



ROOTED IN COMMUNITY  
GROUNDED IN FAITH

# HERE WE GROW!

2017–2018 Annual Report





# MY CHARITY OF CHOICE



Traveling with FRB to Guatemala was an eye-opening experience for me on so many levels. I'm from Mexico City, but I had never seen this type of extreme poverty before. There are many people suffering from poverty in the city, but they have more access to resources and can usually find food. However, the indigenous populations we visited in rural Guatemala—they might have basic shelter, but there is no food or sanitation.

## HUNGER IS A VERY REAL PROBLEM FOR THEM.

I was impressed and very pleased with the FRB supported work we saw. It made me realize that we can have a very real impact if we do things the RIGHT way. These programs are generational and long-lasting! The people have to work very hard to grow their food, but they take such pride and joy in it.

After this trip, my husband and I decided FRB is the charity of our choice. I hesitate to give to nonprofits because I'm not sure where the money will go. But after seeing the impact our funds are making with my own eyes, I have no hesitation about supporting FRB.

## WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

—Cristina Jones, FRB Supporter

**On the cover:** Juana Matom and baby Andres Marcos in their greenhouse. In Guatemala, we support programs that provide families with training and tools to build greenhouses for growing vegetables so they have more nutritious food to eat and extra to sell for income. These programs also empower women through leadership training and other income generating opportunities.

**Photo credit:** Bethany Beachum, CWS

We are deeply grateful to our Growing Project volunteers, supporters and partners for their unwavering commitment to growing lasting solutions to hunger. We simply could not realize success without you.

Our volunteer-led **GROWING PROJECTS** contribute close to 70 percent of the funding raised to support food security programs around the globe. They bring a unique energy and long-term commitment that has made an incredible difference in the lives of hungry people living in some of the poorest regions of the world.

Our recently launched three-year Strategic Plan calls for significantly strengthening our commitment to and focus on Growing Projects. Unanimously adopted by our board, this new plan includes:

- Capturing the energy and enthusiasm of our 2,000+ volunteers in developing new Growing Projects
- Increasing our emphasis on agriculture-related organizations and partnerships
- Repositioning our message and brand to better reach ag-related and younger audiences



## IT'S BEEN A REMARKABLE YEAR

Within these pages we highlight just a handful of inspiring stories we have witnessed over the past year, including the great work being done by our Growing Projects. **"HERE WE GROW"** was chosen as the theme for this report because together, with your support and the guidance of our new strategic plan, we are well-positioned to do more than ever to help people lift themselves out of chronic hunger and malnutrition.

Thank you for your faithful devotion to following Christ's example to help those in need. We are looking forward to continuing to work with you to make an even greater impact in the world.

Blessings,  
Your Staff

ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM, STRENGTHENED IN THE FAITH AS YOU  
WERE TAUGHT, AND OVERFLOWING WITH THANKFULNESS

– COLOSSIANS 2:7





# AMAZING JOURNEY



**A handful of volunteers experienced firsthand FRB's impact on the world by taking international trips with our staff this past year.**

## Chocolate and Cartels

**COLOMBIA** has struggled since the 1960s with armed conflict between the government, militant groups, drug cartels, and revolutionaries. In the 80s, several other armed groups began to take advantage of and profit from the continuing conflict to traffic drugs through the region. Over the years, many civilians have been caught in the crossfire and had their whole lives turned upside down.

"People lived with a lot of uncertainty and a lot of fear," says Alex Morse, FRB associate regional director, who recently visited the programs in the north and west of the country.

The FRB supported programs in the north have been rebuilding communities one step at a time, starting with helping them develop their agriculture and organize their communities for growth. One of these communities won a government grant to rebuild thanks to legal aid from our partner in the region. They have used that money to build a public school, a health clinic, run electricity, and gain access to clean water.

"People are very focused on rebuilding their community and looking toward the future, whereas before people weren't looking long term," says Alex. "They were afraid they were going to have to leave their communities again. Now we're seeing a lot of farmers making long term investments in their crops, homes, and communities."

On the West coast in Chocó, the program is helping farmers earn a sustainable income without being associated with the drug trade by teaching them to grow chocolate. The farmers here previously turned to growing coca (cocaine) because it would make a good income, but it also brought violence and instability.

Noberto, one of the men Alex met while visiting, is a chocolate farmer. Noberto travels Chocó by boat, teaching other farmers how to keep their trees healthy and improve their yield. He also shares ideas about increasing efficiency and supporting their villages.

