Celebrating 20 Years of Growing Lasting Solutions to Hunger

2018–2019 Impact Report
Celebrate with Us!

Allow me to say thank you.

Thank you for your faithfulness and dedication to our mission of serving those who are hungry. Thank you for welcoming me into the Growing Hope family. And thank you especially for helping improve the lives of more than two million people.

Our mission is about multiplication and transformation. Like five loaves and two fish, your gifts have been multiplied to provide for a multitude. Like the widow’s two small coins, each contribution makes a difference for those we serve. And just like the seeds that fell on good soil, our collective efforts have been multiplied 30, 60 and 100 fold. This has led to real change in people’s lives all over the country and the world, as you can read in the following pages.

Let's celebrate the hundreds of faithful volunteers who have made this unique program work! The city church members who have financially supported our U.S. Growing Projects helping to cover those crop costs not donated, and rural land owners, farmers and agribusinesses who have donated their gifts of land, time, equipment, expertise, seed, trucks, and grain elevators, turning “corn into cash” to financially support the overseas programs.

They are all working together to build community here and overseas. Growing Hope Globally does Overseas Programs the right way! Not food for a day, or a month, but the potential of producing food and income for a lifetime. This has been working for 20 years and has helped two million people!

Let's celebrate God’s faithfulness to us over the years. Things have happened that only He could orchestrate!

For instance, when we started we saw Growing Projects as a way to create resources for our Overseas Programs. We also ended up building community across denominations and meeting a hunger for community in rural areas; a wonderful blessing. It also wasn’t planned that farmers would end up being at the center of a ministry. Because they’re at the center of Growing Projects it gives them a way to be in ministry in their local churches.

Thank you farmers for being our inspiration. Growing up a farmer’s daughter, I learned every year brings challenges of its own. Yet farmers demonstrate faith by putting those seeds in the ground, in a way no other profession does. Thank you for sharing this faith in action.

Celebrating God’s Faithfulness

Celebrating Our Volunteers and Our Donors

Celebrate a Story and a Spark

In 1994 a newspaper story lit a spark; then a phone call and a question from an Indiana farmer who was bagging and shipping corn to Haiti. When Vernon asked if he needed more corn he said, “Well no, but why don’t you start a project in Ohio?”

Nothing energizes a person’s body, mind and soul as much as helping others. In thousands of ways, being a part of FRB has continuously helped others, and in so doing we have ultimately energized ourselves.

Working out in the gym every day may be good for us, but it doesn’t energize us with the fervor of doing God’s work. A roller coaster is good for thrills, but it pales in comparison to the energy brought on by seeing a beautiful field of corn being harvested and knowing the profits are going to our programs.

Our story involves many people, a myriad of places, stories of faith, trust, of truths, of confidence, and most of all, of love.

Excerpt from Carol’s speech, July 2009 Regional Meeting in Michigan

On the cover: Growing Project volunteer Gary Gensch and members of the Water Committee in Las Delias, Honduras

Celebrating Our Volunteers and Our Donors

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Celebrating 20 Years of Faithfully Serving Hungry People

1999 First official FRB meeting is held to name a Board of Directors, approve bylaws and establish parameters with Christian relief and development organizations to carry out Overseas Programs. Bev Abma serves on the Executive Committee and Ron DeWeerd is hired to recruit farm community Growing Projects to raise funding. A new logo is adopted featuring a sprouted seed with a map of the world.

2000 Lloyd Rollins steps down and Board Director Norm Braksick agrees to take on the Executive Director role as a volunteer “for six months” and stays for five years. He and administrative coordinator Laurie Kanaz describe work from a church office in Kalamazoo MI. Bev Abma becomes Board Chair. By year-end FRB’s 10 Growing Projects in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota raise $37,721 to support our first Overseas Program in Bamba, Kenya.

2001 First annual meeting is held at UCC headquarters in Cleveland, OH, starting a tradition of choosing a different location each year so everyone has a chance to attend “close to home.” A second Overseas Program, Moseaso in Ghana, is supported by 31 growing projects that raise $137,915.

