

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.

We are grateful to God for all the people whose lives have been enriched and improved in these 20 years. THANK YOU!



Max Finberg
President and CEO

Mas Finberg

Celebrating 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



Vernon and Carol Sloan Founders In memory of Vernon 1926–2017

Celebrating God's Faithfulness

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.



Bev Abma
Board Director 1999–2002
Executive Director of Overseas
Programming 2002–2013

Celebrating Our Volunteers and Our Donors

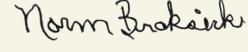
Let's celebrate the hundreds of faithful volunteers who have made this unique program work!

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!



Norm Braksick
Executive Director 2000–2005
Dedicated Volunteer



Celebrating 20 Years of Faithfully Serving Hungry People

1994 - 1998 Motivated by a desire to use the corn they grew 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.

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 vears. He and administrative coordinator Laurie Kaniarz 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 \$17,721 to support our first Overseas Program in Bamba, Kenva.

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.

2002-03 Bev (now on staff) invites the first program participant to the U.S. to thank our Growing Projects: Levi Mwandisha of Bamba, Kenya. A five-year grant from W.K. Kellogg Foundation supports admin costs. A four-year grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) provides a 1:1 match for Growing Project donations. Bev invites the first Growing Project volunteers on overseas visits.

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.



2005 Norm transitions to Volunteer Field Staff as Mary 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.

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 resistence 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.

CHARITY NAVIGATOR RECOGNIZES
GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY, FORMERLY FOODS RESOURCE BANK AS A 4-STAR RATED CHARITY

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 Bey'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 2 million hungry people overseas by 2023 through ag training. (Note: We achieved this goal in 2019!)



20TH ANNIVERSARY

2018 Mary 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 springing 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.

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.

Celebrating the Transformation of Lives Around the World

Growing Hope Projects in the U.S. change lives around the world by funding overseas ag training programs.

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

- Rafael



12-13

U.S. GROWING PROJECTS

BURKINA FASO GNAGHA

This program focuses on conservation agriculture and soil health so farmers can produce a crop despite drought and grow a wide

Overseas Ag Training Programs

Central America

- **Guatemala Four Departments**
- Guatemala Nebaj Quetzaltenango
- Honduras Comayagua
- Honduras Macuelizo
- Honduras Orocuina & Liure
- Mexico Chiapas Ocosingo
- 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
- 21 Kenya Kathonzweni

- 22 Kenya Magarini
- 23 Kenya Makueni
- 24 Kenya Tigania
- 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

Middle East

34 Palestine Gaza

- 35 Bangladesh Kendua
- 36 Cambodia East
- 37 Cambodia South
- 38 India Banka Dumka Jamui
- 39 India South
- 40 India West Champaran & Sitamarhi
- 41 India Umsning
- 42 Myanmar Tedim
- 43 Nepal Bhatigachh
- 44 Vietnam Tan Son

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)



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



"For the first time I can say that I am a woman and a farmer! This is a huge change for me and for our culture!" - Nazma Akhter





"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.



\$120,320 NEEDED OF \$210,000

NICARAGUA RIO COCO

Sharing learning through demonstration farms and production centers



\$98,337 NEEDED OF \$130,052

INDIA WEST CHAMPARAN & SITAMARHI

Enhaning productivity through expanded access to climateresilient technologies



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.



Kadzo working in her field of tomatoes.

"The entire community is more united than anyone thought possible. No one imagined that people would be living together in harmony to assist each other in kind. I don't feel lonely these days. I've built so many relationships, I'm always in the company of others. God bless you for making this possible!" – 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
- Community action plans in place at the time of flooding meant people were looking out for each other and able to recover more guickly from the devastation

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



"I used to work as a day laborer for the benefit of others. Now I am able to work for the benefit of my own farm and my own income." – Dineswr

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:

- The entire community benefits from ag training centers
- Ag promotors like Miram share what they learn with neighbors



"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

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

Celebrating the Generosity of Our Growing Project Volunteers

Since 2019

"We have the satisfaction of knowing we're helping people become selfsufficient and that it only takes a small amount to make a big difference in the lives of the families."



- Ron Snitker

"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

CORNER OF

HOPE

WAUKON IA

Since 2005

OTTAWA-BARRINGTON IL

"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



"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 Tacobamba, 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."



States with Growing Projects

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

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

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 the Hartford MI Growing Project a dairy contributes milk profits from their cows, suppliers cover feed, veterinary expenses and more, and local churches cover other costs. They all come together to celebrate during the "Day at the Dairy."



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.



Celebrating Ag Training "Angels" and Gary's New Point of View

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.



Gary Gensch and members of the Water Committee in Las Delias

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.

"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 (walked three hours to attend the meeting)



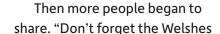
What surprised me most was the joy expressed by the people. To be content with so little was amazing. I just roto-tilled my medium-sized garden back home and was wondering if I should make it bigger. Now I think about how excited a family was to show us their 5 ft. X 10 ft. garden and how they used every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

Celebrating 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."





Corner of Hope leaders (l to r): Dave Hahn, Gordy Ellingson, Dennis Byrnes

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 Eitzen MN; St. John's United Church of Christ in Wheatland IA; and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Hanover IA.

"In all of our years in ministry this is one of the most satisfying projects we've been involved in."— Pastor Richard and Carol Eick



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*



2018–2019 Financials

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

INCOME	\$2.8 MILLION
Growing Project Donations	71%
Member Dues	12%
Individual and Other Donations	13%
Grants	4%

EXPENSES	\$3.3 MILLION
Food Security Programming	69%
Growing Project Support	13%
Administration	11%
Fundraising	7%

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.



Active Growing Projects in 20 U.S. States





Training Programs in 26 Countries



Partners: **Implementing** and Support **Organizations**



4-Star Rating 4 Years in a Row

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.

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

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) -Presbyterian Disaster Assistance World Hope International, Inc World Renew

Support Organizations

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – Week of Compassion

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

Affiliated Organizations

Bread for the World Alliance to End Hunger Rise Against Hunger

Board of Directors

Geoff Andersen

John Deere

Brian Backe

At Large

Sarah Beams

Growing Project Leader Eureka MO

Maurice Bloem

Church World Service

Carol Bremer-Bennett

World Renew

Iim 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.)

Ierry Lundeen

Growing Project Leader Somonauk IL

John Lyon

World Hope International

Iim 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

Bruce White

Catholic Relief Services

Dan Wiens

Mennonite Central Committee

Steve Witt

Growing Project Leader Elvira IA

EMERITI

Bev Abma

Byron Center MI

Norm Braksick Portage MI

Carol Sloan

Stryker OH

ADVISOR

Cosmas Mwanzia

Machakos, Kenya

Thank You for Helping People Break the Cycle of Hunger and Poverty



"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 peacebuilding; and the long-term impact of the programs we have funded.

Visit growinghopeglobally.org/webinars



Formerly Foods Resource Bank

Donations Gratefully Accepted

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