



S.H.A.R.E. News

SENDING HELP AND RESOURCES EVERYWHERE

MAY 2020

INSIDE: Farming Is Not Cancelled – PG. 4

www.shareagfoundation.org

**WE CANNOT GO AROUND THIS.
WE MUST GO THROUGH THIS TOGETHER.**

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FAITH AND HOPE

HOPE IS NOT CANCELLED

Dear Supporters,

It is spring, the season of growth in our gardens and on our farms, the season of anticipation and hope in our hearts.

Our Canadian farmers continue their vital work during the Covid -19 pandemic and we are grateful. Farmers in developing countries will also work to feed their families through this difficult time, working on their small plots with many challenges. Every farmer must plant now so there is not a long term food security crisis in their impoverished communities.

We know that SHARE's interventions, supported in the past by incredibly generous donors are now, more than ever, critical to the wellbeing of many vulnerable people. During this pandemic, the lack of health information, health care and social supports are augmenting the challenges for families in developing countries.

SHARE thanks you for your donations that provided water for crops. Irrigation systems continue to provide water for crops during seasonal droughts. Families have food because of this intervention.

Thank you for supporting training. Farmers in remote communities continue to use the information delivered in many workshops in the past by extension specialists. Hundreds of farmers have learned low cost ecological interventions to improve depleted soils. They have received improved seeds, trees and small animals to diversify their production.

Thank you for providing clean water and access to water. Water filters continue to prevent illness in very vulnerable families.

Through the years, SHARE has invested in people. Local leaders called promoters were trained in each community to ensure

a communication system for management and the sustainability of projects.

SHARE's sustained support has developed capacity in partner organizations to train staff and to strengthen their ability to advocate locally and even nationally for peasant farmers. SHARE's support empowered local organizations and has been a catalyst for other good things to happen through these partners.

Thanks to SHARE's dedicated volunteers and donors, SHARE's work continues to benefit vulnerable families through difficult times. We are grateful and honoured beyond words.

**With gratitude for all your support,
SHARE Board of Directors**



LEFT How do you do frequent hand washing when you don't have running water in your home? Here is the ingenious "TIPPY TAP" hand washing station. SHARE's partner in Haiti has installed over 1,000 tippy taps to help meet the great need and get the health message across. To all of you everywhere, stay healthy. MIDDLE Women sell small amounts of much needed items from the "business package" they received in the SHARE project. Funds earned go to preventing reoccurrence of malnutrition in their children. RIGHT In the SHARE project women receive seeds, tools and assistance from the agriculture technician to grow nutritious vegetables and fruit trees for better nutrition for families.

FOOD AND FUNDS PREVENT MALNUTRITION IN HAITI

Every caregiver that brings a malnourished child for treatment to a nutrition centre in northern Haiti receives training and critical information to improve family income and health during their inpatient stay.

Then the caregiver, usually a mother or grannie, is supported with training, support and resources to produce food and have a small income. In SHARE's project, women receive a micro business package of goods to sell in small amounts in their neighbourhoods, items that every Haitian household needs such as oil, matches, salt, rice or beans. It is

common for families in Haiti to purchase small amounts of food each day, living "hand to mouth". With funds from their sales, the mothers are able to keep food on the table and prevent malnutrition from reoccurring.

In SHARE's project areas, prices for staple foods has greatly increased during this pandemic causing great hardship.

The same women are supported in the SHARE project to plant a garden with nutritious vegetables and fruit trees. The women receive seeds and tools and extension visits for support. Each woman agrees to train 5 more women in their neighbourhood to establish their own garden.

SHARE's project in Haiti is providing strategies for women to end malnutrition in their families with nutritious *food* from their gardens and *funds* from the micro businesses.

DOUBLING DOWN IN CRISIS

SHARE volunteers have always worked effectively out of home offices. Our work continues and we have connected by video conference for meetings and the Annual General Meeting.

Our partners overseas are working under many restrictions. They continue to communicate with us and stand strong to support communities that have no other supports. As we hear of current food shortages we realize that SHARE's work is even more important. We are doubling down on our search for grants to assist with project initiatives.

SHARE IS GROWING!

To meet the organization's needs, the SHARE Board of Directors has filled the following volunteer positions: Executive Director, Donor Relations, Corporate Fund Raiser, Grants Officer and Chief Financial Officer. Big thanks to these skilled and willing volunteers. (See p.4 for details.)

CACTUS FOR

FOOD & FODDER



Water scarcity and rangeland degradation are threatening sheep production in the high, arid plains of Bolivia. The soils on the remote small farms are very poor and it is increasingly hard for farming families to survive there relying on their sheep flocks and small fields of potatoes and wheat.

The cactus plant has been used in other countries and in dry areas of Bolivia as animal fodder and as an important source of water for animals. A few years ago, on a trip to visit a SHARE sheep and goat project in the drought area of northeast Brazil, the Bolivian agriculture specialists saw how they could introduce cactus in the dry areas of their country in a SHARE project. The specialists held “field schools” for 50 farmers eager to adapt their farming practices and made arrangements with the local municipality to assist with the “pass on”.