2005 Norm transitions to Volunteer Field Staff as Marv Baldwin begins his tenure as President and CEO, moving the headquarters to Western Springs IL. The board honors Norm’s service by commissioning the hymn “Christ, You Walked Among the Grain Fields,” later recorded by the Kalamazoo Bach Festival Chorus.

2008 We receive the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize in honor of our work. After years of volunteer, staff and program participant visits to Washington DC led by Ron DeWeerd to inform decision-makers about the power of smallholder ag development, “Heart of the Hill” (HOTH) launches with a grant from Hewlett Foundation.

2009 Our Board of Directors holds its first international meeting, in Managua, Nicaragua. Directors and staff meet our programming partners and travel to villages to observe first-hand the life-affirming work of ag training for subsistence farmers. One program forms a land bank to make land affordable and farmers practice “conservation farming” to grow a wider variety of crops, improving their resistance to droughts, floods and infestations.

2011 Bev transitions to retirement, trains and travels with newly hired field staff Angela Boss, Eric Mattson and Alex Morse. (Rachel Conley replaces Angela in 2014.) The new staff begins assuming U.S. Growing Project responsibilities as well as monitoring Overseas Programs.

2013 The watchdog organization Charity Navigator awards us its prestigious 4-Star rating. Vernon, Carol, Norm and Bev become Board Directors Emeriti. The Learning & Serving Together Fund is established in Bev’s honor to support visits between Overseas Program participants.

2015 “The Next 1 Million” campaign is launched with the goal of transforming the lives of 1 million hungry people Overseas by 2023 through ag training. (Note: We achieved this goal in 2019!)

2018 Marv steps down and Max Finberg assumes leadership. The name Growing Hope Globally is designated to avoid confusion with food banks in the U.S. A new logo features a green heart sprouting from layers of improved soil, surrounded by a circle that symbolizes welcome to all. The generosity of donors allows us to develop a new mobile-friendly website that makes it easier to view Overseas Program updates and give online.

2019 We celebrate reaching 2 million people! Thank you to all Growing Project volunteers and donors who have made this possible. We also honor the hard work and faith of the 2 million people around the world whose example inspires their families, their neighbors and our Growing Project volunteers.

2020 We celebrate reaching 2 million people! Thank you to all Growing Project volunteers and donors who have made this possible. We also honor the hard work and faith of the 2 million people around the world whose example inspires their families, their neighbors and our Growing Project volunteers.

2004–1998 Motivated by a desire to use the corn they grow to prevent starvation, Ohio farmers Vernon and Carol Sloan and their neighbors harvest, bag and ship corn around the world to people suffering from hunger. When shipping costs rise to 97 cents on the dollar they ask their denomination to help find a better solution. They attend a brainstorming meeting held by UMCOR and a Steering Committee is formed to create an organization to carry on their work. The name Foods Resource Bank is chosen and Lloyd Rollins is appointed Director.
Growing Hope Projects in the U.S. change lives around the world by funding overseas ag training programs.

**Overseas Ag Training Programs**

**Central America**
1. Guatemala Four Departments
2. Guatemala Nebaj Quetzaltenango
3. Honduras Comayagua
4. Honduras Macuelizo
5. Honduras Orocuina & Liure
6. Mexico Chiapas Ocosingo
7. Nicaragua Boaco Camoapa
8. Nicaragua Conquista
9. Nicaragua Matagalpa
10. Nicaragua Mateare Carazo
11. Nicaragua Rio Coco

**Caribbean**
12. Haiti Northwest
13. Haiti Te Ak Bet

**South America**
14. Argentina/Bolivia Gran Chaco
15. Columbia Choco
16. Colombia Sincelejo
17. Peru Castrovirreyna

**Africa**
18. Burkina Faso Gnagha
19. Burkina Faso Namentenga
20. Central African Republic Gamboula
22. Kenya Magarini
23. Kenya Makueni
24. Kenya Tikana
25. Kenya West Pokot
26. Rwanda Rubavu
27. South Sudan Uror
28. Tanzania Chamwino
29. Uganda Kabale
30. Uganda Teso
31. West Africa
32. Zambia Northwest
33. Zimbabwe Mwenezi
34. Palestine Gaza
35. Bangladesh Kendua
36. Cambodia East
37. Cambodia South
38. India Banka Dumka Jamui
39. India South
40. India West Champaran & Sikamarhi
41. India Umsning
42. Myanmar Tedim
43. Nepal Bhatigachh
44. Vietnam Tan Son

**U.S. Growing Projects**

In the midst of civil war, we’re supporting a program that is looking beyond recovery aid and focusing on redeveloping skills and resources for seed farming, so stability can be re-established.