**OVER 60% OF THE WORLD'S  
HUNGRY ARE WOMEN**



"Farmers have gone from not really having an income to having an income of about \$750 per year, double the local average," Alex adds.

Thanks to FRB's help, life is beginning to return to normal in Colombia.

"We aren't a whole lot different than they are," says Pat Mino, a Growing Project volunteer who accompanied Alex. "It's just different circumstances... and we are making a difference."

## Chickens, Success, and Respect

On the other side of the world in **KENYA**, Growing Project volunteers Karon and Paul Speckman visited several FRB supported programs with Eric Mattson, regional director of overseas programs.

In West Pokot County, Agnes used to have little freedom in her village and from her husband because they were struggling to provide for themselves and their children. The FRB supported program that she is a part of helped her village organize to learn and share skills that would help them improve their community. Not only has Agnes learned how to raise and care for chickens for extra protein for her family, but she also has eggs and birds to sell.

In some Kenyan villages, our partner has helped establish "Village Savings and Loan" associations that act like banks and allow community members to borrow money from each other to start businesses and buy things they need. In other villages, women who used to endure domestic violence no longer do.

"The work we're doing is very, very helpful," says Paul Speckman. "There's so much more to do, but for the people in the groups that we visited, we've been enormously helpful."

FRB's support has helped these communities begin to build themselves toward success. They have the skills and desire to start businesses, access to the food needed to provide for their families, and can earn the money they need to receive educations for themselves and their children.

For Karon, the most valuable takeaway from her trip was seeing and experiencing how strong their desire is to grow. "How much love these people have for their families, for their community, and that they want to work together and better themselves," she says. "That's the thing I wish everyone could see."



"WE'RE SEEING A LOT OF FARMERS MAKING LONG TERM INVESTMENTS IN THEIR CROPS, HOMES, AND COMMUNITIES."



# The Next Generation of VOLUNTEERS

Led by high school teacher Trent Steinhart, the Growing Project in **WASHINGTON, IOWA** has found new life and leadership with the FFA, an organization that prepares students for careers in agriculture by combining teaching, projects, and leadership development.

The original leader of the project, Dave Birney, was involved since its inception in 2004 after being inspired by Growing Project leader Arlyn Schipper in Conrad, Iowa. Since then, few volunteers have wanted to take charge and remain involved. After 12 years of working by himself, it was time to put the project in someone else's hands. Dave reached out to Trent to see if his students would be willing to lend a hand, and Trent saw this as a tremendous opportunity to teach them sustainability and service.

**"I WANT STUDENTS TO FEEL CONNECTED TO PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD, AND SEE THAT THEIR ACTIONS CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE."**

Around 20 students will be taking roles in fundraising and collecting support for the project, while Dave and other community members will remain involved donating time and resources to the project which grows corn and soy to benefit FRB.

In Trent's classes, he teaches topics ranging from plant breeding and the environment, to poverty and how students can make a difference. "I think what I really want is for the students to feel connected to people around the world and that they can really change someone's life through the actions that they take," says Trent.

His goal is to go beyond typical teaching, connecting the students to people around the world and working hands-on to help them.

"We're really excited to learn from the things that were done before us," Trent adds. "We're humbly moving into the project and we appreciate how much they've been able to do so far, and we hope to be able to do as good a job as those before us have done."

**HALF OF THE WORLD'S 815 MILLION UNDERNOURISHED PEOPLE LIVE ON FARMS.**





# AN INTERNATIONAL FAMILY

**ITHACA, NEW YORK** is home to more than the esteemed Ivy-League institution Cornell University. It is also a place where community and family are one in the same. Beth Chapin is a dairy farmer and an active member of the New York Growing Project, which demonstrates just how close those ties are—even when it comes to people living a world away.

A number of farms around Ithaca have employees originally from Guatemala who are working to improve the lives of those back home. That dedication inspired the Growing Project to annually raise funds for food security programs in Guatemala.

“They are our families,” Beth says. “The people of Guatemala have really supported us in our growth and we wanted a way to give back and thank them for all they have done.”

Initially, their employees didn’t understand why Beth and her family would sacrifice financially to help people a world away. This gave the Chapins the opportunity to share God’s love with their treasured employees, to tell them they were considered part of their extended family, and that they want to support their home country and those they left behind.

