

CELEBRATING



YEARS

of Growing Lasting Solutions to Hunger



GROWING
HOPE
G L O B A L L Y

2023-2024 Annual Report



As a Christian response to hunger, we link the grassroots energy and commitment of rural communities in the U.S. with the capability and desire of smallholder farmers in developing countries to grow lasting solutions to hunger.

Letter From The President

Dear Friends,

As I join Growing Hope Globally, I am honored to carry forward the vision of our founders who were moved to do something about the hunger their brothers and sisters around the world were facing. Twenty-five years ago, they began using the proceeds from crops raised and sold in the U.S. to support agricultural development programs around the world, working in partnership with Christian international development organizations and their trusted local partners to make a lasting impact.

Now, as we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we are grateful for

each person who has joined us in serving more than 2.3 million people around the world. I am inspired by the commitment, hard work, and dedication of the countless farmers, churches, businesses, and individuals who have dedicated their time, talents, and treasure to support their global neighbors, and our implementing partners who have worked tirelessly alongside communities to grow lasting solutions to hunger.

In this annual report, we reflect on those who have passionately worked to make a difference over the past

quarter century, and celebrate the next generation of supporters who are already finding creative ways to carry our shared mission into the future. I hope you will be inspired by the impact of programs in Cambodia, Nicaragua, Uganda and around the world.

We look forward to serving alongside you to make a global impact for many more years to come.

Gratefully,



Kaitlyn Slate



Our History

Founded in 1999 as Foods Resource Bank, Growing Hope Globally started when Ohio Farmers Vernon and Carol Sloan invited their neighbors to become part of the solution to world hunger by shipping corn from their fields to developing countries.

They quickly learned shipping was too costly – nearly 15 times the cost of the grain itself – and would wreak havoc on local farmers and markets. Needing a new idea, they sat down with a handful of Christian organizations that fund and run international food security programs.

Their unique solution: Use the proceeds from crops raised and sold in the U.S. to fund agricultural development programs overseas.

That seed of an idea has blossomed into a network of community Growing Projects in 20 states. Together, we have served over 2.3 million people and helped them to grow lasting solutions to hunger.



414 Growing Projects in 32 states have raised a total of \$47,220,580. Overall, \$70,778,463 has been raised to support lasting solutions to hunger



Our U.S. Growing Projects have been faithful supporters:

39 have been active for 20-25 Years
40 have been active for 15-19 Years
14 have been active for 10-14 Years
11 have been active for 5-9 Years



Celebrating

2

5

Years



Together, we have supported 190 agricultural development programs in 58 countries around the world



Together, we have helped 2,356,326 people from 379,751 households in 12,095 communities find lasting solutions to hunger



Our Future

Though we've impacted more than 2.3 million people over the past 25 years, hunger remains a constant struggle for millions more.

Therefore, we remain steadfast in our vision of a day when all people around the world have enough to eat and the physical, financial, and community resources to live hopeful, healthy, productive lives.

We are committed to continue raising resources to support sustainable smallholder agricultural development, and to increase opportunities for all people to work together consciously toward a more just and equitable world for all.



**GROWING
HOPE**
GLOBALLY



Three Generations of Support For Growing Hope Globally

Paul and Rosie Guetterman's family first heard about Growing Hope Globally back in 2001. Norm Braksick was a friend of one of their landlords and talked to them about starting a Growing Project. "We were very impressed because it was not a handout, but a teaching program," said Rosie.

And so the Bucyrus, KS Growing Project took root. The Guettermans weren't the only ones to get involved. Several of their landlords

and neighbors have also faithfully contributed over the last 23 years.

"We just want to help people that need help," said Paul, "My hope is that people can make better living conditions for themselves and sustain themselves. We can be a part of that and I think the Growing Project is a good way to make it work."

Paul and his brothers began the family farm in 1966. The business has evolved through the years and is

now operated by Paul and his sons, Ted, Mike and Nick, as well as several members of the next generation. They grow corn, soybeans and wheat using no-till practices, priding themselves on farming efficiently and being good stewards of the land.