“Growing mushrooms has provided us with a regular source of income. This enables us to pay off loans, send our kids to school, dig wells and build latrines.”

— Srim Nan

In the midst of drought, this program focuses on conservation agriculture and soil health so farmers can produce a crop despite drought and grow a wide variety of crops to improve nutrition.

“Why should I migrate? I now have a cow and the sale of milk means my son will have more opportunities.”

— Rafael

“In the midst of civil war, we’re supporting a program that is looking beyond recovery aid and focusing on redeveloping skills and resources for seed farming, so stability can be re-established.”

— Caroline

“This program focuses on conservation agriculture and soil health so farmers can produce a crop despite drought and grow a wide variety of crops to improve nutrition.”

“Thanks to Growing Hope we were able to receive a small loan two years ago. That loan allowed me to start a flower business with my neighbors.”

— Maria (left)

“Growing mushrooms has provided us with a regular source of income. This enables us to pay off loans, send our kids to school, dig wells and build latrines.”

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“Thanks to Growing Hope we were able to receive a small loan two years ago. That loan allowed me to start a flower business with my neighbors.”

— Maria (left)

“Growing mushrooms has provided us with a regular source of income. This enables us to pay off loans, send our kids to school, dig wells and build latrines.”

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— Srim Nan

“We had skills to share but our government didn’t encourage it. Now we’re able to share new practices like intercropping that help us grow more food in declining rain and soil conditions.”

— Caroline

Visit growinghopeglobally.org/programs to view programs and sort by region, country and need.
Celebrating Kadzo and Pauline

Kadzo, once poor and marginalized, has become a successful farmer and esteemed member of her community. After participating in every workshop and opportunity offered by the Kenya Magarini program, she’s putting money aside in her Village Savings & Lending Association account to put her children through college by selling vegetables and goats. Soon she will start her own poultry business.

Pauline, a mother of eight, adopted all the farming, animal husbandry, hygiene, sanitation and savings practices she received training for. Now she manages a demonstration farm and her husband assists her with her kitchen garden, poultry, goats, rabbits, beekeeping and the marketing of her produce.

At the beginning of the program their challenges were assessed, an action plan was created, and the community started infrastructure projects that made it easier for them to recover from the devastating floods of 2018.

At the close of the four-year training program, Kadzo, Pauline, their families and farmers like them in the 10 communities in Magarini are better equipped to face the future.

“Community action plans in place at the time of flooding meant people were looking out for each other and able to recover more quickly from the devastation.” – Kadzo

Thanks to your support and generosity:

• Community efforts such as the reconstruction of roads, water wells and water retention ponds have strengthened area infrastructure, which has improved lives and livelihoods
• Overall health is better due to the construction of household latrines and an emphasis on handwashing

The Kenya Magarini program is led by World Renew and local partner ADS Pwani

Celebrating Dineswr and Sangita

Dineswr and Sangita are successful vegetable farmers, but it hasn’t always been that way. Just a few years ago they were struggling to make ends meet because they didn’t have any land. When they could find day labor they worked at large farms, but it wasn’t easy to feed their family on the meager income.

In 2013 they were given a new opportunity: learning better vegetable growing methods and a chance to use a small piece of land to try out their new skills. Every year they paid a larger percentage of the rent for the land. It was just the opportunity they needed to get started. The opportunity has paid off in a big way: they’ve more than doubled their annual income, have purchased their own piece of land, and bought a small tractor to improve their operations.

