



News from Foods Resource Bank • www.foodsresourcebank.org • Fall 2009

Your involvement can make a difference in FRB's fight against hunger!

Please join us!

GROWING PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TRIPS:

September 9-12, 2009: Minnesota

September 25-28, 2009: Eastern Michigan

January 29-31, 2010: Texas (just before FRB Board Meeting in San Antonio, Feb. 1-3)

January, 2010: California and southern Indiana

OVERSEAS PROGRAM TRIPS:

November 21-30, 2009: Cambodia

December 1-10: India

Late February – early March, 2010: Farmer-to-Farmer trip to East Africa (Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya)

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE LEARNING TOUR OPPORTUNITY:

November 15-25, 2009: A tour examining food security and HIV/AIDS in Columbia (for information, contact JoannaHiebertBergen@mennonitecc.ca)

HEART OF THE HILL TRIPS TO WASHINGTON, DC:

September 14-17, 2009

October 19-22, 2009

November 9-13, 2009

January 11-14, 2010

February 15-18, 2010

March 15-18, 2010

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

For a list of harvest celebrations and details, see foodsresourcebank.org

We're taking the FRB story on the road ...Help us grow!

Trips planned to Minnesota, Michigan, Texas, California, Indiana

In an effort to spread the word about how small acts can have big impacts in the battle against hunger, FRB has identified new communities where few or no growing projects exist and is taking its show on the road. If you're interested in sharing your story about how you got involved with an FRB project, telling others how it has changed your life, and encouraging folks in other communities to start a growing project, please contact us through our website (foodsresourcebank.org) or our toll free number (888-276-4372).

Together, we can make a difference! See sidebar at left for tentative dates and destinations.

Farmer-to-Farmer trip to East Africa

Opportunity to visit FRB projects in Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya

FRB will take five small groups of farmers and other volunteers to visit various FRB-supported programs in one of four countries in East Africa. Consider joining one of these small groups that will visit the projects in Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, or Kenya and convene together in Nairobi with African farmers and agronomists, partners and member staff to discuss various aspects of agricultural development.

For further information about this extraordinary opportunity, contact Marv Baldwin at marv@foodsresourcebank.org or Bev Abma at bev@foodsresourcebank.org or at FRB's toll-free number (888-276-4372).

FRB board director **Beth Mooy** with **Henríquez José Tomás**. Tomás was one of several Central American farmers who had the opportunity to relate, teach, learn and share with farmers from U.S. growing projects at a farmer-to-farmer meeting in Nicaragua last February. *"I am a farmer from Honduras, and I have never been out of my country before,"* said Tomás. *"What I have learned is that if you leave your country, it changes your life."*

(Photo courtesy of Joan Fumetti)



Let the Harvest Celebrations begin!

The Ottawa-Barrington Growing Project to celebrate with "Tour de Farm – A Ride Among the Windmills"

It's that time of year when growing projects around the country are celebrating the fruits of their labor in traditional and imaginative ways.

When Pete Wesley from the Barrington UMC visited FRB's program in Micro Devru, Congo, he found that the bicycle is the primary means of transportation and shipping there. So, this year the Ottawa-Barrington growing project celebrated that fact with *Tour de Farm – Ride Among the Windmills* on Saturday, September 12. Participants in the 13-mile ride visited farms, met the farmers and their families, viewed livestock and machinery, and saw conservation practices. The riders also stopped at one of Invenergy's 66 electricity generating windmills for a close-up look. Participants rode in cars, trucks, scooters, and motorcycles in addition to bicycles.

Photo at top of page shows Diane Eldred, Ithaca, New York Growing Project, with program participants in Ambodiefitra, Madagascar dancing while they sing their marketing slogan, *"Grow what sells, not what you used to grow. We planted white and brown beans."* (Photo courtesy of Bev Abma)

FRB's first 10 years celebrated



Pictured above are some of FRB's long-time participants who were recognized at celebrations in Byron Center, MI this summer for their contributions to FRB's first ten years. From left to right are: **Howard Boerman, Pat and Ron DeWeerd, Bev Abma, Carol and Vernon Sloan, and Carol and Norm Braksick.** Not pictured is Ron Glass. (Photo courtesy of Joan Fumetti)

Annual Gathering Highlights



(Photo courtesy of Bev Abma)

Wall Street Journal correspondent **Roger Thurow** signs copies of [Enough: Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty](#) following his keynote address at FRB's Annual Gathering.