Cactus plants take a few years to grow but once established the plants are an evergreen crop that can be used year round. The women, who traditionally care for the sheep herds, are now harvesting the cactus, cutting, chopping, and carrying the cactus to feed their sheep, usually mixing it with wheat straw.

Each farmer’s field was planted with a variety of cactus suitable for sheep fodder

TOP LEFT Cactus is an evergreen crop that can be used year round but is particularly valued as animal fodder during the dry season.

TOP RIGHT Cactus leaves are chopped and carried by the women to feed their flocks of sheep.

RIGHT This cactus produces a colourful fruit called cactus pear, which has nutrition for the families but must be carefully peeled.

BOTTOM RIGHT Cactus is a sustainable crop that can help sheep farmers deal with frequent droughts in high plains of Bolivia. The plants are grown by planting a leaf.

Cactus plants take a few years to grow but once established the plants are an evergreen crop that can be used year round.

and also a variety of cactus that produces fruits for consumption by the families.

With the help of the municipality, the farmers in the SHARE project have “passed on” leaves to establish another 55 acres of cactus plants in another community to benefit 44 families.



HOPE AND FOOD SECURITY

We hope this newsletter finds you safe and healthy. These uncertain times have been very difficult for many. There is much fear, suffering and loss, especially among the very poor with no reserves. We are grateful to all of our donors. Your gifts bring HOPE and FOOD SECURITY.

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

- Support a project that touches your heart
- Give monthly to provide ongoing support
- Give a legacy gift or stocks

ONGOING PROGRAM AND PROJECT NEEDS

WATER FILTER: \$50

SEEDS, TOOLS: \$30

FRUIT TREES/ORCHARD:
\$35 to \$400

IRRIGATION FOR A GROUP:
\$200 to \$1,200

GOAT FOR HAITI: \$80

TEEN SCHOLARSHIP:
up to \$400

YOUTH SKILLS TRAINING:
\$250

AGRICULTURE
TECHNICIAN
SERVICES:
up to \$5,000



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 30 & 31 – Annual Plant Sale, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Cheltenham General Store – 14386 Credit view Road, Cheltenham.

JULY 20 – Annual Golf Tournament, Guelph Lakes Golf Club, \$150 with \$50 tax receipt. (Late registration after July 12 is \$165). Includes green fees, cart, lunch and dinner. Competitive and fun divisions. To register, call 905-838-0897 or 888-337-4273 or email funds to: share.treasurer19@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 13 – Fall Corn Roast, family event for Education Fund. 3:30 – 7:00 p.m. at Raefield Farm, 5231 County Road #27 (between Bruceedale and Rockwood). By donation. Food, music, farm walks, swimming, hayride. Bring a lawn chair. Call Ellen Thomson 519-856-9953 or Marg Frayne 519-843-3274.

NOVEMBER 7 – Dinner Dance with Silent and Live Auction, 5:30 p.m. Embassy Grand Convention Centre, 8800 The Gore Road, Brampton. \$100 with \$40 tax receipt. Contact: Joe Gray (905)-838-0897 or (888) 337-4273 for tickets, to sponsor a table or to donate to the Silent and Live Auctions.

Please phone or check the events page on our website for updated notices. Some events may need to be cancelled due to regulations during the pandemic.

DONATE

ONLINE: www.shareagfoundation.org

MAIL: S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation,
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E-TRANSFER: share.treasurer19@gmail.com

Farming is Not Cancelled: SHARE's Work Continues



Recently, six months into the Families and Land 3 year project, all objectives were being met by the four skilled partners working in Haiti, El

Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Project monitoring trips were made to El Salvador and Guatemala by project managers, Craig Frayne and Carl Fletcher and John Moore, a new board member. As always, SHARE stays in touch regularly with all partners. Because SHARE's grass roots partners are trusted by their membership they have been able to support their communities in critical ways through the pandemic. Their support to their communities will sustain SHARE's work through this period.

For every \$1 raised by SHARE (through your donations and SHARE's fund raising events), the Willowool and Barrett Family Foundations are donating \$1.75 to the Families and Land project. SHARE is very, very grateful for this support.

All donations are important to SHARE's work. SHARE is making a great effort to fund raise in many ways through grant writing, planned giving arrangements and monthly donations.

SHARE'S HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO:

Willowool and Barrett Family Foundations and other granting foundations, Beaty Family Foundation (funds held within the Oakville Community Foundation), OPSEU and OECTA

Platinum Sponsor - Green Tractors Inc., Barb and Karl Davis.

Gold Sponsor - RBC Dominion Securities, Steve Robinson and Assoc.

Silver Sponsor - Egan Funeral Home Inc., the Egan Family,

Please support SHARE's work if you are able.

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