Thanks to your support and generosity:

• They’re able to own their own land and earn a stable income
• Their children are able to eat fresh homegrown vegetables and attend a good school in a nearby city

The Nepal Bhatigachh program is led by Mennonite Central Committee and local partner BICWS

Celebrating Miriam

Not many years ago, Miriam had zero experience in farming. However, she showed such potential she was selected to receive additional training as a "promotora" so she could teach others sustainable techniques that would give them better results.

Miriam was raised in a small village on the Coco River, which separates Nicaragua and Honduras. Her parents couldn’t afford to send her to school and she’s always regretted this. At age 20 she found work as a cook in a larger town, returning two years later to get married and raise eight children. Miriam wanted to learn to farm so she could support her family. She had land, but not the training and skills. She grows her family’s food on 75 acres and uses extra income from the farm to put her children through school, so they won’t have the same regrets.

Thanks to your support and generosity:

• They’re able to own their own land and earn a stable income
• Their children are able to eat fresh homegrown vegetables and attend a good school in a nearby city

The Nicaragua Rio Coco program is led by Church World Service and local partner Acción Médica Cristiana

“Community leaders chose me to be an agricultural promoter to help my neighbors. I’m happy to be an example for other farmers, men and women.” – Miriam
Celebrating the Generosity of Our Growing Project Volunteers

“It hasn’t been possible for me to be a missionary overseas, but this allows me to serve right where I am and help others.”
– LaRaine Salmon

While many Growing Projects focus on crops, others involve livestock and dairy. Some center around community-building events such as corn roasts, auctions, bike rides, and 5k races.

In Archbold OH cattle fattened throughout the year are sold for the benefit of Growing Hope. Every May the community comes together at the annual “Burger Bash” to volunteer, celebrate and raise additional funds and awareness.

“In our Growing Project is amazing! Farmers come together with people from the city, suburbs, small towns, civic groups and different church denominations to focus on one thing.”
– Paul and Terry Youngstrum

“We are 10 congregations coming together to serve one mission: helping others help themselves.”
– Patty Hurwitz

Larry Winger
Oxford IN Growing Project
Since 2003

“I cannot tell you how much we have been blessed to be a part of this organization. Your commitment to food security is amazing. After 15 years and all of the experiences and people who have come into our lives because of this program, it has been overwhelming. I cannot put into words what it was like to be able to go to Tacabamba, Bolivia, and see the village where the money from our Growing Project had gone to help the people. It was a life-defining moment for me.”

Why Choose Growing Hope Globally?

✔ Make a difference in the world from where you live, using the tools, training and equipment you already have.
✔ Address the root causes of hunger by supporting ag training programs that create long-term impact.
✔ Give a hand up, not a handout and treat people with dignity, teaching them how to help themselves.
✔ Visit the overseas program you fund so you can see the difference your Growing Project is making and meet the subsistence farmers you support.
✔ Choose the program you want to fund from over 44 programs in 26 countries.
✔ Fund programs that are implemented by talented local partners who take into account community needs and resources as well as culture, climate, language and market conditions. They are there for the long term, even after the program ends.
✔ Build community by bringing people from different denominations, civic groups and businesses together around a common cause.
✔ Work with an organization that has earned a 4-Star rating from Charity Navigator 4 years in a row.

Growing Projects: Crops, Beef, Dairy, Community Events and More

States with Growing Projects
For a list of projects in your area contact our field staff or visit: growinghopeglobally.org/growingprojects

“‘We have the satisfaction of knowing we’re helping people become self-sufficient and that it only takes a small amount to make a big difference in the lives of the families.”
– Ron Snitker

“We like how Growing Hope gives people the tools and knowledge of how to farm, not just food. In the long run that lives them what they need to escape hunger. It’s been a great partnership.”
– Ted and Lisa Gaetterman

“Ottawa-Barrington IL
Since 2004

Joliet IL
Since 2005

Ottawa IL
Since 2006

Moline MI
Since 2019

Waukon IA
Since 2005

Bucyrus KS
Since 2001

Myersville MD
Since 2006

Oxford IN
Growing Project
Since 2003

Bucyrus KS
Since 2001

Moline MI
Since 2019

Waukon IA
Since 2005

Ottawa IL
Since 2006

Myersville MD
Since 2006

Oxford IN
Growing Project
Since 2003
CASM (Comisión de Acción Social Menonita), a partner we support in Honduras, provides training and monetary support to communities there by helping them construct eco-stoves, washing stations, cement floors, latrines and biodigesters. They also teach them worm farming, how to make organic fertilizer, and other ag practices. The graduate who shows the greatest leadership qualities receives a cow.

