



SHARE projects assist enterprising rural youth from disadvantaged communities to succeed in small agricultural businesses and to build their capacity as future community leaders. A "hand up" is provided with agriculture training and inputs, basic literacy and vocational skills' training.

EMPOWERING RURAL YOUTH FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Nearly half of the world's population, or 3.4 billion people, are under the age of 25 and 90 percent of these youth live in the developing world. This group, the largest generation in human history, comprises more than half of the population in rural areas of developing countries where many live in poverty on less than \$2 per day. (CIDA, UN Population Report 2008) They are the most disadvantaged, unable to reach their full potential due to lack of opportunities and resources in areas that lack infrastructure, accessible schools, health services and income opportunities.

Engaging young men and women in small productive agricultural projects makes rural life more attractive and stems the migration into the often risky urban settings.

SHARE's current projects are empowering young men and women in many rural communities in developing countries by providing skills, tools, knowledge and opportunities. Agricultural inputs for small start up enterprises such as bees, hens, fish, goats, vegetable gardens and fruit trees combined with agricultural training enable ambitious youth to provide a diversity of food for their families,

produce to sell to neighbours and at small local markets. Basic education that includes life skills and vocational training improves the capacity of youth to become strong family and community leaders and improves their earning power.

Surprisingly, many poor farm families in developing countries lack diverse and reliable food sources. SHARE provides training and inputs appropriate to the farming conditions in each region. This strengthens the capacity of hundreds of youth who are then able to play an important role in food security and sustainable development in needy southern communities.

BEES, CHICKS, PIGS AND SCHOLARSHIP

A 'Hand Up' for Rural Youth



1. AGRICULTURE TRAINING FOR 500 MAYAN YOUTH

Five hundred Mayan youth from 42 isolated communities in the eastern area of Guatemala receive training in small agricultural enterprises at their residential school. Recently SHARE provided funds for tools, a piggery and a tree nursery to this school that is accessible only by river travel. The students will take the knowledge and skills learned working in these agriculture demonstration enterprises back to their remote communities to improve family nutrition and create change in their communities.

3. AGRICULTURE TECHNICIANS ASSIST YOUNG FARMERS

On a land reform settlement in Brazil where families struggle to feed themselves and establish their families on new farms, six young men and women are excited about their honey business. There have been good rains this year and an excellent honey harvest is predicted. Recently funds were provided from SHARE to buy beekeeping equipment and to build a honey processing house enabling the youth to process and package the honey in a new sanitary facility, fulfilling government requirements for sales to the family farmer school lunch program. The agriculture technician hired to work in the current SHARE/CIDA project will make biweekly visits to give advice on disease and pest management, marketing and production.



2. SUCCESS WITH A SMALL ENTERPRISE

On another remote semi arid land settlement in Brazil, four youth demonstrate the rugged survival instincts needed to farm in this challenging region of the country. The group used SHARE funds to start a small chicken enterprise. Funds for a screened shade house, some initial feed supplies and chicks provided the 'hand up'. The young chicken farmers have learned techniques to reduce feed costs by growing corn and manioc following advice from the SHARE agriculture technician working in that area. The youth are selling their chickens to local restaurants and to the government school lunch program. The young people are making a profit and proudly planning to expand their production.

4. THE GIFT OF EDUCATION

"I have seen a major positive impact of the SHARE scholarship program in this community, especially for the girls," commented the former village Peace Corps worker.

"Students from this village must really sacrifice to get their education," stated the elementary principal of a small village school.

"I would never have completed my high school education if it wasn't for the scholarship program," testified a graduate. SHARE is proud of the impact the scholarship program has had on many young men and women in Belize. The SHARE scholarship program pays high school tuition fees, assisting rural families in this small developing country.





FUTURE STRENGTH IN YOUTH

A Story of Hard Work and Success

FOR TWO YEARS JUDITH arose at four o'clock each morning and walked two hours down the steep slopes from her remote mountaintop home in El Salvador and across the valley to the nearest town to attain her high school education. Now, Judith teaches twenty adults in a SHARE literacy group in her mother's kitchen and manages a small start up chicken enterprise with other community women. Already a spokesperson for her family and farming community she talked about crop losses the farmers suffered recently in the rains of Hurricane Ida. "Most families lost their bean crop (a staple food here) and other vegetable crops. Now most families just don't have enough food."

