



S.H.A.R.E. News

SENDING HELP AND RESOURCES EVERYWHERE

MAY 2011

INSIDE: Stewards of the Environment – pg. 3

www.shareagfoundation.org

JFAO PROVINCIAL CHARITY 2011

“Building Leaders. Building Communities.”



Katie Savage, SHARE volunteer, Craig Lonsdale, SHARE Director, and Justin Williams (on the right) from the Junior Farmers’ Association of Ontario at the JFAO annual March conference and meeting in London, Ontario where SHARE was voted by members as the Provincial Charity for 2011.

The Junior Farmers’ Association of Ontario has selected SHARE to be their Provincial Charity for 2011. Over 25 affiliated Junior Farmers’ clubs across Ontario will champion a SHARE agriculture project for their fund raising efforts and SHARE will promote the JFAO and help to develop their theme for the year “Around the World: Imagine the Possibilities.” SHARE Director, Craig Lonsdale, former Junior Farmer, noted that the two organizations have common purposes – “building future rural leaders through self help and working for better rural communities.” In her presentation to the 80 Junior Farmers on the decision-making panel, Katie Savage explained that, “SHARE supports men, women and rural youth in developing countries by providing inputs, extension training for small agriculture projects and education to strengthen farm families and communities.”

The Junior Farmers’ Association of Ontario believes that “farmers hold a unique and important role in shaping the future of Ontario” and now, by partnering with SHARE, the Junior Farmers will positively impact the lives of the rural poor in a developing country as they play a role in Canada’s development work. (See www.jfao.on.ca)

The highlight of Jane Collin’s awareness trip to Belize was visiting with the scholarship students at several high schools and reading these thank you notes written in appreciation of SHARE’s assistance.

“Your support means a lot and I will always remember your kindness.” Evelia

“You have helped me realize a dream of getting a high school education. Thank you for your wonderful help.” Celia

“If it wasn’t for your kind heart, I believe I wouldn’t be studying.” Elme





Micro Credit ... *A Bridge to Sustainability*

Gerivaldi has quit his hazardous job of harvesting sisal. This manual labour in the droughted area of Brazil is low paying and does not meet his family's daily basic needs. So Gerivaldi borrowed a small loan, about \$600, from the SHARE supported Santa Luz micro credit fund. He built a shed, bought 50 chickens and feed and converted 300 square meters of his back yard into a "profit centre". He is now on his third batch of chickens and can't keep up to demand. He was sold out at Christmas and has also added a flock of 70 egg layers and sells four dozen eggs daily. "Actually," he says, "the income from the eggs pays the total feed bill so the meat bird sales are really all profit. And SHARE's ag techs showed me

how to use locally available plants which has reduced my feed costs."

Gerivaldi is one of 25 men and 29 women who have received a "hand up" thanks to SHARE's support of the micro credit fund managed by this farmers' association. Small loans are provided for the purchase of chickens, sheep, a cow, milk goats or garden inputs. The interest rates are 3% with 2% per year for the technical assistance. Success is evident. The defaults are nil and usually the recipients can go on to expand their small enterprises without the need of further credit, a final step to total self-sufficiency. The borrower signs a contract and a committee must approve all loans. Anyone with a "bad reputation" is rejected. This micro credit

fund at Santa Luz is functioning well and is ideal support for many small farmers who would otherwise be condemned to a life of continuing poverty.

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TOP LEFT These two women grow a productive market garden financed by a small loan from the SHARE revolving micro credit fund in El Salvador.

TOP MIDDLE Loans from the SHARE micro credit fund may be for \$200 to \$600 to buy chickens, feed and supplies for pens.

TOP RIGHT Seeds and tools are often purchased with a small loan. SHARE's micro credit fund provides the rural poor with a version of micro finance that differs from the typical micro finance loans.

SHARE'S APPROACH TO MICRO CREDIT IS DIFFERENT

SHARE's approach to micro finance is adapted to provide credit to the rural poor with a fair and practical version that differs from other typical micro finance loans that may charge very high interest rates. In contrast, SHARE targets farm groups in the greatest need, who are in a pre loan category, by providing inputs with our trademark "pass on" requirement. Then enterprising farmers can borrow from the SHARE revolving micro credit fund. It is important that SHARE's southern partners and agriculture technicians administer the credit as this allows for loan repayment flexibility if disaster strikes as often happens with subsistence level production in developing countries.



THANKS, HUGH!



At the SHARE annual dinner dance in November, John Webster, past Chair of SHARE's Board (on left) honoured Hugh Beaty for his tireless dedication and work with SHARE since 1976. In receiving his award Hugh spoke of his life philosophy. "In my work with SHARE I've always found that in giving I have always received back more than I ever gave. I believe that if we can serve others we are not so mindful of ourselves."



STEWARDS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Subsistence level farmers in developing countries who are often forced to grow family food on environmentally fragile land such as on mountain slopes or on semi arid land must take special measures to be stewards of the environment.