Like their farm, Growing Hope Globally has been a family affair for the Guettermans. "It is what Jesus told us to do. We are supposed to help people who need some help. It's what we are called to," said Mike.

Each day, the Guetterman family has lunch together at the farm. This has provided a great opportunity to connect across the generations. They have also had the chance to host several guests from Growing Hope Globally programs around the world. “I have been inspired by the people that have visited our farm from the programs,” said Paul.

The Guettermans welcomed the wider Growing Hope Globally family to their farm in 2014, hosting the Friday evening dinner as part of the annual Summer Celebration.

In 2016, Mike and Jodi Guetterman and their children Weston and Davis visited Growing Hope Globally supported programs in Kenya. “It was nice to see what our efforts were doing, inspiring people to produce food for themselves and create a better life,” said Mike.

The trip left a lasting impression on Weston, who was only 12 at the time. “My trip to Kenya was truly an eye-opening experience for me,” he

said. “Seeing how these smallholder farmers operated their farms and livestock herds to sustain their families put things into perspective.”

Last fall, he and his fraternity brothers at Kansas State University held their Alpha Gamma Rhoeo fundraiser in support of Growing Hope Globally. “We found that Alpha Gamma Rho’s vision aligned seamlessly with Growing Hope Globally’s mission in the matter of promoting agricultural development. Through this partnership, we were able to contribute to Growing Hope in addition to further educating our peers,” he said.

Growing Hope Globally has truly been blessed by this family’s multi-generational commitment to be faithful stewards of their resources – both in their own farming practices and in the way they support other farmers around the world.



Agroforestry Inspires A Sustainable Future

In the hills of Matagalpa, Nicaragua, a farmer named Douglas embarked on a journey of transformation. He had always grown corn, beans, and coffee using the practices he had seen used when he was growing up. He used fire to clear the land and relied upon more and more agrochemicals for fertilizer and pest management. However, he found himself stuck in a cycle of diminishing returns and increasing production costs.

When he joined the Farmer Field School in his community, he began to realize the environmental toll of his practices and became interested in seeking a different path.

The shift began with diversification. Douglas decided to break away from the single-crop approach that was depleting his land. He chose to be a pioneer in his community, and he turned one of his fields into a demonstration plot.

Embracing a successional agroforestry system on about half an acre, he intercropped banana and cassava with coffee and cocoa. The landscape that had been a monoculture evolved into a dynamic and resilient agroecosystem. The first and second years produced harvests of bananas and cassava. By the third year, he was also harvesting coffee and cocoa.



Douglas not only witnessed an increase in income but also a paradigm shift in his agricultural philosophy. The long-term crops of cocoa and coffee became anchors for sustainable practices.

Encouraged by his initial success, he expanded his agroforestry approach to 1.7 acres. Now, with continued success he is again making plans to double his agroforestry operations over the next two years. As he expands, he is thinking strategically about how to mitigate the impact of climatic variations on both his coffee and staple crops.

As Douglas diversified his crops, he also diversified his income streams. The agroforestry model became a beacon of hope for other families in the community. Three families, inspired by Douglas's success, adopted a similar system, signaling a ripple effect of positive change.

The impact extended beyond financial gains. Douglas marveled at the micro climate he created around his home, the harmony of crops and the natural pest control that a diversified approach provided naturally. His prior heavy reliance on agrochemicals diminished significantly, marking a win for his wallet, the environment and his family's health.