Judith also makes the trip to town twice a week to teach at the small, new SHARE/CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency) funded computer center for farm youth who are attaining their grade 6

education. On Fridays she makes the trip down the mountain again and catches a bus into the city for leadership training, joining 25 other promising youth from all across the small nation. She sleeps overnight on a mattress in an office and participates in vocational training on Saturdays, another new SHARE/CIDA funded initiative. "We want to thank SHARE for the opportunities we are getting with these projects," is the repeated testimonial from youth in many communities.

Judith is just one example of the power youth have in changing their lives and advancing their families when given an opportunity.

SHARE'S PROJECTS IN JUDITH'S COMMUNITY RECEIVE 3 TO 1 MATCHED FUNDING FROM CIDA.

TOP LEFT Over 900 teens and adults are learning to read, write and do basic math in 40 communities in small literacy groups like the one Judith teaches in her mother's kitchen. Some graduates get improved work; some speak of the dignity gained and the youth dream of continuing their education.

TOP RIGHT Members of each literacy group cooperatively run a small start-up farm enterprise. Some laying hens in Judith's enterprise will be "passed on" benefiting others in the community.

ABOVE Judith trains rural youth in a vocational training project funded by SHARE and CIDA. This project is reaching hundreds of rural youth who have no other access to education.

ASSISTING AFTER DISASTER

Creating Sustainability in Food Production

In earthquake-devastated **Haiti**, a SHARE donation will be used to double food production in rural areas to feed people relocating from the destroyed urban areas into the countryside. Small-scale farmers will be assisted with training and inputs to produce food for local communities.

Rural families in **El Salvador** recently lost homes, gardens, livestock, fruit trees and crops during the torrential rains

of **Hurricane Ida** in November 2009. Many small hillside fields were covered with rubble from landslides destroying future productivity. SHARE/CIDA funds will be used to help farmers begin production again. The woman in the photo is sorting red beans, her family's staple food, removing the moldy seeds that are swollen and damaged by the excessive rain.



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.

Because of your generosity we have been able to expand our work into new countries and new communities. We also want to thank our 2009/2010 Gold Sponsors at our dinner dance: Barb & Karl Davis, Nobleton Farm Service, Steve Robinson and Associates at RBC Dominion Securities. For sponsorship contact SHARE at info@shareagfoundation.org.



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Youth Training/Books – \$30-\$60

Donate:

ONLINE
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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 BN:13150 7428 RR0001



S.H.A.R.E. AGRICULTURE FOUNDATION COMING EVENTS

Sat. April 24, 2010 Wacky Card Night – Spirit Tree Estate Cidery, 1137 Boston Mills Road. 7:00 pm. Contact 905-838-0897 or Renie 905-584-2584. \$20/person

Sat. May 1, 2010 "Justus" Benefit Concert – 35 years of performing a diverse repertoire with enthusiasm, capturing the hearts of all ages. Streetsville United Church, 274 Queen St. S., Streetsville, 7:30 pm. with light refreshments. \$20.00/ person.

Thurs. May 6, 2010 Copetown Dinner – Lions Community Centre, Copetown. 6:45 pm \$25/person. Contact 1-888-337-4273 or Peter 905-648-1345.

Sat. June 5, 2010 Annual Perennial Plant Sale – Sharing Hands Ladies Group, 14409 Creditview Road, Cheltenham. 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Contact Barb Rank 905-838-2441.

Mon. July 19, 2010 Annual Golf Tournament – Guelph Lakes Golf & Country Club. Call Craig 905-702-8543 or ENTER ONLINE.

Sun. Sept. 12, 2010 Annual Corn Roast for SHARE scholarship fund – 3:30-7pm. Harmer Farm, 2395 #1 Sideroad Burlington. Contact 905-335-3730.

Sat. Nov. 6, 2010 Dinner Dance, Live & Silent Auction – Speranza Banquet Hall, 510 A Deerhurst Dr. Brampton. \$75/person with \$40 tax receipt. Doors open for Silent Auction at 5:30. Dinner at 6:30pm. Call 905-838-0897 or 888-337-4273 for tickets or to sponsor a table.

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