



SHARE'S NEW CIDA PROJECT



ABOVE A new SHARE/CIDA project will work to reduce poverty with activities in 4 components: agriculture training and inputs, adult literacy, skills training for youth and stove building. The lives of over 2,246 families will be improved.

CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency, Canada's lead agency for development assistance will partner with SHARE in a new project that will work to alleviate poverty in 95 rural communities in El Salvador and Honduras. The project will use a multi pronged approach to reduce poverty and improve the lives of over 11, 620 men, women and children. Families will be assisted by agriculture

extension technicians to produce a variety of agriculture products to improve their families' nutrition and to sell in small local markets; farming inputs such as seeds, cuttings, chickens, irrigation equipment and tools will be provided. Adult literacy lessons will be provided in local communities for men, women and youth. Reading and math, knowledge of family health, the environment and practical life skills are included in the

curriculum. Vocational training will prepare youth to work in small community based enterprises that will supplement farm family income. Barriers to women's participation will be removed by building improved stoves that reduce wood gathering and remove harmful indoor smoke.

All funds raised by SHARE for this three year project will be matched 3 to 1 with CIDA funds.

MEET THE MARK CULLEN CHALLENGE FOR THE NEW CIDA PROJECT! SEE PAGE 4.

THE OTHER WATER CYCLE

BY CRAIG FRAYNE

“The children in rural communities in El Salvador are always getting sick with stomach cramps and diarrhea,” says Ana Maria when asked about the water in the villages she visits to manage SHARE’s literacy program.

The “other water cycle”, the cycle of unclean drinking water, sickness and poverty, is a deadly relationship that disproportionately affects the poor. Drinking unclean water that contains harmful bacteria, viruses, and parasites contributes to 80% of illness in developing-countries causing 1.8 million annual deaths around the world (World Health Organization). Young children are most vulnerable but everyone is affected in the isolated rural communities where SHARE works. Parasites in contaminated water consume nutrients, aggravate malnutrition, and hamper physical development. The repeated sickness keeps women and men from their work and their children from school thus perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

“Simple techniques for treating water at home and storing it in safe containers could save a huge number of lives each year”. Furthermore, a recent study found

that there are returns of \$2 to \$52 for each \$1 invested in household water and sanitation. (UNICEF)

To end this misery and to break this poverty cycle SHARE is funding a cost effective solution, a household biosand water filter, an appropriate, simple to use, durable technology. The biosand water filter, a Canadian invention, has been successfully used for over 20 years in the developing world. (<http://www.cawst.org/en/resources/biosand-filter>) As the unsafe water flows through layers of sand and gravel natural processes eliminate contaminants.

This new SHARE program is working in impoverished Guatemalan homes. Families assist a trained mason to build the cement water filter. The education and follow up program, managed by SHARE’s partner, Loving Arms/Brazos Amorosos, are essential for long term effectiveness. Worming medicine is given, a covered pail is provided to eliminate recontamination and a schedule for long term monitoring is set up. Families immediately have improved health and energy. Men and women have increased productivity and their children’s school attendance improves; less of the families’ meager income is spent on medicines.

A biosand water filter transforms lives!



WHAT IS THE COST OF CLEAN WATER?

A biosand water filter, worming medicine, a covered storage pail and the essential education and long term follow up visits cost approximately \$220 per family.

THANK YOU!

Your generous donations have funded 17 new projects in 6 countries: Haiti, Bolivia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Brazil, Mexico



ABOVE Christa McAvoy (on left) and Camille Black present the Junior Farmers’ donation to Murray Brownridge and Les Frayne (on right). SHARE appreciated the honour of being the Junior Farmers’ Association of Ontario Charity for 2011 and the support of our Gold Sponsors: Green Tractor Inc., Barb & Karl Davis and RBC Dominion Securities, Steve Robinson & Associates.

LEFT “My name is Carmen Sanjay and I am from the village of Paraxaj, Guatemala. I received my water filter on December 2011 and since the day that we started drinking the water we no longer suffered stomach aches. Every family in my villages that has already received a filter is so happy due that their lives have improved so much; they are no longer ill. And the other families that have not yet received a filter are anxious to be part of this.”

WORKING COOPERATIVELY EMPOWERS RURAL GROUPS

With a thick, long stick in his hand and a bag of bean seeds slung around his shoulder, Vicente (pictured right) demonstrates how he and ten of his fellow villagers walk in rows up the steep slopes of his small farm poking shallow holes in the soil and dropping seeds into each hole. With only a machete, a pack horse and the essential support of his farm neighbours at key times in the farming season, Vicente manages his productive small fields in the traditional Mayan way providing corn and beans for his large, extended family. Out of necessity, like Vicente, small scale farmers around the world have learned that for survival they must work cooperatively.

Rural cooperatives and informal associations of farmer groups are a worldwide social and business organizing principle promoting equity, social integration and empowering people to find their own solutions to achieve sustainability.

The SHARE cattle herds established

in El Salvador several years ago are an outstanding example of successful farmer cooperatives. Groups of farmers from eight communities, settled on suitable ranch land after the civil war, were given small cattle herds by SHARE. In each community farmers worked together to care for the cattle on the communal land; ongoing agriculture technical assistance was provided by a strong southern partner with expertise in agriculture training and cooperative management. The “pass on principle” was rigorously applied to this project resulting in growth over the years from the 8 initial cattle herds, a total of 80 cattle, to the present 24 herds of 466 cattle.