In 2017, the project raised over \$6,000 to benefit our partner programs in Guatemala and has contributed over \$95,000 to programs since 2005. These donations have helped families in more than 30 communities increase their incomes by constructing greenhouses, grow more vegetables by encouraging patio gardens, and improve their access to health services through better community organizing.

“THEY ARE OUR FAMILIES...  
WE WANTED A WAY TO  
GIVE BACK AND THANK THE  
PEOPLE OF GUATEMALA FOR  
ALL THEY HAVE DONE.”



**WITHOUT ACCESS TO ADEQUATE RESOURCES AND TRAINING, FARMING FAMILIES CAN OFTEN GO HUNGRY.**



# 2017-18 FINANCIALS

One of our greatest responsibilities is to be good stewards of the funds we receive.

INCOME	\$3.2 MILLION
Growing Project Donations	67%
Member Dues	12%
Individual and Other Donations	20%
Grants	1%

EXPENSES	\$3 MILLION
Food Security Programming	70%
Growing Project Support	16%
Administration	7%
Fundraising	7%

## \$35 MILLION

Raised by Growing Projects

## 1.6 MILLION+

People Have Become Food Secure

## \$51.3 MILLION

Raised Overall

## 19 YEARS

Working To Reduce World Hunger

SINCE 1999

By carefully managing costs, more than **86 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR DONATED** is invested in food security programming and Growing Project support

## IN FY 2017–2018



### 164

Active Growing Projects in 20 U.S. States



### 47

Food Security Programs in 27 Countries



### 251,499

Hungry People in Need Supported



### 14

Implementing Partners



### 2,000+

Volunteers



Rated four stars by Charity Navigator for the third year in a row

**FOOD SECURITY:** when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

1 IN 6 CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE UNDERWEIGHT



# IT TAKES COMMUNITY

Hunger is a huge issue. However, it can be solved. It takes working together towards sustainable solutions that make a lasting difference. That's why we are a **Partnership Organization**. By working with **Implementing Organizations** and their local partners, we ensure that the programs we support are helping hungry people help themselves by providing training and tools specifically developed to meet their needs.

We also work with **organizations that provide funding, advocacy and other resources** to ensure we reach more hungry people around the world. We are deeply grateful to these organizations and our 2,000+ volunteers who are working to create a world without hunger.

## The Alliance to End Hunger

Bread for the World

Catholic Relief Services

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Week of Compassion

Church of the Brethren, Global Food Initiative

Church World Service

## Dorcas Aid International

Evangelical Covenant Church-Covenant World Relief

The John Deere Foundation

Lutheran World Relief

Mennonite Central Committee

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries

Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC)

## Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Rise Against Hunger

United Church of Christ

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

World Hope International

World Renew

## Board of Directors

### Geoff Andersen

John Deere Foundation

### Brian Backe

Catholic Relief Services

### Sarah Beams

Eureka, MO  
Growing Project

### Carol Bremer-Bennett

World Renew

### Harley Buys

Edgerton, MN  
Growing Project

### Gary Cook

At-large, Louisville KY

### Tad Fannin

Nazarene  
Compassionate  
Ministries

### Dulce Gamboa

Bread for the World

### Sara Lisherness

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

### Jerry Lundeen

Somonauk, IL  
Growing Project

### John Lyon

World Hope  
International

### Alice Mar

At-large, New York, NY

### Jim Rufenacht

Archbold, OH  
Growing Project

### Jim Schmidt

Polo, IL Growing  
Project

### Claude Schrock

Grabill, IN Growing  
Project; Mennonite  
Central Committee

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Silverton, OR  
Growing Project;  
Lutheran World Relief

### Mark Swanson

Yakima, WA  
Growing Project;  
Evangelical Covenant  
Church-Covenant  
World Relief

