

**News from Foods Resource Bank • [www.foodsresourcebank.org](http://www.foodsresourcebank.org) • Nov. 2009**

***Muslim-Christian cooperation in FRB program highlighted on national television in Bosnia-Herzegovina***

The relationship between Christian and Muslim organizations in FRB's Bosnia-Herzegovina Maglaj program has had additional benefits beyond alleviating hunger. Our Muslim partners asked FRB to participate in a nationally televised program about the project, thus sending a powerful message of Christian-Muslim cooperation in that country.

***OVERSEAS PROGRAM TRIP OPPORTUNITIES:***

- **India (December 1-10)**
- **East Africa Farmer-to-Farmer Opportunity (Feb. 18- Mar. 6, 2010) See page 2 for details.**
- **Join us as we celebrate program achievements in Central America. See page 2 for details.**

***GROWING PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TRIPS:***

- **Texas - just before FRB Board Meeting in San Antonio (January 29-31, 2010)**
- **California and southern Indiana (January, 2010)**

***HEART OF THE HILL TRIPS TO WASHINGTON, D.C.***

- **December 7-10, 2009**
- **January 11-14, 2010**
- **February 15-18, 2010**
- **March 15-18, 2010**

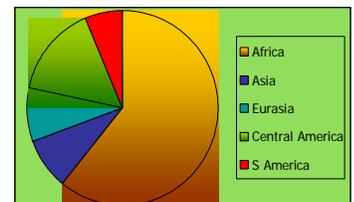
***People around the world utilize resources to improve their lives!***

FRB continues to see confirmation that investments in the future of villages and farmers in the developing world are showing positive returns. Since FRB's inception it has supported 100 overseas programs all over the world, 57 of which are currently active. More than 100,000 families have improved their own lives by working with the resources provided through FRB and its network of members and partners.

A recent visit to Armenia was a chance for some FRB growing project participants from the US to see the life-changing work that is taking place. LeRoy & Marilyn Brocka and George & Norma Armstrong traveled with FRB and visited with people involved in the Armenia PASS program which helps people develop agriculture in various institutional settings. One of the people that touched the visitors' hearts was a young man named Abraham, a 17-year-old orphan who arrived at the boarding school 2 years ago. He was uncertain about his life and what direction it would take. Through the agriculture classes and hands-on work he has found a meaning and hope for the future. Abraham, pictured above with LeRoy Brocka, shared that his goal is to become a farmer!

Abraham's story is one of thousands and thousands from the many programs supported through FRB. Here are some examples of those programs that have progressed beyond basic self-sufficiency, expanded into new geographies, involved new people that have not previously been involved, and built community capacity:

- In March 2010, there will be a celebration in Kenya as the people from the Bamba program share their experiences and learning as they help the people of Ganze begin their own program.
- The people of Kenya Machokos continue expanding their program which consists of water harvesting, raising crops and animals, forming cooperatives, marketing and constructing local roads. To date, the program has included more than 20,000 individuals and just keeps growing!
- Zambian Eastern has completed a phase which focused on working with 8,000 individuals of which more than 80% have adopted sustainable practices. The program leadership now will focus on a new area including a new group of 8,000 people.
- In the Gambia in western Africa, the Gamhort program has surpassed expectations — producing 138% of expected yield for vegetables being sold to restaurants and hotels. The next phase will address the needs of urban families and those living with HIV by utilizing hydroponic gardening in smaller areas.
- The gift continues to multiply in Mozambique as cattle survival has improved and primary beneficiaries pass along the first born calves to secondary beneficiaries again this year.
- As communities in the Nicaragua Mateare program become more self-sufficient, program staff in the area are able to spend time with new people involved in the program in a place called Carazo.