In all of our project work, SHARE provides opportunities for learning about best ecological farming practices. Training, workshops, extension services by the SHARE funded agriculture technicians and the annual SHARE Organic Growers' Conference all have enabled hundreds of small-scale farmers to learn best practices to minimize negative affects of farming on the local environment.

Farmers are taught to make compost, use native plants as natural sources of animal feed, contour hillside land, use household gray water for small gardens, use plant mulch to conserve moisture, and to use companion plantings to control pests. Some farmers integrate crops and trees using the practice of agroforestry, growing coffee and cacao (chocolate) in

the shade of fruit trees. Tree nurseries funded by SHARE supply trees for backyard gardens and for larger market enterprises.

It is common for SHARE's southern partners to share their extensive knowledge of ecological farming practices as it applies locally. Southern farmers whose livelihoods depend on the health of the environment around them become stewards of the local environment while feeding their families in many SHARE projects.

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TOP LEFT From SHARE agriculture technicians, farmers in semi arid areas learn about using native plants such as palma cactus which can be ground up and used as livestock feed.

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TOP MIDDLE Edible beans planted between cornrows fix nitrogen in the soil replacing the need for expensive fertilizers. This traditional practice of dual cropping makes maximum use of the field, provides ground cover to prevent erosion and mulch to conserve moisture.

REFLECTIONS: HARMONY BETWEEN MAN AND NATURE

John and Nancy DePutter joined Bob Thomas (SHARE project manager for South America) on a visit to a remote land reform settlement that SHARE has supported in Brazil. They were transported over a long rough road to "another place in time where harmony between man and nature existed in the purest form" and were impressed with the use of organic production techniques, the mandala garden, the use of waste and cinders as fertilizer, the homeopathic uses of herbs and plants, and the self reliance of the people involved. Nancy wrote, "I was deeply moved by these people, their beliefs and practices."

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TOP RIGHT The mandala is a unique ecological system for food production. Ducks and fish control algae in a central pond that is used for irrigation; plants are intentionally placed to reduce pest infestation.

ECO STOVES – CUTTING WOOD HARVESTING IN HALF

In many communities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, women say their new SHARE stove uses about half the sticks of wood that the old open cooking fires used. Studies show that these stoves produce fewer toxic emissions. This SHARE project has a big impact on the environment as well as on family health and living conditions.

In a current SHARE project, families in communities in eastern Guatemala who receive a new stove are required to

plant and care for saplings of guama trees in their communities. The fast-growing guama tree (*inga edulis*) can be harvested every two years for wood, enriches the soil with nitrogen and is often planted as a living fence.

RIGHT A new SHARE stove will use half the wood of this open cooking fire and protect the family's health. This women living in western Guatemala will soon receive a new SHARE stove.



A Donation to S.H.A.R.E. Is ...

A 'Hand Up' to a needy farm family
 Mutlplied by the 'Pass On' Principle
 Monitored for accountability

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO A CURRENT PROJECT

THANK YOU TO ALL DONORS!

Thanks to your generous support needy rural communities are receiving assistance in Guatemala, Brazil, El Salvador, Bolivia, Cambodia, Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua.



Healthy Cooking Stove – \$100



Adult Literacy – \$100



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Agriculture Inputs – \$45-\$100



High School Scholarship – \$350



Micro Credit – \$100-\$250



Youth Training/Books – \$30-\$60

Donate:

ONLINE
 with Canada Helps:
www.shareagfoundation.org

OR BY MAIL: S.H.A.R.E. Agriculture Foundation,
 14110 Kennedy Road, Caledon, ON, L7C 2G3
 Tel: 905-838-0897 or Toll Free: 1-888-337-4273
 Fax: 1-905-838-0794



S . H . A . R . E . AGRICULTURE FOUNDATION
 C O M I N G E V E N T S

Sat. June 4 Plant Sale

9am-1:30 pm. 14409 Creditview Road,
 Cheltenham. Local annuals and perennials.
 Contact Barb Rank 905-838-2441.

Mon. July 18 Annual SHARE Golf

Tournament. Noon. Guelph Lakes Golf &
 Country Club. Call Craig 905-702-8543 or
 ENTER ONLINE.

Sun. Sept. 11 Corn Roast for SHARE

Scholarship Fund, 3:30-7pm. Harmer Farm,

2395 #1 Sideroad Burlington. Contact 905-
 335-3730.

Sat. Nov. 5 Annual Dinner Dance,

Live & Silent Auction, 6:30pm. Speranza
 Banquet Hall, 510 A Deerhurst 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.

FOR SALE:

Relocatable office, 14 x 30, office, storage room, bathroom, base board heating, flat roof,
 in good shape . Make an offer. To view phone SHARE office 1-888-337-4273.

BN: 13150 7428 RR0001 SHARE IS SUPPORTED BY Canadian International Development Agency

SHARE News is published twice a year.

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Donors are invited to join Project
 Managers on awareness trips.
 Call Les Frayne 519-843-3274
 or Bob Thomas 519-633-2390

For a trip in July/August to
 BRAZIL & BOLIVIA
 email: rwithomas@start.ca