Chapter 16 of the book, entitled *Small Acts, Big Impacts*, tells the story of how ordinary people from Archbold, Ohio worked together and made a big impact on the lives of farmers in Machakos, Kenya through their involvement in an FRB growing project.



FRB Director of Growing Project Support Joan Fumetti, Philomene Bidimbu, (Micro Devru - DRC), Timothy Chapman (translator), Dr. Pilju Kim Joo (Ryongyon, Korea), and Martin Cona (Church World Service) lead annual meeting participants in a joint prayer. (Photo courtesy of Bev Abma)

Come to Maryland in 2010!

**FRB 2010 Annual Gathering in Fredrick, MD, Myersville, MD and Washington, DC
July 12 -15**

Members of the Grossnickle Growing Project invite you to attend FRB's 2010 annual gathering in Frederick and Myersville, MD, situated in the quiet foothills of the Catocin Mountains. As **Patty Hurwitz** of Myersville said, "It's a place of peace and serenity that reminds us of the beauty and bounty we've been given, in stark contrast to the natural challenges faced by overseas farmers."



Myersville's proximity to Washington, DC will allow sightseeing opportunities in our nation's capitol as well as opportunities to participate in FRB's *Heart of the Hill* activities. "We have a story to tell to all who will listen; it's a story of hope and love, and service to our sisters and brothers in need around the world. We'll have a chance to tell this story to this city of power and influence, as we celebrate another year of success in our efforts to reduce hunger," said Patty.

FRB participates in House Hunger Caucus Briefing on Capitol Hill

The U.S. House of Representatives Hunger Caucus' invitation to FRB to present at a briefing on July 15 on Capitol Hill is indicative of the focus that is currently being placed on smallholder agricultural development in our nation's capitol. The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has renewed its grant this year to support FRB's *Heart of the Hill* Initiative to bring grassroots voices to Washington, D.C. to encourage lawmakers to consider better ways we can work together to reduce poverty and hunger around the world.



House Hunger Caucus participants and FRB volunteers pictured on the steps of our nation's capitol with Ohio **Congressman Bob Latta** (son-in-law of Vernon and Carol Sloan): FRB Development Director **Ron DeWeerd**; FRB volunteers **Kevin Koppendray** (MN); **Dr. Joel Zimbelman** (CA); **Timothy Chapman**, translator; FRB president **Marv Baldwin**; **Philomene Bidimbu** of the FRB-supported Micro Devru Food Security Program in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rep. Latta. Panelists not pictured are FRB volunteer **Deacon Mickey Freeman** (MN) and **Gary Alex**, Farmer-to-Farmer Program Manager.

Join other FRB volunteers on future trips to Washington. Share your passion about FRB's approach to foreign aid with congressional leaders, their staff, and other like-minded hunger organizations.

Contact Marv Baldwin at marv@foodsresourcebank.org or Ron DeWeerd at ron@foodsresourcebank.org or either one at FRB's toll-free number (888-276-4372). See sidebar on page 1 for tentative schedule.

Celebrating the past...planning for the future... "linked in a common effort, given to a common task, called by a single voice"

This summer's festivities, FRB's Anniversary Celebration in Michigan and the 2009 Annual Gathering in Iowa, highlighted the successes accomplished and the lessons learned in FRB's first ten years. "Both meetings affirmed the important work that we do and rekindled our passion. Now, with enthusiasm renewed, FRB is ready to look to the future. There is much work to do," said **FRB President Marv Baldwin**.

In his sending forth message at the annual gathering, **Pastor Tim Ritchey Martin** of the Grossnickle Church of the Brethren, most eloquently said of FRB's work, "We are linked in a common effort, given to a common task, called by a single voice...The apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, in 2 Corinthians 6:1, 'We are workers, together with God.' We do this holy work together...Partnership...means that our hearts are united with the hearts of folks in Lesekela (Democratic Republic of Congo), because we are in this work together. And God is in the midst of it. Because God has called us and sustains us in the holy work of walking together."