We heard story after story about how much we’re helping them. The people are dependent on agriculture and as vulnerable to the weather as we are in the States, maybe more so. There’s no industry or service work. There are frequent droughts and the next year they may have monsoon rains. Many children have nutritional deficits, though cooking and gardening classes are helping. Children are also planting small gardens next to their parents’ larger ones. The gardens provide for the families and in many instances they have extra produce to sell. One lady said the ag training technicians were like angels...and when they leave, they will always be in her heart.

When we introduced ourselves at a meeting of community leaders, I mentioned that I donated a share of my crops to Growing Hope. Rafael, a recipient of a cow, said, “Since you show us love and care by putting in your effort, we put in our own effort to teach others to do the same.” Rafael shares his milk with others and when his cow calves, he plans to give it to someone from another community. Now I realize how what I contribute to Growing Hope grows exponentially in the programs we fund.

What surprised me most was the joy expressed by the people. To be content with so little was amazing. I just roto-tilled my medium-sized garden back home and was wondering if I should make it bigger. Now I think about how excited a family was to show us their 5 ft. X 10 ft. garden and how they used every inch of space. Take the trip. Your eyes will be opened and you'll never be the same. – Gary Gensch, Growing Project volunteer

Celebrating Ag Training “Angels” and Gary’s New Point of View

Celebrating Rural Churches Working Together Across Denominations

A dozen of us gathered in the basement of Zion UCC one night to share memories about the Waukon IA Growing Project and how it has fostered community and cooperation among the churches in the area.

When asked what motivated them to start their project, most people hesitated and turned to John Preston. In a quiet voice John began to talk about the night Joan Fumetti came to Zion to meet with a small group. As he remembered her enthusiasm, everyone nodded, smiled and laughed about how inspiring she was. John went on to describe how Ron Snitker, Zion UCC and Larry Snitker from Zalmona Lutheran became part of the project leadership, with Larry designating 20 acres on the corner of Highways 9 and 51 as the “Corner of Hope.” He also recalled the words of Pastor Richard and Carol Eick: “In all of our years in ministry this is one of the most satisfying projects we’ve been involved in.”

Then more people began to share. “Don’t forget the Welshes from Lansing Catholic,” someone said, and so it went on around the table. They talked about how, even though they already had a strong Ministerial Association that had held a number of community efforts and worshiped together, this Growing Project really fostered an ecumenical feeling. The group reached out even further and soon added St. Luke’s United Church of Christ in nearby Elizet MN; St. John’s United Church of Christ in Wheatland IA; and St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Hanover IA.

“The Corner of Hope began with a group of farmers inspired to see how they could be part of ending world hunger. They felt they were changing lives, not just giving money. After 14 years together they’ve grown and been blessed as much as they’ve been a blessing to the people in our Overseas Programs. The project has not only provided hope and food security for subsistence farmers in developing countries; it continues to be the glue that holds their churches together, more than ever before.” – Ron DeWeerd, Growing Hope staff

For more information about scheduling a trip like Gary’s please contact your Growing Hope field staff.
One of our greatest responsibilities is to be good stewards of the funds we receive.

### 2018–2019 Financials

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<th>INCOME</th>
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<tr>
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**Global Impact**

Breaking the Cycle of Hunger and Poverty

- **$38 Million** Raised by Growing Projects
- **$56.3 Million** Raised Overall
- **2.0 Million** People with Improved Food Security
- **20 Years** Working to Reduce World Hunger

By carefully managing costs, more than **82 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR DONATED** is invested in Overseas Programming and Growing Projects.