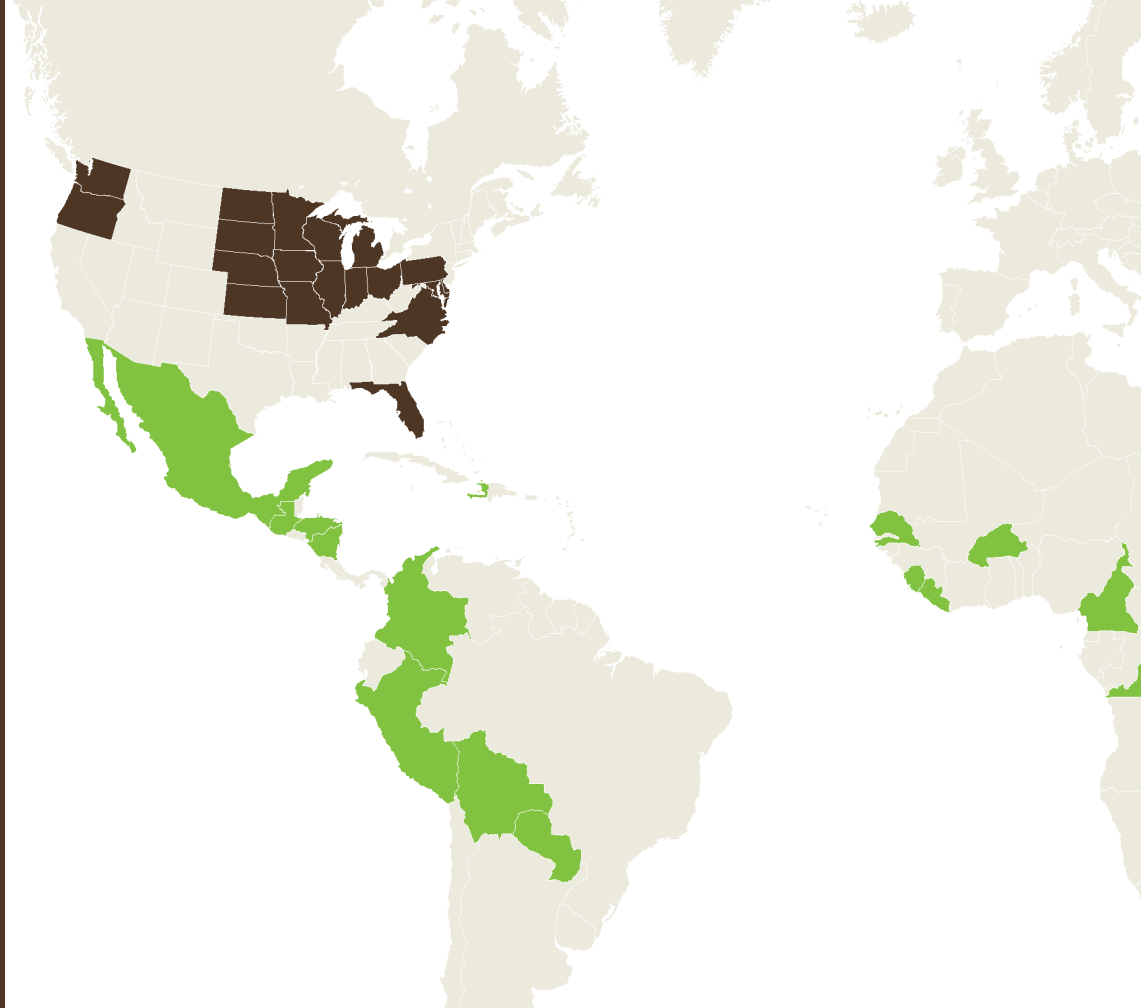
For Douglas, the story shifted from a tale of unsustainable practices to one of resilience, innovation, and sustainable development. Through embracing change and diversification, he not only transformed his own plot but sowed the seeds of inspiration for a more sustainable future for his community.

The Nicaragua Matagalpa program is implemented by World Renew and local partner Centro Inter Ecclesial de Estudios Teologías y Sociales (CIEETS)



Local Growing Projects

Delaware
Florida
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Maryland
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
North Carolina
North Dakota
Ohio
Oregon
Pennsylvania
South Dakota
Virginia
Washington
Wisconsin



This year, **109** Growing Projects in **19** states joined together with other funders to support **45** agricultural development programs in **31** countries, helping **211,832** people find lasting solutions to hunger.

