



## BIOFORTIFIED CORN BOOSTS NUTRITION

**F**ifty percent of Mayan children in Guatemala under five years of age suffer chronic malnutrition. These children may get enough food to feel full but not enough nutrients. This “hidden hunger” results in stunted mental and physical growth. Guatemala ranks fifth in the world for childhood stunting.

Like their ancestors before them, subsistence Mayan farmers in Guatemala grow the corn consumed in their families’ corn based diet. To improve on this low nutrient diet, the SHARE project is working in 14 remote Mayan communities with several food security interventions including fruit and vegetable production. Now the project also includes growing a new variety of corn – biofortified corn.

Following the successful development of biofortified seeds for Africa, and after years of research and plant breeding by the world’s best seed scientists, a new biofortified corn variety for Guatemala

was developed. Field trials were completed in a variety of zones of the country. Then the new corn passed taste and cooking tests. This new biofortified corn has two and a half times the quality protein of the traditional corn and 50% more zinc, an essential nutrient for the growth and health of young children. This biofortified corn has the potential to reduce malnutrition without changing the traditional diet.

For these subsistence farmers it was important that the corn is high yielding, low cost, drought resistant and that the variety is open pollinated. This means that farmers can save the seeds each year for planting the next crop and can share seeds with neighbours.

Last fall SHARE’s partner in eastern Guatemala attained biofortified seed for 60 farmers in the SHARE project communities. The technician working in the SHARE project provided training and

This biofortified corn crop, planted and harvested by hand, has the potential to reduce malnutrition without changing the traditional diet.



SHARE’s partner in eastern Guatemala attained biofortified seed for over 60 farmers in the 14 communities in the SHARE project.

assistance and is tracking results. The harvest was good and the farmers were pleased with the crop.

Biofortified seed – transformational, sustainable agricultural development!

**For more information: [www.harvestplus.org/biofortification-nutrition-revolution-now](http://www.harvestplus.org/biofortification-nutrition-revolution-now)**

**SHARE works to build partnerships and projects that have long term, sustainable results.**



These farmers with Mark Cullen are part of a group of 22 farmers who share this pump for irrigating staple crops in the dry season. SHARE's partner continues to provide extension services to farmers using the irrigation systems provided in "Pumps for Food."



This cooperative continues to pump water from a small nearby stream to irrigate peppers and tomatoes for city markets all year round thanks to the irrigation system funded in the "Pumps for Food" project.

## CHECK UP ON SUSTAINABILITY IN THE "PUMPS FOR FOOD" PROJECT



A group of producers are carefully controlling their use of water (a scarce resource in this semi-arid area) while irrigating market produce in a small shade house, small gardens and in these containers.

SHARE is constantly checking on the ongoing progress of prior projects to assess effectiveness and long term results. SHARE checks for sustainability.

When Mark Cullen and his friend Dr. Jim Clubine joined SHARE to visit a cooperative farm in a remote area of the Dry Corridor of El Salvador, they immediately saw the potential of the small scale irrigation system that SHARE had recently funded there. Mark and Jim raised funds for the "Pumps for Food" initiative which, over 3 years, supplied pumps, pipes and sprinklers to many farmer groups in Honduras and El Salvador.

This year, SHARE requested a report to determine if the irrigation systems

are functioning. Our checkup showed that the cooperative groups are still carefully maintaining the irrigation systems. SHARE's partners maximized the potential of the intervention by providing technical assistance, training to make ecological fertilizers and by assisting with marketing. Farmers doubled production of staple food crops by producing in the dry season. Some systems have ensured continuous production of vegetables in market gardens providing much needed income.

It is gratifying to know that the "Pumps for Food" project is being sustained as planned. *(To view SHARE's video on Irrigation Projects, google SHARE Agriculture Foundation on You Tube.)*

## THANKS FOR HELPING SHARE MEET THE CHALLENGE!

For two years SHARE has met the challenge from the two foundations providing matched funding to raise an additional \$50,000 of new funding as part of SHARE's portion for the project. SHARE has worked tirelessly

and successfully to raise these funds. The Barrett Family and Willowool Foundations are donating funds to SHARE's three year project working with long time effective partners in over 70 communities in Guatemala,

Honduras and El Salvador. This project is on budget and on track for planned interventions. With your help SHARE will meet the challenge for the third year and continue to make a difference in our world.



The interventions in the CAI project (Central American Initiative) improve food production, income and well being of families. The project intentionally includes youth and women.

# SUSTAINABILITY IN SHARE CATTLE HERDS



LEFT The descendants of the cattle that SHARE sent to Brazil by plane in 1977 are still providing milk to the poor in northeast Brazil. ABOVE Thank you for the milk! Photo from SHARE archives.

## AN AMAZING TESTAMENT TO SUSTAINABILITY

BY BOB THOMAS

“It was a bold venture for a newly-organized group” stated Hugh Beaty. In his historical booklet MORE THAN A VISION, Hugh outlines the many challenges facing SHARE’s first project in 1977 of sending 38 Holstein heifers and 3 bulls by plane to an agricultural college in Mossoro, an impoverished area in arid northeast Brazil where lack of protein was resulting in high infant mortality. David Armstrong had heard about this problem and helped organize local Ontario dairy farmers in the “leap of faith” to make SHARE’s first project a reality.