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

### Board of Directors

- **Geoff Andersen**
  - John Deere
- **Brian Backe**
  - At Large
- **Sarah Beams**
  - Growing Project Leader Eureka MO
- **Maurice Bloom**
  - Church World Service
- **Carol Bremer-Bennett**
  - World Renew
- **Jim Elwell**
  - Portage UCC/Climax MI Growing Project
- **Tad Fannin**
  - Nazarene Compassionate Ministries
- **Kirby Gould**
  - Christian Church Foundation
- **Karis Gutter**
  - Corteva Agriscience
- **Sara Lisherness**
  - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- **Jerry Lundeen**
  - Growing Project Leader Somonaauk IL
- **John Lyon**
  - World Hope International
- **Jim Rufenacht**
  - Growing Project Leader Archbold OH
- **Jim Schmidt**
  - Growing Project Leader Polo IL
- **Claude Schrock**
  - Growing Project Leader Grabill IN; Mennonite Central Committee
- **Leah Stolte-Doerfler**
  - Growing Project Leader Silverton OR; Lutheran World Relief
- **Mark Swanson**
  - Growing Project Leader Yakima WA; Evangelical Covenant Church-Covenant World Relief
- **Sara Lisherness**
  - Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
- **Jerry Lundeen**
  - Growing Project Leader Somonaauk IL
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  - Growing Project Leader Yakima WA; Evangelical Covenant Church-Covenant World Relief

**It Takes Partnership**

Rural hunger in developing countries is a complex issue that requires partnership with local experts overseas in order to develop sustainable solutions. That’s why we are a **Partnership Organization**. By working with **Implementing Organizations** and their local, in-country partners, we ensure the programs we support are helping hungry people help themselves by providing the ag training and tools they need.

We also work with **Support Organizations** that provide financial support for Overseas Programs and **Affiliated Organizations** that help further our mission.

**Implementing Organizations**

- Catholic Relief Services
- Church of the Brethren
- Church World Service
- Dorcas Aid International
- Evangelical Covenant Church – Covenant World Relief
- Lutheran World Relief
- Mennonite Central Committee

**Support Organizations**

- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – Week of Compassion
- Nazarene Compassionate Ministries
- Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- World Hope International, Inc
- World Renew

**Affiliated Organizations**

- United Church of Christ – One Great Hour of Sharing
- United Methodist Committee on Relief, GBGM, UMC

**Board of Directors**

- **Bruce White**
  - Catholic Relief Services
- **Dan Wiens**
  - Mennonite Central Committee
- **Steve Witt**
  - Growing Project Leader Elvira IA

**Emeriti**

- **Norm Braksick**
  - Bryon Center MI
- **Bev Abma**
  - Portage MI
- **Dan Wiens**
  - Mennonite Central Committee
- **Sara Lisherness**
  - Growing Project Leader Elvira IA

**Advisor**

- **Cosmas Mwanza**
  - Machakos, Kenya
- **Bruce White**
  - Catholic Relief Services
- **Dan Wiens**
  - Mennonite Central Committee
- **Steve Witt**
  - Growing Project Leader Elvira IA
“It would be less work if people shipped me corn, but what if they were no longer able to? It is good to receive training because then it's mine and I’m not dependent on someone else.”
– Douglas, Nicaraguan farmer

“In the past we had to buy vegetables. Now we have enough year-round and some to sell. I’ve learned the importance of carefully planning my crops. We feel healthy eating our own vegetables, knowing how they were produced.”
– Saroam, Cambodian farmer

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”
– Matthew 25:40

Watch Our Webinars and Learn More

Travel the globe from your armchair as field staff and Growing Project volunteers share their experiences visiting our Overseas Programs. Be encouraged by real stories of how you provide hope, change lives and help break the cycle of hunger and poverty.

Watch on your computer, tablet or smart phone. Topics in the archives include: the link between hunger and immigration; conflict, ag and peace-building; and the long-term impact of the programs we have funded.

Visit growinghopeglobally.org/webinars

Donations Gratefully Accepted
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