Global Impact



- Bangladesh
- Bolivia
- Burkina Faso
- Cambodia
- Cameroon
- Colombia
- DR Congo
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- India
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Mexico
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Palestine
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- West Africa
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

Global Impact



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- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Honduras
- India
- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Lebanon
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Mexico
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Palestine
- Paraguay
- Peru
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- West Africa
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe





Bunong Farmers Innovate To Overcome Challenges

Mondulkiri province in eastern Cambodia is home to the Bunong people. The Bunong have a long history of being marginalized, and suffered grave losses during the Vietnam War and the Khmer Rouge regime. Relying primarily on subsistence agriculture, their culture and livelihoods are tied to the land. In recent years, their way of life is under threat as their ancestral land and its rich biodiversity are being destroyed through illegal logging, hunting and economic land concessions.

In 2023, the Cambodia Mondulkiri program began, starting out by establishing training farms in key locations throughout the province. The program is focused on innovation and aims to increase income for Bunong farmers and provide local employment opportunities for youth. It is part of an integrated development program that addresses education, conservation and more.

Keo Siema wildlife sanctuary is home to over 60 threatened or endangered

plant and animal species. Nearby farmers dealt with wildlife eating their crops, in addition to the usual challenges. The program is piloting the idea of planting wildlife-friendly spices such as ginger and turmeric. These crops are not attractive to animals, but have a ready market if grown organically. This allows farmers to earn an income and purchase the food their families need.

In another area, farmers were dealing with a different kind of pest: the

Diamond Back Moth. Local farmers typically grow Napa or head cabbage throughout most of the year, but the moth has become a problem in recent years, building up resistance due to the overuse of pesticides. The program has introduced broccoli as an alternative crop. The moth eats the outer leaves, but doesn't damage the flower. Several farmers are trying out this new crop and looking to scale up to commercial production. Mr. Vanthon said, "It is great to have a crop I can grow that does not have so many pest problems."

Another challenge was with carrots. They weren't yielding well because many of the roots would rot during the rainy season. A new variety was introduced that is better suited to wet conditions and the farmer's yields have increased. Mr. Ny was one of the early adopters and quickly spread the word to other farmers in the group. Area farmers are also experimenting with beetroot, and one of the program leaders has found a connection to an export market for shallots that looks promising as well.

Nam Lear Mountain, a community-managed ecotourism site in a protected forest area, hosted around 10,000 visitors last year. The community charges a small entrance fee that provides income and helps to maintain the modest facilities. However, there was an unrealized opportunity to increase their income by selling vegetables to their guests.

Previously, the only on-site food option available was Bunong soup, a local specialty cooked inside a piece of bamboo. Encouraged by program staff, community leaders decided to establish a training farm and grow vegetables on site so they could sell both fresh vegetables and prepared food to Nam Lear tourists, selling any surplus in the local market.

Although the program has just begun, Bunong farmers are already beginning to overcome their challenges through innovation.

The Cambodia Mondulkiri program is implemented by World Hope International.



Coffee Sales Support Farmers in Uganda and Around The World



When Charlie Hansen first heard about Growing Hope Globally a few years back, he knew he wanted to get involved, but he wasn't quite sure how. Hansen owns Dandy Lion Coffee in Chanhassen, MN and met Growing Hope Globally Regional Director Mark Swanson through a mutual friend.

"I've always been really fascinated with different ways of raising money. Of course you can always just write a check, but there are a lot of ways that you can raise money while also raising awareness for the needs of people around the world. Growing Hope Globally really puts the finances where they make a long-term impact, helping communities from the ground up to bring lifelong change."

"We toyed around with different ways to start a project, such as reusing our burlap bags to make

coffee frames as art, or setting aside a percentage of our sales, but it just didn't feel like it had a direct connection with what Growing Hope Globally was doing."

Eventually, Hansen came up with a coffee subscription model. "Fundraisers are often these one-off things and that can be effective and good. But the beauty of coffee is that it is a commodity and people are drinking it day in and day out. The idea of combining something people need regularly with a fundraiser was really intriguing and inspiring to me. It kind of fits with the values of what Growing Hope Globally is already doing – bringing foundational and lifelong continual change."

Hope Blend was launched in March 2024 and is available for either subscription or one-time purchase at DandyLion.coffee. Half of the

profits support Growing Hope Globally's general programming fund, helping farmers around the world to find lasting solutions to hunger.