### Ann Walle

Church World Service

### Dan Wiens

Mennonite Central  
Committee

### Steve Witt

Elvira, IA  
Growing Project

### EMERITI

### Bev Abma

Byron Center, MI

### Norm Braksick

Portage, MI

### Carol Sloan

Stryker, OH

### ADVISOR

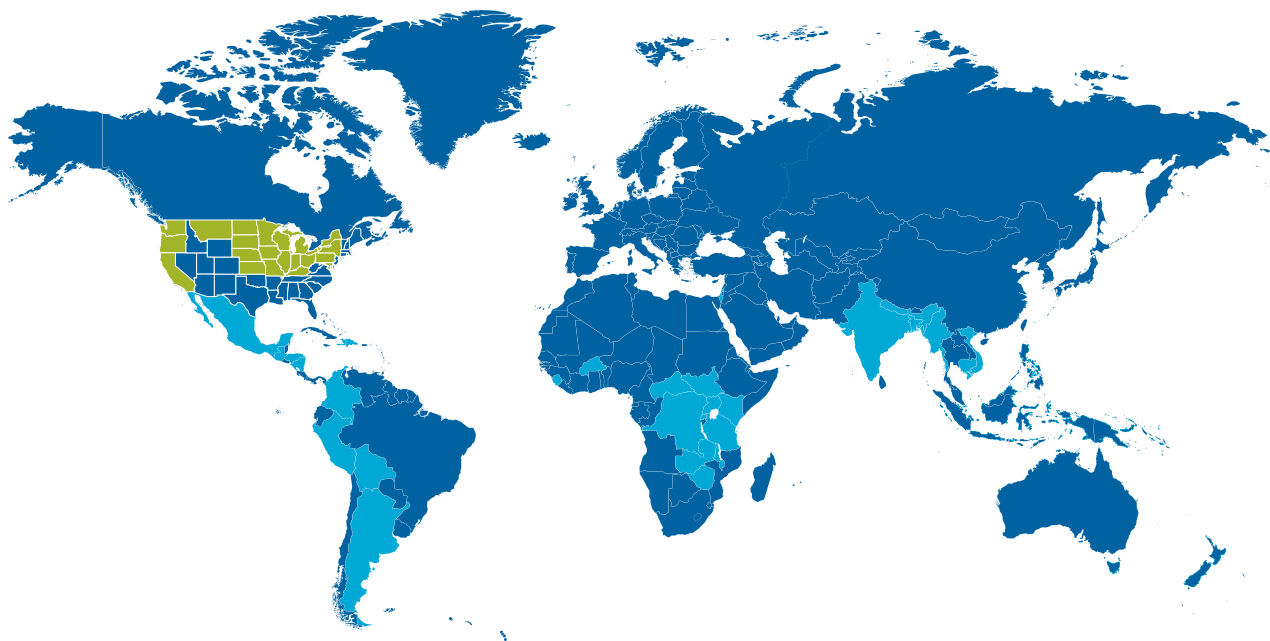
### Cosmas Mwanzia

Machakos, Kenya



# UNITING TO REDUCE WORLD HUNGER

We invite U.S. farmers, their churches, and surrounding communities to come together as a Growing Project to raise money and awareness to reduce world hunger. This, in turn, supports global food security programs that enable the world's hungry to lift themselves out of poverty.



## U.S. Growing Projects

Our volunteer-led Growing Projects are the heart of our success. While many are rooted in agriculture—profits from crops raised are donated—others center around events such as dinners, auctions, bike rides, and 5k races.

### CALIFORNIA

Colusa County  
Davis  
Kerman  
Oakdale

### ILLINOIS

5K Hunger Run/  
Walk, Somonauk  
Cherry Grove  
Danvers/Carlock  
Decatur  
Dwight/Emington  
Earlville  
Forrest  
Forreston

### Hopedale

Illinois Tractor Pull  
Lake Forest  
Mazon/  
Western Springs  
Metro East  
Ottawa/Barrington  
Polo  
Sauk Valley  
Somonauk  
Somonauk/Leland/  
Sandwich FFA  
Stavanger/Trinity  
Twin Rivers,  
Harvest of Hope  
Waverly

### INDIANA

Albion/Fort Wayne  
Ashley  
Bloomfield MT-Paoli  
Covington  
Decatur/Magley  
Decatur/Berne  
Garrett  
Grabill  
Greenfield -  
IMI/ELANCO  
Immanuel UCC  
Kouts  
Nappanee  
Oxford  
Wabash County  
Zionsville

### IOWA

Burlington  
Conrad  
Dubuque,  
Growing Hope  
Dysart  
Elvira  
Graceland  
University Ag  
Business Club  
Greene  
Greenfield,  
Fields of Faith  
Iowa Lakes  
Long Grove, Hearts  
to Harvest  
Mediapolis  
Miles/Preston

### Mt. Pleasant

Ocheyadan  
Pulaski  
Sheffield  
Shenandoah  
Sibley  
Storm Lake  
Strawberry Point,  
Seeds of Hope  
Washington  
Waterloo  
Waukon, Corner  
of Hope  
Webster County,  
F.O.O.D.  
Wheatland  
Winneshiek County,  
Community of Hope