***FRB has supported 57 programs in 33 countries benefitting more than 100,000 farm families overseas since 1999.***

## **People improve their lives** (continued from page 1)

- The model for the Nicaragua Farmer land bank concept has inspired a new program in Conquista.
- Guatemala Totonicapan is expanding into northwestern Guatemala.
- Cambodia South is adding crop diversity as well as management of water and water resources to their previous successes in building capacity of small grassroots organizations and rice intensification.
- The Dominican Republic Bateyes program will expand into 32 additional communities upon the recent completion of work with 24 communities that brought access to land, input and agricultural techniques.
- In Armenia, an agricultural cooperative from the Netherlands will soon be visiting to learn about the program model. The Armenian Ministry of Education has expressed their appreciation to FRB's local partner for the work being done.
- People in the Balkans continue to share their produce with soup kitchens years after their program has been completed.
- The Bolivia Tacobamba program has worked with municipal governments to establish risk management committees and establish the position of Secretary for Risk Management and Disaster Prevention. This focus came about in response to the area's vulnerability to natural disasters resulting in loss of crops, livestock and natural resources. The program has also worked with the municipality to raise awareness of gender equity in municipal budgeting. The result has been that women's organizations participate in monthly meetings with local community authorities, and their plans are included in the annual operating plan of the municipality.

### *Summer Stars*

*Guide the stars of summer  
Celestial Angels.*

*Send their scintillating beams  
with calm and steady course,  
cooling earth's feverish brow.*

*In darkest night hold light  
against the pitch of war  
and worse,  
the drought of souls  
dried by weariness of heart.*

*Prevail in starvation's fierce endeavor,  
its howling hunger pains,  
the source,  
of children's play abandoned,  
their energy denied them.*

*Ignite the souls that look beyond,  
star-searchlights now revealing,  
far beyond remorse,  
sparking ways restoring earth  
and children's eyes like stars to shine.*

*Stars of summer's eve assure me,  
Streaking planets tell  
of kindness rising up with force  
as restless dreams hold forth  
a world enough, a world at peace.*

A poem from the journal of Rev. Paul Stiffler, Associate Pastor, First Congregational Church of Western Springs, Illinois, after attending FRB's 2009 Annual Gathering in Rock Island, Illinois, and after finishing the book *Enough* by Roger Thurow and Scott Kilman, about the struggle to end hunger through the efforts of African and American farmers, major corporations and individuals.

### **Invest in the future — Make a donation to FRB's Annual Fund**

***"...helping the poorest small-holder farmer grow more crops...is the single most powerful lever for reducing hunger and poverty." (Bill Gates, October 15, 2009)***

FRB's approach to world hunger was affirmed recently (October 15, 2009), when philanthropist Bill Gates, addressing the World Food Prize conference in Des Moines on October 15, said, "How do you help people who live on less than a dollar a day? They face huge difficulties. How can they get some traction, so that their daily struggle can lead to a better life?"

*The answer is in the work they do. Three-quarters of the world's poorest people get their food and income by farming small plots of land. So if we can make small-holder farming more productive and more profitable, we can have a massive impact on hunger and nutrition and poverty. Melinda and I believe that helping the poorest small-holder farmers grow more crops and get them to market is the world's single most powerful lever for reducing hunger and poverty."*

**A donation to FRB's 2010 Annual Fund is an investment in the future of small-holder farmers who are working to make a better life for their families.** Please send donations to Foods Resource Bank, 75 Remittance Drive, Suite 6539, Chicago, IL 6539.

### **East Africa Trip - Farmer-to-Farmer Opportunity**

**Feb. 18 to March 6, 2010: EAST AFRICA (Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya)** Participants will visit FRB-supported programs and meet with African farmers and agricultural experts to discuss issues affecting African agricultural development. A game park visit is also available. *For more information, contact [marv@foodsresourcebank.org](mailto:marv@foodsresourcebank.org) or [bev@foodsresourcebank.org](mailto:bev@foodsresourcebank.org) or 888-276-4372.*

### **Celebrate our achievements in Central America!**

#### **Early April 2010: CENTRAL AMERICA**

You are invited to participate in celebrating achievements made possible by your donations and to show your love and support for our neighbors to the south. Festivities will celebrate progress and the expansion of programs into new areas. *For more information, contact [marv@foodsresourcebank.org](mailto:marv@foodsresourcebank.org) or [bev@foodsresourcebank.org](mailto:bev@foodsresourcebank.org) 888-276-4372.*