

# Growing Hope Globally Announces Online Summer Celebration



**GROWING  
HOPE**  
G L O B A L L Y

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People in cities in northern Colombia are seeing rising rates of hunger, according to the latest field report that Growing Hope Globally received from our partners. It is a trend seen across Latin America, where the impact of COVID-19 is being deeply felt. There was also good news though — the program participants in rural communities are faring a little better.

“Even with fewer job opportunities and markets being closed, farmers are a little less vulnerable,” said Alex Morse, Regional Director for Growing Hope. “Program participants can grow their own food, and with the training our partners are providing, families have more productive and more diversified farms. Even now, they have crops to harvest and enjoy. Our concern is the long-term impact and disruption.”

“Right now, the work Growing Hope Globally and our partners do to promote sustainable agriculture and food security is more important than ever,” said Max Finberg, President of Growing Hope. “That’s why I am excited that we’ll be able to reach so many people through this year’s Summer Celebration and Annual Meeting.” Growing Hope normally hosts an in-person event each year, but due to COVID-19 this year’s event is moving online.

“It’s a challenge,” continued Finberg, “but it creates some new opportunities. Our global partners will be able to participate in new ways this year. We’ll have updates and testimonials from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Honduras, India, Kenya, Nepal, and Zimbabwe. Our hope is that we reach more American communities and inspire them to get involved by becoming part of the community responding to hunger in this unique way.”



Bob Sefrit with Rony Janvier during Rony’s visit to the U.S. as he represented the Haiti Northwest program.

“I appreciate Growing Hope Globally because it’s a hand-up and an opportunity,” says Bob Sefrit, a volunteer with the organization in Fairfax, MO for nearly 15 years. “In my life, I’ve had people support me with a hand-up, that’s what you do for your neighbors. This is a chance for us to do that for our global neighbors. It gives them the opportunity to learn new ideas and then it is up to their hard work to put it all into practice. You have to just admire the folks for what they are doing for themselves.”

Bob is a volunteer leader in one of Growing Hope’s 140 Growing Projects that are organized all across the Midwest and active in 21 states. While each Growing Project is unique, the majority are focused around community based agricultural fundraisers. In the case of the Fairfax MO Growing Project, Bob donates the use of some of his land and does the farming, while the Methodist Church he attends and local agribusinesses provide funds and other donations to support his expenses. Over the last 20+ years, Growing Hope Globally has provided farmers and rural America with the opportunity to make an impact around the world and has reached more than 2.1 million people.

The online Summer Celebration will be on August 11th at 6pm Central / 7pm Eastern. Register for free at [GrowingHopeGlobally.org](https://GrowingHopeGlobally.org) or at [bit.ly/GrowingHopeSummer](https://bit.ly/GrowingHopeSummer)



A program participant in Honduras tends to her crops that she will sell at market