



INSIDE: Providing Reasons for Youth To Stay, To Lead and To Thrive – pg. 2

[www.shareagfoundation.org](http://www.shareagfoundation.org)

## OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGE



**E**xclusion and poverty are entrenched in rural communities in Central and South America where SHARE works. Personal security, human rights, crime and food insecurity are profound challenges for the impoverished rural families.

SHARE's current three year project implemented by three skilled partners with well-planned interventions is addressing these urgent problems and providing valuable opportunities.

With matched funding from two family foundations, Barrett Family Foundation and Willowool Foundation, the project is providing agriculture training and inputs (tools, seeds, trees etc.) to improve food production, develop small enterprises in rural communities, improve standards of living and address the societal violence that affects the personal security of farm families. At the end of year one, the initiative is showing excellent progress and reaching hundreds of rural families.

The skilled project implementation, management, communication and reporting by SHARE's three southern partners resulting in achievements and results according to plans.

The project is people-centred. The beneficiaries are being trained to become agents of change in their own development and the development of their communities. They participate in the learning and decision-making; they take responsibility for maintaining their project and "passing on" the knowledge to others. Because each intervention is very appropriate, the supports that SHARE provides are effective and can be sustained.

The wonderful support from donors like you, matched by an incredibly generous donation from two family foundations, allows SHARE to fund these much needed projects in the Central American Initiative and provide



TOP With a planting stick and a seed bag, youth assist the farmer to plant corn seeds under the brown, decaying guama leaves. The decomposed leaves will regenerate the depleted soil and the corn yield (staple crop for families) will be increased with this agroforestry farming practice. ABOVE The staff and volunteers of SHARE's partner in Guatemala deliver fruit trees for small orchards in isolated communities accessible by boat and rough jungle trails. A goal of the project is food security and diversity of diets.

opportunity to conquer the challenges in over 70 rural communities in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.

**CAN YOU HELP SHARE GROW?** Last year, SHARE was challenged by the two foundations supporting this project to grow our foundation. SHARE volunteers have been tirelessly writing grants, giving speeches and holding fund raising events. Our small foundation is accountable and our partners are efficient and skilled. We believe so strongly in this work that we tell everyone about our foundation. With your help SHARE can continue to grow and make a difference in our world.

# PROVIDING REASONS FOR YOUTH TO STAY, TO LEAD AND TO THRIVE

SHARE's current three year, three country project provides support to hundreds of young adults to develop small enterprises, to improve farming practices and to become leaders for positive change in their rural communities.



**Youth as Agents of Change:** In Guatemala the project managers of the SHARE initiative are young adults from the remote communities that the project serves. They are intentionally developing their capacity to be agents of change for their needy Mayan communities. With SHARE's support, they are using their skills to work with their communities to successfully improve food security and standards of living. With volunteer support, this young group skillfully manages SHARE's small food security projects that are increasing corn production and diversifying diets. With SHARE funding, the youth have introduced a wide variety of small interventions in 13 communities - green fertilizers, community orchards, corn mills, household water filters and improved stoves for family health.



**Youth as Rural Entrepreneurs:** In this SHARE project, young men and women in Honduras are empowered to provide for their families with small enterprise and increased crop production. The project collaborates with a national skills training institute (a significant achievement) to certify youth to become black smiths, welders and tin workers making horse shoes, pails and household grain storage silos. Each group is assisted to set up a small workshop. Because these youth are also small scale farmers growing their families' staple crops (corn and beans), they are also taught to make their own organic fertilizers to improve the soil. As funds become available, SHARE provides small scale irrigation systems to cooperative groups and plantings for diversification. The result, basic crops for family food can be grown in the dry season, doubling food production.



**Youth as Productive Farmers:** In the first year of the project in El Salvador, 80 farmers were trained in ecological agriculture improving production of a variety of crops on small plots of land. "We really benefited from learning how to make and use organic pesticides and fertilizers," said a young woman, spokesperson for a cooperative group growing peppers and tomatoes in shade houses. "This has improved our production and reduced our costs." With a pump and irrigation system (from the Mark Cullen and Dr. Jim Clubine's "Pumps for Food" initiative) the group draws water from a nearby stream and has produce to sell in the dry season when the market is good. The SHARE project provides training, inputs and researches the market chains.



