren Foundation)

Project - School garden and nutrition education:

FBU is implementing school gardens and nutrition education at two rural public high schools in Ecuador. Students and teachers are learning organic farming, nutrition, and food preparation while producing vegetables, fruits, corn, and potatoes to supplement school lunches.

The project will train 100 students and 10 teachers at two secondary schools, strengthening hands-on learning in agriculture, science, biology, and mathematics. A year-end fair will help sell organic products, promote sustainability, and support possible replication in other schools.



FBU Garden Education, Ecuador

Honduras \$35,000.00
Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG, Project Global Village)


Proyecto Aldea Global, Honduras, Poultry Raising

Project - Small animal microbusiness projects:

PAG's small animal microbusiness projects improve food supply and family income through pig and chicken projects. In 2025, 40 families received animals, training, infrastructure guidance, and technician follow-up, with a "passing on the gift" model to help another 40 families begin additional microbusiness projects. Given the difficult global funding climate, the grant also supported staff, logistics, transportation, office expenses, and overhead. PAG is a long-time GFI partner.

Nigeria

\$5,000.00

Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) The Church of the Brethren in Nigeria



EYN Agric Program, Nigeria, Training on Soybean Processing

Project - Soybean value chain project:

The Soybean Value Chain Project promotes soybean cultivation and processing as a nutritious crop that supports household food, income generation, and stronger smallholder livelihoods. In its sixth year, the 2025 grant sustained 15 Volunteer Extension Agents serving 45 communities in Adamawa and southern Borno states, helping farmers with soybean cultivation, value-chain development, and sustainable practices.

Rwanda

\$19,000.00

Church of the Brethren in Rwanda

Project - Kanembwe Poultry Farming Initiative:

The Church of the Brethren in Rwanda identified vulnerable households, including Batwa families, as especially in need of food and economic support. The Kanembwe Poultry Farming Initiative will raise chickens to increase access to protein, create jobs, train community members, and generate income for church ministries. The project will also support food distribution for hungry children. Strengthening food production in this area also supports food availability amid regional displacement linked to conflict.



Church of the Brethren in Rwanda, Kanembwe Poultry Initiative

Rwanda

\$1,780.00

Church of the Brethren in Rwanda

Project - Kanembwe Water Project:

This project provided piped water for Batwa families in Kanembwe. The Batwa are a historically marginalized ethnic group. This project eliminated a walk of more than a kilometer to collect water from the church pig farm (pictured here).

Access to nearby water improved hygiene, cooking, drinking water, safety, and daily life for the community. The closer tap reduces the burden on women and children, lowers injury risks on difficult paths, supports school attendance, and gives time back to families.



Kanembwe community members lining up to retrieve water at the church pig farm, prior to the water project.
Church of the Brethren in Rwanda.

South Africa \$15,000.00 Phahama Grain Phakama, GrainSA

Project - Maize processing and storage for subsistence farmers:

Phahama Grain Phakama (Rise, Grain, Rise) supports Black grain farmers through technical assistance and training. South Africa's agricultural sector still reflects deep economic disparities from Apartheid. This GFI grant supported a Beyond Abundance pilot project that provided shared mobile "mealie" (maize) threshers, mobile milling machines, and waterproof storage bins to help subsistence farmers reduce labor, limit post-harvest losses, and preserve maize for household food and sale. Improving maize production and storage directly strengthens household food security in poor rural communities, providing income generation, increasing economic stability, and providing capital for future harvests.

Infographic provided by Phahama Grain Phakama, illustrating the project steps and goals.



Venezuela \$19,000.00 ASIGLEH (Church of the Brethren in Venezuela)

Project - Mills for Indigenous Communities:

ASIGLEH received a grant to purchase six electric cassava mills for indigenous Amazon communities in Venezuela. The mills will reduce the labor of hand-grating cassava, support safer processing of this staple food, and make it easier for communities to produce cassava cakes for household use or sale. ASIGLEH also trained community members in mill use and maintenance.



ASIGLEH leaders presenting cassava mills to Indigenous communities in the Venezuelan Amazon

Akron, OH \$2,500.00 Akron First (OH) Church of the Brethren



Project - Community Blessing Box:

Akron First Church of the Brethren's Community Blessing Box provides free shelf-stable food to anyone in need. GFI funds helped stock the box for 12.5 months with more variety and better food choices for nearby low-income families and households with children.

soup with a message in the blessing box at Akron First (OH)

Champaign, IL \$9,200.00 Champaign (IL) Church of the Brethren

Project - Randolph Street Community Garden and Food Ministries

Grant funds supported expanding the Randolph Street Community Garden, stocking the emergency food pantry, repairing picnic tables, and student job training. The garden serves a neighborhood with limited grocery access by providing fresh vegetables to pantry recipients, garden space for households, and affordable produce through the church's Garden Market. Students in the job training provide assistance with the food pantry, garden, senior food deliveries, book exchange, clothing closet, cooking, preserving, sewing, painting, and crafts.



Champaign (IL) Church of the Brethren, Garden Market

Clayton, OH \$2,968.00 Happy Corner (OH) Church of the Brethren



Project - Monday Night Meals and Blessing Boxes:

Happy Corner's Monday Night Meal program provides a free community meal for 70-80 people, offering nutrition and fellowship. The church also hosts two Blessing Boxes that provide shelf-stable food to anyone in need.