Sister Ellen

During Hugh & Melba Beaty’s two years in Mossoro coordinating the project, they met Sister Ellen by chance at a bus station and learned how this German

Franciscan nun had come to Mossoro to help homeless street kids. Hugh arranged for some milk from the SHARE cows to go to Ellen’s “Home for Poor Children” every day to assist in her program. Some of the offspring from the herd are still auctioned every year to raise funds to maintain the herd of 65 animals and the milk is still ‘passed on’ to the poor. Ellen stated, “We

are still getting 8 - 10 litres of milk every day.”

It was a highlight of the 2018 Brazil monitoring trip to again meet with Ellen and see the descendants of the first SHARE project. Ellen and her sister continue to operate a medical clinic, feed the homeless, provide skills training to youth and necessities to prisoners and the elderly in hospital. Oh...one more thing. Ellen also cares for numerous stray dogs, cats and abandoned donkeys in the “true spirit of St Francis”. (Read about Ellen’s Lar da Criança Pobre de Mossoró in the internet.)

This is an amazing testament to the sustainability of SHARE’s first project and long term ‘pass on’!

## OUT OF ABJECT POVERTY

In 2018, SHARE visited a well-cared-for cattle herd in El Salvador (see photo on left). There are now 18 cooperatively held herds like this and one or two cattle in 84 communities all as a result of ‘pass on’ from the 8 original herds funded by SHARE over 15 years ago. In 2012, SHARE funded cattle for a new dairy co-op in Guatemala that has used ‘pass on’ to new members to increase the herd. Families have nutrition and income from cheese sales. (See photo on right.)



Partners in both countries testify that SHARE cattle herds have raised many families out of abject poverty.



# Can You Help Sustain SHARE's Important Work?

BY USING VOLUNTEER EFFORTS, "PASS ON", EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS AND WITH GENEROUS MATCHED FUNDING, SHARE WORKS TO MAXIMIZE YOUR GIFT.

- Give regularly to provide ongoing support
- Give a legacy gift to sustain SHARE's work into the future
- Ask about matched funding or give to general funds
- Choose a favourite project

## ONGOING PROGRAM AND PROJECT NEEDS

Eco stove – \$200	Youth skills training – \$100
Water filters – \$50-200	Literacy – \$100
Trees/orchard – \$35 - \$400	Teen scholarship – to \$350
Seeds and tools – \$50 - \$100	Micro credit – to \$400
Irrigation system – to \$1,200	Tool kits for youth enterprise – \$100
Goat – \$150	Cattle – to \$900
Chickens – \$35 - \$100	

## ALL SHARE EVENTS FOR 2018

**March 3 – Wacky Card Afternoon**, 1:00pm, Mayfield United Church, 12496 Dixie Road, Caledon, \$20

**March 24 – Annual General Meeting**, Mayfield United Church, 12496 Dixie Road, Caledon. (Just north of Mayfield Road). 1:15 p.m.

**April 12 – Trivia Night**, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tracks Brew Pub, 60 Queen Street East, Brampton, \$15

**April 19 – Copetown Annual Charity Banquet for SHARE**, Copetown Community Centre, 1950 Governors Road (east of Hwy 52), Doors open 5:30 p.m., Dinner at 6.00 p.m., Cost: \$50 with tax receipt for half, Contact Peter Findlayson 519-647-0647 or Kathy 905-648-3479

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 26 & 27 – Annual Plant and Mulch Sale**, Cheltenham General Store, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 14386 Creditview Road, Cheltenham. Contact Joe @ 1-905-838-0897 or 1-888-337-4273

**July 16 – SHARE Annual Golf Tournament**, Caledon Golf and Country Club, 2121 Olde Base Road, Caledon. 10:00 a.m. registration Shotgun start at 12.00 Cost: TBA. Call Joe 1-905-838-0897 or 1-888-337-4273 or info@shareagfoundation.org

**Sept. 9 – Annual Corn Roast for Scholarship Fund**, 3 - 7pm, Raefield Farm, 5231 County Road #27 (between Rockwood and Brucedale). Music, farm walks, swimming, hayride. Bring a lawn chair. Call Ellen Thomson 519-856-9953

**Nov. 3 – Dinner & Auction**, Embassy Grand Convention Centre 8800 The Gore Road, Brampton, 5:30 pm. Contact Joe @ 1-905-838-0897 or 1-888-337 for tickets or to sponsor a table.

**Do you have ideas for fundraising? Do you have contacts with funding organizations, foundations, churches or clubs who might assist SHARE?**



Marisol of Bolivia says she "is producing for her children with all her love" in her new garden with a new water tank and irrigation hoses supplied in the SHARE project. On behalf of all SHARE's grateful beneficiaries, we thank all of our donors for their gifts of hope!

## SHARE'S HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO:

- To the **WILLOWOOL FOUNDATION AND THE BARRETT FAMILY FOUNDATION** for matched funding supporting SHARE's work in three countries.
- To many incredibly **GENEROUS DONORS**
- To an **ANONYMOUS DONOR** for a very generous gift that is funding a second year of adult literacy for over 300 illiterate adults in 20 rural communities in El Salvador
- To the **BEATY FAMILY FOUNDATION** (funds held within Oakville Community Foundation) for ongoing support
- To the **Copetown Lions Club** and their hard working committee for again hosting their fundraising dinner and auction for SHARE
- To \* Each volunteer \*All who organized or attended fund raisers
- \* **Platinum Sponsor:** Green Tractors Inc. Barb and Karl Davis
- \* **Gold Sponsor:** RBC Dominion Securities (Steve Robinson & Associates) \* To all organizations for grants

## DONATE

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

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

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