



News from **Foods Resource Bank** • [www.foodsresourcebank.org](http://www.foodsresourcebank.org) • Spring 2008

### Rain Water Harvesting and Storage is Changing Lives in Kenya

Over the past eight years, Bamba Kenya residents have implemented programs in their villages that have led to some incredible changes for the better. By partnering with FRB's US community growing projects through FRB's member Christian Reformed World Relief Committee and the local partner, Pawani Christian Community Services, many people have discovered new hope. The more than 22,000 people that call Bamba home have worked together since 2000 to achieve "overwhelming results in food and water security" according to program director Hanah Mwachofi.

Women and children used to walk up to eight hours a day to find water for their household and farming needs. With the resources they received, the people of Bamba now access water year round just a short walk away. Residents now enjoy much better nutrition and sanitation; people and animals are healthier; men & women work together for the common good and many have income from vegetable sales or newly learned skills. The income is used to purchase staples and medicine, food and clothes, school uniforms for the children, and starting capital for cottage industries.

Last month FRB approved an extension proposal to support a neighboring community named Ganze. As the people of Ganze work to improve their lives, they will receive support and guidance from their neighbors in Bamba. What a great blessing!



*In the summer of 2007 Hanah Mwachofi and three other overseas program leaders visited U.S. growing projects and were a part of the FRB annual meeting.*

**FRB members and their partners implement all overseas programs. To learn more, please visit our website**

### Plan to attend FRB's 2008 Annual Meeting:

July 22 Evening Reception  
July 23 Annual Meeting  
July 24 Morning Workshops

Holiday Inn City Center Sioux Falls, South Dakota.  
Reservations 605.339.2000  
**All are welcome!**



### Bamba Success Stories:

- **Charo Kazungu** Kithunga used to subsist by burning and selling charcoal. After training as a Community Animal Health Assistant, he now provides animal health services to neighboring farmers for reasonable fees.
- **Shikari Kadenge** partnered in purchasing an ox-plow and now plows fields for 1200 Ksh about (\$18) per acre.
- **Asha Shabani** couldn't read or write when first elected as her village representative to a program committee. She convinced others in her village to join her in attending adult education classes and can now take her own notes at meetings.

## FRB Volunteers Share the Vision

When FRB volunteer Marlin Hershey was traveling to Italy, it seemed like a great opportunity for him to share the vision and mission of FRB with the Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome.

Marlin is just one example of FRB volunteers who have a desire to make a difference and, whether they travel across the street, across the country or around the world to tell the FRB story, their efforts are changing lives!

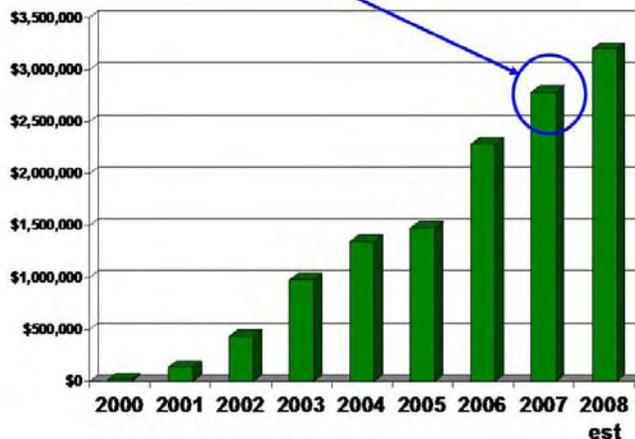
This year, FRB farmers and other volunteers are mobilizing and traveling to Washington, D.C. to encourage policymakers to do more for the hungry in villages around the globe. Volunteers from FRB growing projects want to spread the word that their grassroots efforts here in the U.S. are making a lasting difference. They believe the FRB model offers people dignity and hope by believing in people through our investment in them both in dollars and in prayers.

The message: Of the 854 million people who go to bed hungry every night, 70% live in marginalized, rural areas. Yet, many western solutions to world hunger do not include agricultural development or long term food security solutions. FRB believes that the key elements necessary to alleviating world hunger are supporting sustainable smallholder agricultural development, encouraging the development of local markets, modifying how America approaches food aid, and educating people about what changes need to be made.

During 2008, FRB plans to accompany 60 volunteers to take that message to Capitol Hill. FRB will also work to build stronger relationships with organizations like the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa, Bread for the World, and The Alliance to End Hunger.

Recently, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has recognized the power of this message delivered by FRB farmers and volunteers and has given a grant to FRB to support volunteers' travel and training to share the story in Washington DC. If you have interest or wish to receive a briefing package, please contact us.

## During 2007 FRB Community Growing Projects Raised \$2.78 Million. 209 Growing Projects in 20 States



**Thus far in 2008 seven volunteers have traveled to Washington DC to share the FRB story and encourage our elected representatives to do more to ensure food security around the world – many of whom are smallholder and landless farmers. Pictured above are Vernon Sloan, Ohio farmer and Sarah Lovas, North Dakota farmer made an lasting impression as they advocated on behalf of the hungry.**

## Foods Resource Bank a Finalist for 2008 Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize!

Foods Resource Bank is delighted to be among the finalists for this prestigious award. Each year the Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Prize is presented to a recipient organization at a ceremony attended by international dignitaries and leaders from the humanitarian and human rights fields. Established in 1996 to honor a charitable or non-governmental organization that has made extraordinary contributions toward alleviating human suffering anywhere in the world, the \$1.5 million prize is the world's largest humanitarian award.

FRB was nominated by Illinois Senator Richard Durbin last November and was informed recently that it is a serious contender! The winner of the prize will be announced in the fall of 2008.

An evaluator from the Hilton Foundation will be visiting with staff, board members, and volunteers in Washington, D.C., throughout Illinois and at one of the overseas program sites. This recognition comes as a great honor to FRB. We have much to be grateful for.



Donations: Foods Resource Bank • 75 Remittance Drive Suite 6539 • Chicago, Illinois 60675-6539

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