In Brazil, SHARE has provided training and inputs for dairy, cashew, honey and organic seed producers organized in cooperative groups. SHARE also provided loans and grants for groups of vegetable gardeners to purchase trucks to assist in transporting their produce to market.

A SHARE loan recently granted to a



large shrimp farmers’ cooperative of 668 families in El Salvador who are organized into 23 groups will improve their ability to compete in the domestic market by producing their own shrimp feed and shrimp larvae stock. Over 3,000 family members will benefit from the income this project will generate.

In 2012, the United Nations “International Year of Cooperatives”, SHARE will continue to work with groups of marginalized farmers who, by working together, are able to lift their families out of poverty with dignity and self determination.



Poultry projects are a common enterprise for groups of women in Central and South America to manage cooperatively.



Farmers in an association in Bolivia will work with improved efficiency using a new potato sorter funded by SHARE.



Applying the “pass on principal” has resulted in growth of the cattle cooperatives in Brazil and El Salvador



With pots, pans and renovations to basic facilities, women in Brazil have cooperatively produced, preserved and sold jams and baking for local markets, supplementing small farm family incomes.



A very successful tomato green house enterprise in Guatemala, managed by the Loving Arms/Brazos Amorosos organization is providing groups of women with income from sales to local restaurants.



Groups of women work in sewing and craft cooperatives. The women make school uniforms, crafts for tourists or clothing to sell locally. These cooperatives also provide valuable social support for isolated and disadvantaged rural women.

YOUR DONATION WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

YOUR GENEROSITY WILL HELP FUND A SHARE PROJECT.

cows • goats • sheep • rabbits • poultry • pigs • seeds • tools • fruit trees
irrigation equipment • training in agriculture • improved • stoves • water filters
adult literacy lessons • vocational training for youth • high school tuition fees
micro credit for a small rural enterprise

DONATE

Online at:

www.shareagfoundation.org

Or by mail:

**S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation,
14110 Kennedy Road, Caledon ON, L7C 2G3**

*Provide hope and opportunity with a meaningful gift.
Gift cards are sent to the recipient if you request and
provide information.*

COMING EVENTS

MAY 3 COPETOWN DINNER AND LIVE AUCTION, Lions Community Centre, Copetown. 6:45 pm. \$35.00/person. Contact 1-888-337-4273 or Peter 905-648-1345

MAY 12 WACKY CARD NIGHT Spirit Tree Estate Cidery, 1137 Boston Mills Road. 7:00 pm.. \$20/person. Contact 905-838-0897 or Renie 905-584-2584

JUNE 2 ANNUAL PERENNIAL PLANT SALE Sharing Hands Ladies Group, 14409 Creditview Road, Cheltenham. 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Contact Barb Rank 905-838-2441

JULY 16 ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT Guelph Lakes Golf and Country Club July 16th 2012 Call Craig 905-866-2964 or ENTER ONLINE

SEPT 7 & 8 CABARET CONCERT 7:30 pm. Hosted by West Caledon Rotary Club at Alloa Public School 1248 Mayfield Rd., Caledon. \$25/person. Contact Tom Dolson 905-843-2052 or S.H.A.R.E.'s office 1-888-337-4273 or 905-838-0897

SEPT. 9 ANNUAL CORN ROAST for the scholarship fund, 3 – 7pm. CHANGE IN LOCATION to Raefield Farm, hosted by Ellen and Ray Thomson, 5231 County Road #27 between Rockwood and Brucedale. Bring a lawn chair. Enjoy walks around a working dairy farm, visit the dairy barn, swim, go on the hayride, and of course enjoy the delicious food.

NOV. 3 ANNUAL DINNER DANCE, Live & Silent Auction 6:30 pm. Speranza Banquet Hall, 510 A Deerpark Dr., Brampton, ON. Doors open for silent auction at 5:30pm. \$75/person with \$40 tax receipt. Call 905-838-0897 or 888-337-4273 for tickets or to sponsor a table.

NOV. 25 TORONTO WELSH MALE CHOIR in concert 2:00 pm. At St. Paul's United Church, 30 Main Street South, Brampton, ON. Contact 1-888-337-4273.

THE MARK CULLEN CHALLENGE

Mark Cullen, SHARE's patron, challenges SHARE to raise 'new funds' from existing donors and new donors. He will match any newly pledged donations to a maximum of \$10,000 each year for the next 5 years. Mark's challenge will enable SHARE to assist more rural families, to plan longer term projects and to fund our share of the new CIDA project.

\$10,000 of donors' newly pledged funds, matched by \$10,000 from Mark and Mary Cullen and then multiplied by CIDA's 3 to 1 matched funding will result in \$80,000 each year for the new CIDA project!



You can indicate your signed pledge on the back of the enclosed donor form and send it in to SHARE.

A BIG thank you to Isabelle and the Harmer family for hosting the Annual Corn Roast for the high school scholarship program for twelve years. Hundreds have enjoyed the warm hospitality and given generously to this important fund. Please note the change in location for the Corn Roast for 2012 and come along to the Thomson farm at Rockwood.



SHARE News is published twice a year.

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