



News from **Foods Resource Bank** • www.foodsresourcebank.org • Fall 2008

A Gift from Nicaragua

"... in the giving we also receive the blessing!"

In April, Tim Slot, a farmer from Byron Center, Michigan traveled with FRB to Waspam, Nicaragua. After years of political exile, the Miskito Indians returned to this isolated village on the Rio Coco (Coconut River) to find it devastated by Hurricane Mitch and overrun with rats, which threaten disease and food supplies. After just six months, the FRB demonstration and learning farm was thriving with animals, crops and orchards. "What struck me most was that absolutely nothing was thrown away...The children seemed healthy and the animals well fed," Tim reports...This place was a picture of self-sufficiency and not dependent on charity...**It was then that I knew it could be done...**I saw courage, commitment and self-confidence in these people. They had hope. They weren't asking for anything but to be treated with dignity. I came away thinking that I have been so blessed by what I've learned from the people of Nicaragua. The entire experience felt like a gift."

"I am a firm believer in what FRB is doing. I have a hope that through little comes much. The little bit given in God's name produces so much for his children. And in the giving we also receive the blessing!"



FRB Awarded \$100,000 Grant by Hilton Foundation

Foods Resource has recently been awarded a \$100,000 grant by The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to further FRB's mission of alleviating hunger in some of the world's poorest villages.

According to FRB President Marv Baldwin, "In the process of evaluating FRB for the Hilton Humanitarian Prize, the Hilton Foundation recognized something special in FRB and decided to make this unexpected, unsolicited, and generous grant. We are very excited!" Along with representatives of the other finalist organizations, Marv will attend the Humanitarian Prize awards ceremony and symposium in Geneva, Switzerland in late October, when the winner of the prize will be announced.

FRB Board Meeting in Nicaragua Please join us!

There are a few openings for growing project volunteers to join the FRB Board Members when they travel to Managua, Nicaragua February 1 - 7. Besides the Board of Directors Meeting, board members and participants will have the opportunity to visit several FRB projects in the area. Call 312-612-1939 for more information if you think you might like to join us.

FRB Overseas Program visitors shared stories of hope and compassion with Growing Project volunteers at the 2008 FRB Annual Meeting in July in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Pictured left to right: Caroline Hernandez (Nicaragua); Adalberto Banegas (Honduras); Michelle Hedgpeth (translator); Justin Phiri (Zambia); Anahit Gasparyan (Armenia); and Brad Vanderlee (translator).



Growing Projects: A Chance to Connect!

Growing Projects, you can designate where to invest the money you raise. You can choose to donate in several of the following ways:

- to an ***FRB Member Account or Accounts*** to fund new overseas programs.
- to the ***FRB General Programming Account*** to support overseas programs where needed.
- to a specific ***FRB Overseas Program***. In order to give all of our 200+ Growing projects a chance to have a connection to an overseas program, we ask GPs to fund no more than ¼ of any given overseas program.
- to the ***FRB Operations Account*** to fund the administrative costs of FRB.

Designate now by emailing Lori O'Neil at loneil@foodsresourcebank.org or giving her a call at 312-612-1939 so that your choice can be confirmed. Those confirmations will hold a place for your GP in supporting a particular program until December 15. Contact Lori with any questions. To download a copy of the ***Harvest Donation Form*** (Designation Form), go to www.foodsresourcebank.org, click on U.S. Growing Projects, then on Harvest Donation.

Excerpts from a letter from Joan Fumetti, FRB Director of Growing Project Support:

Dear FRB Friends,

I hadn't realized how much traveling I was doing this summer until someone else commented on it and asked if it was wearing me out. "No," I said, sort of surprised myself, "I guess I am just feeling more at home wherever I go." I have been pondering that, and realizing it is one more of the unexpected and deeply appreciated gifts I have been given through being part of the community we are as FRB. I hear that from you too—how your local group has given you a chance to become friends with people you didn't really know before, how listening to one of our overseas guests made the work you are doing so much more real and the world so much smaller, how meeting people from other growing projects and from our member and partner organizations gave you a feeling of being a vital part of something bigger, something that is very much in God's hands, where we are all at home.

It is my habit to begin each day with a prayer I learned long ago, offering God my will and my life. Through it I again ask God to "relieve me of the bondage of self, that I might better do your will." I think God helps us all with that 'bondage of self' as we offer our differing gifts in working together towards a common goal. As we freely offer what we have, our hands and our hearts are left open to receive from others. We grow in grace and wisdom so that what we have to offer grows too, and we are all richer for it...

May we all know grace upon grace in the lives we have been given and the ministry to which we have been called.

Lord, let our hearts be good soil.

Joan



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