**Youth as Community Leaders:** To address the high levels of violence from the gangs and the long term effects of civil war, SHARE's partner in El Salvador has implemented a leadership program for rural youth. The project is working with municipalities, churches, schools and police to teach the youth leadership skills preparing them to become agents for transformation in their families and rural communities. The program organizes hundreds of youth for sports and for regional and national leadership and motivational events. Participating youth will be involved in skills training to develop small rural enterprises and will be targeted for ecological agriculture training.

# SMALLHOLDER FARMERS NEED HELP



SHARE projects support farmers in developing countries to survive adverse conditions

One-third of the world's 7.3 billion people are smallholder family farmers who produce nearly 70% of all food consumed worldwide. This food is produced on small plots of land holdings (less than 5 acres) and the farm labour is done by hand in developing countries. This statistic is difficult to comprehend for those of us involved in or aware of Canada's large scale farming practices.

Even though this food production by small holder farmers is a major part of the global economy, the poorest and hungriest people on earth are often these smallholder farmers and their families. (UN report: State of Food and Agriculture 2017).

These are the families SHARE supports. These families face repeated challenges. Drought and hurricanes have recently brought hundreds of families in SHARE's project communities to crisis. The resulting food insecurity in these rural areas continues to be the reason for much of the current migration and certainly the reason for a lot of misery. "One in five of our youth will attempt illegal migration," stated the community leader in El Salvador. "They will leave

silently at night." "Families reduced their meals to one a day. It was very difficult for them," SHARE's partner commented during the drought in the Dry Corridor of Honduras. Recently in poverty stricken northeast Brazil, during the severest drought in fifty years, farmers had no water for their animals. In the dry cold highlands of Bolivia farmers are being forced to adapt production practices due to severe changes in weather patterns. Selling meager assets and borrowing at high interest rates puts these families' future at even more risk. Families in this situation need seeds to replant staple crops. In Haiti SHARE supplied garden seeds after a hurricane through donations directed through a committee of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

SHARE's support helps peasant farmers recover from crisis, one family... one community at a time.

In 2016, over 42.5 million people in the Latin America and Haiti did not have enough food for their daily caloric needs. Sadly, this is an increase in numbers of hungry people. SHARE's projects support families to feed themselves in Bolivia, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti and Honduras.



# SHARE Maximizes, Multiplies and Expands Your Gift

Your donation helps to SUSTAIN AND GROW SHARE's important work!



Small Livestock Up to \$150



Poultry, fish, rabbits \$25



Seeds, trees \$20 - \$100



Water filters \$200



Education up to \$400



Agriculture Training \$100



Equipment, tools \$100



Youth Skills Training \$100



Cow Up to \$700



Adult Literacy \$100



Irrigation Up to \$1200



Improved stoves \$50 - \$200

**SHARE THANKS:** All donors and all who helped with and attended fundraisers.

**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:** Ray and Ellen Thomson and family for hosting the SHARE Corn Roast, local greenhouses and Cheltenham Garden Club for their donations and help at our plant sale, Retired Teachers of Ontario, Fergus Elora Rotary and Women's World Inter-Church Council of Canada for generous grants.

**SHARE'S HEARTFELT THANKS TO:** An anonymous donor for a very generous gift for adult literacy, the Barrett Family Foundation and Willowool Foundation for their donation for matched funding supporting SHARE's work in 3 countries, the Beaty Family Foundation (funds held within Oakville Community Foundation) - **Platinum Plus Sponsor:** Green Tractors Inc. Barb and Karl Davis

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Please notify us by email [info@shareagfoundation.org](mailto:info@shareagfoundation.org)  
or by phone: 905 838 0897 or 1 888 337 4273

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. Mar. 24, 2018 @ 1:15PM - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Mayfield United Church, 12496 Dixie Rd, Caledon, ON. North of Mayfield Rd

Please check SHARE's web site [www.shareagfoundation.org](http://www.shareagfoundation.org) for upcoming events for 2018.

## DONATE

**ONLINE:** [www.shareagfoundation.org](http://www.shareagfoundation.org) (look for Canada Helps button)

**OR BY MAIL:** S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation, 14110 Kennedy Rd, Caledon ON, L7C 2G3

Give a SHARE gift for the holiday season for those who have everything.  
Give in memoriam or for a special occasion.

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