ROUGHLY 12.9% OF PEOPLE LIVING IN  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARE UNDERNOURISHED



**KANSAS**

Bucyrus  
Heritage Tractor  
Inman  
Kiowa  
McPherson Reno

**KENTUCKY**

Owensboro

**MARYLAND**

Myersville  
Westover

**MICHIGAN**

Alma  
Beaverton  
Breckenridge  
Byron Center  
East Martin  
Emmett  
Fremont  
Greenville  
Community  
Hamilton  
Harderwyk/Holland  
Hartford

Holland  
Kalamazoo 1st UMC  
Kalamazoo  
Christian School  
Kalamazoo Farm  
Bureau  
Kalamazoo/St.  
Joseph  
Lake Odessa  
Marcellus  
Marlette/Brown City  
Pfizer Kalamazoo  
Pigeon Huron  
County Hunger  
Project  
Portage UCC  
Climax  
Portage UCC  
Collver  
Rabbit River  
Schoolcraft UMC/  
Winchell Ave.  
Disciples  
Vicksburg

**MINNESOTA**

Edgerton  
Mountain Lake  
Pease  
Pope County  
Prairie Water  
Preston  
Worthington

**MISSOURI**

Boonville  
Caldwell County  
Centralia  
Eureka  
Fairfax UMC  
Hartsburg-Columbia  
Higginsville UCC  
Men's Group  
Leonard  
Napoleon Braksick  
Platte City  
Salisbury

**MONTANA**

Central

**NORTH DAKOTA**

Arthur  
Hillsboro  
McLean County

**NEBRASKA**

Axtell  
Bloomfield  
Grand Island  
Hildreth  
Raymond

**NEW YORK**

Ithaca

**OHIO**

Archbold Beef  
Bryan  
Bryan, St. Patrick's  
Bucyrus  
Chillicothe  
Circleville  
Edgerton  
Fish/Stuckey  
Fulton County  
Hiram  
Malinta  
Montpelier  
Olive Branch  
Wayne County

**OREGON**

Ione  
Silverton

**PENNSYLVANIA**

East Petersburg  
Elizabethtown  
Hempfield

Lancaster,  
Brethren Village  
New Holland  
Oxford  
St. John's/  
Burry's Rochester

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

Miller  
Mitchell  
Redfield

**WASHINGTON**

Grandview  
Marysville  
Wenatchee,  
Sunnyslope  
Whatcom County  
Yakima, Sharing  
the Harvest

**WISCONSIN**

Denmark  
Mineral Point  
Randolph  
Waupun

## International Food Security Programs

We support food security programs that create a lasting impact by addressing the root causes of hunger. This includes providing women's empowerment and leadership opportunities, access to land and clean water, as well as training on improved farming, hygiene, nutrition, and more.

Argentina/Bolivia  
Bangladesh  
Burkina Faso  
Cambodia  
Central African  
Republic

Colombia  
Democratic  
Republic of Congo  
Dominican Republic  
Guatemala  
Haiti  
Honduras

India  
Kenya  
Malawi  
Mexico  
Myanmar  
Nepal

Nicaragua  
Palestine  
Peru  
Rwanda  
Sierra Leone  
South Sudan

Tanzania  
Uganda  
Vietnam  
West Africa\*  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

*\*Name changed for security purposes*

**MALNUTRITION CAN LEAD TO DISEASES WHICH REDUCE THE BODY'S  
ABILITY TO ABSORB NUTRIENTS, TRAPPING PEOPLE IN A CYCLE OF HUNGER**



"MY FAMILY IS NOW EATING FRESH VEGETABLES SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK AND WE HAVE MONEY AVAILABLE FROM SELLING OUR EXTRA VEGETABLES. WE NO LONGER HAVE TO LOOK FOR WORK AS DAY LABORERS AND WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PAY OFF ALL OF OUR LOANS."



**Diru Murumu**  
Nepal Bhatigachh



**ROOTED IN COMMUNITY  
GROUNDED IN FAITH**

Donations gratefully accepted.

Foods Resource Bank

P.O. Box 5628, Carol Stream, IL 60197-5628

(888) 276-4FRB

[admin@foodsresourcebank.org](mailto:admin@foodsresourcebank.org)

[www.foodsresourcebank.org](http://www.foodsresourcebank.org)