For participants in the Uganda Mt. Elgon program, the coffee purchase makes a more direct impact since the beans for Hope Blend were purchased from them through local partner Mountain Harvest.

Mountain Harvest works with roughly 1,000 coffee farmers, each of whom has between 600 and 1,000 trees. Coffee is the main source of income for most of these farmers, and poverty is persistent.

With Mountain Harvest, they now have a stable buyer who pays 10-30% above local market prices. This enables them to better provide for their families, invest in their crops and land, and improve the local economy to benefit the entire community.

The program is helping farmers to improve profitability by addressing key on-farm issues, professionalizing coffee picking and standardizing coffee processing. It is also supporting complimentary ecosystems and helping participants to diversify their income through training on raising rabbits and other livestock, beekeeping, planting and maintaining avocado orchards and growing cover crops.

The Uganda Mt. Elgon program is implemented by Lutheran World Relief and local partner Mountain Harvest.





FFA Chapter Supports Growing Hope Globally With Flower Sales

This spring, the Smyrna, Delaware FFA chapter held their usual annual flower sale. But this year, for the first time, the proceeds from their geranium sales were dedicated to Growing Hope Globally, launching the chapter's new Growing Project.

They first learned about Growing Hope Globally at the National FFA Convention in 2022. Afterwards, they began researching and held a meeting with state FFA and Department of Agriculture staff to

learn more and brainstorm how they could get involved.

"I had already thought of selling our geraniums for this as we grow them from seed and it would allow me time to really share with our kids what Growing Hope Globally is and give them time to understand what their impact would be," said Smyrna FFA Advisor, Kellie Michaud.

"Building communities is a vital component of our chapter and with

hunger being such a great issue that reaches into every community in our country and across the globe, it is one that we have always championed. Partnering with Growing Hope Globally is a wonderful way to expand beyond our community and allow our students to make an impact in a bigger and extremely meaningful way."

"Growing Hope Globally is an amazing organization because so many people around the world are impacted by

food insecurity. By being involved in this organization we are helping people across the world and doing a small part to solve one of the greatest problems today,” said sophomore student, Brooklynne Keiser.

The chapter applied for an FFA Growing Project Grant to cover some of their initial expenses and the students got to work. “Each year our chapter holds an Annual Spring Plant Sale out of our school greenhouse. Our Plant Science II students are in charge of all aspects of production including seeding, transplanting, plant maintenance, building planters, and running the sale,” said Michaud.

Geraniums are one of the most popular plants the students grow. Starting in November they seeded 1,300 geraniums of multiple varieties and cared for them up until the sale, which was held over several weekends in April and May. In the first year of the project, the students raised over \$1,700 to support Growing Hope Globally!

They topped up their donation to an even \$2,000 and designated it to the Sierra Leone Liberia Youth program. They were excited about supporting a program focused on young people like themselves. Their funds will be matched through the Next Generation Fund to make an even greater impact.

“I am glad that we are able to help people around the world that are trying to better help themselves grow food for their families and communities,” said sophomore student, Jaylen Ryan.

The group is already making plans for next year and beyond. “Moving forward, I envision us continuing with the geranium donations and hope that we can get another group to join in our commitment as well. I have already reached out to a few people and I will see what ideas they have and if they are willing to partner with us,” said Michaud. “I hope that other chapters in our state will develop their own way to participate with Growing Hope Globally as well.”





2023-2024 Financial Report

Income \$2.9 Million

Grants 5%

Member Dues 10%

Individual
and Other
Donations 19%

Growing Projects 66%

Expenses \$3.0 Million

Fundraising 4%

Operations 7%

Growing Project
Support 12%

Overseas
Agricultural
Development
Programs 77%

Our Partners

Implementing Organizations



Supporting Organizations



Affiliated Organizations



GrowingHopeGlobally.org

4479 Central Avenue
Western Springs, IL 60558
(888) 276-4372

Donations gratefully received:
P.O. Box 5628
Carol Stream, IL 60197-5628