GFI funds purchased kitchen equipment, supplies, a grocery wagon for the Blessing Boxes, food for box restocking, and groceries for Monday Night Meals.

Happy Corner (OH) Church of the Brethren, Monday Night Meal

Dayton, OH

\$7,000.00

East Dayton (OH) Fellowship



A collage of garden outreach, prepared by East Dayton Fellowship

Project - Community Gardening and Fresh Food Pantry Expansion: Grant funding allowed the congregation to establish a community garden ministry and to expand their Friday food pantry. Through this project, the church provides fresh, locally grown produce to families in need, engages unhoused neighbors in meaningful activities, and equips local residents with practical skills for long-term sustainability. Ten new raised beds were built, a garden event brought community members together, and more than 75 families received fresh produce weekly.

Ellisforde, WA \$2,500.00

Ellisforde (WA) Church of the Brethren and Tonasket Food Bank

Project - Tonasket Food Bank:

The Tonasket Food Bank, supported by Ellisforde Church of the Brethren and other local churches, serves 250-300 households weekly from nearly 600 registered households. Demand has increased as state and federal food resources have declined, with children, disabled adults, and seniors making up much of the population served.

The \$2,500 grant purchased local meat and produce, supporting both households in need and local farmers.



Volunteers move boxes of food at the Tonasket Food Bank.

Ephrata, PA \$2,500.00

Ephrata (PA) Church of the Brethren



Volunteers preparing food boxes at Mountaineers' Table, Ephrata (PA) Church of the Brethren

Project - Mountaineers' Table @ECOB:

Mountaineers' Table provides weekly food support to 120 families, purchasing most food from the Central PA Food Bank and fresh produce from a local farmers' market. Ephrata Church of the Brethren provides overhead, while volunteers operate the program.

The program serves families with children who qualify for free or reduced-price school lunches, especially over weekends and summer. This grant purchased protein foods, including nut butters and meat.



Freeport, IL \$2,500.00 Freeport (IL) Church of the Brethren

Project - Community free meal and pantry:

Freeport Church of the Brethren provides a monthly Community Free Meal from September through May, serving 70–100 meals and also supporting a local homeless shelter. The congregation recently added a small food pantry for meal attendees to help address hunger while building community. These ministries seek to address hunger and scarce resources that community members struggle with, while also promoting a sense of community and relationship building.

Hatfield, PA \$2,500.00 Hatfield (PA) Church of the Brethren

Project - Church food pantry:

Hatfield Church of the Brethren serves an average of 134 families per month (~624 people). Food pantry clients can select their own groceries in the food pantry, providing them with the dignity of choice in a time of hardship. In 2025, the church learned that it would not receive its PA State Food Purchase Program grant, leaving a pantry shortage at a time of growing need. This GFI grant was able to support the direct food purchase of beef, chicken, frozen fish products, fresh produce, and other food needs, offsetting some of the state grant shortfall.



Volunteers ready to serve at
Hatfield Church of the Brethren Food Pantry

Lancaster, PA \$3,410.00 Alpha and Omega Community Center

Project - Food Bank Ministry:

Alpha and Omega Community Center (AOCC) is a ministry of the Alpha and Omega (PA) Church of the Brethren. AOCC operates a Food Bank Ministry which serves nearly 100 families (about 500–600 people) each month in Lancaster, including single parents, elderly residents, and newly arrived immigrants facing economic hardship. Families visit once or twice monthly as needed and receive a balanced variety of food, including proteins, carbohydrates, vegetables, fruits, and staples. This grant helped purchase food and funded a new air conditioning unit for the multi-purpose room used for food distribution, workshops, congregational activities, and Vacation Bible School.



A volunteer helps a community member select food from the Food Bank Ministry, Alpha and Omega Community Center.

Advocacy and Administrative Grants

These GFI grants supported broader hunger advocacy and partnerships through Bread for the World, Growing Hope Globally, and the National Farm Worker Ministry.

Bread for the World

\$1000.00

GFI contributes annually to Bread for the World's hunger research and policy reporting, which informs churches and advocates working to address hunger in the United States and around the world. This support helps connect GFI's food security priorities with broader public policy education and advocacy.

Growing Hope Globally

\$5000.00

As a Supporting Organization, GFI provides an annual donation to Growing Hope Globally, which connects U.S. congregations and communities with smallholder farmers working toward sustainable solutions to hunger. The contribution also supports Church of the Brethren congregations that participate in Growing Projects and related education efforts.

National Farm Worker Ministry

\$2000.00

GFI contributes annually to the National Farm Worker Ministry, a faith-based partner that supports farm workers organizing for justice and improved working and living conditions. This contribution reflects GFI's commitment to food systems that honor the people who plant, harvest, process, and bring food to communities.





Thank You!

Your generous support helps turn compassion into practical action: feeding neighbors, equipping farmers, strengthening congregations, improving water access, and investing in communities working toward lasting food security.

Church of the Brethren
Global Food Initiative
1451 Dundee Ave.,
Elgin, IL 60120
1-800-323-8039
www.brethren.org/gfi

GFI Manager Jenn Hosler
jhosler@brethren.org



GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE