



News From Foods Resource Bank

WINTER 2013

Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Events and Trips!

OVERSEAS TRIPS

Mexico, Feb. 28 - Mar. 2, 2013

Work learning trips to Central America, March 2-25, 2013

Honduras, March 17- 21

Colombia, Bolivia, & Peru, May 4-22, 2013

Sierra Leone, May 13-20th, 2013

East Africa, June 2013, Possible Destinations include Kenya, Uganda, & Tanzania

Democratic Republic of Congo, Summer 2013

Dominican Republic, December 2013

Asia, Winter 2014 , Possible destinations include Cambodia, Laos, & Timor Leste

Please visit the Travel Page of the website for more information.

2013 ANNUAL GATHERING

Byron Center, MI

August 9-11, 2013

HEART OF THE HILL

Washington D.C.

Feb. 18-22

March 11-15

April 5-8

May 6-10

June 8-11

July 29-Aug 2

Sept. 16-20

Oct. 21-25

Nov. 11-15

Dec. 9-13

An Invitation to Dig In and Dig Deeper

Winter is a good time to consider your involvement in Foods Resource Bank. Whether you are already involved in a growing project or are planning to start one this year we have lots of thoughts and tools to help you dig deeper into FRB. We invite you spread the FRB message to a new individual, congregation or community and get another person involved in growing lasting solutions to hunger. We have found that a sincere and personal invitation is the first step toward a life-changing experience. This could be something as simple as a visit or phone call, or an invitation to a Heart of the Hill trip to Washington DC or overseas trip. As always, FRB staff and other volunteers are available and willing to help you tell the FRB story or to work through a project idea. Please contact us anytime.

To support your personal story, here are some resources you might find helpful:

WHAT IS A GROWING PROJECT? : This brochure is a great resource for new growing projects and for people going to talk to new congregations and communities. It lays out the basic GP model and highlights some great growing project stories.

DIGGING DEEPER: Take a look at this pamphlet. Designed to highlight some innovative ideas by other growing projects and get your creative processes working, Digging Deeper might spark some new ideas or inspiration.

JOHN DEERE FOUNDATION GRANTS: Thanks to continued support from the John Deere Foundation, these grants are available to new and expanding growing projects. As you plan for 2013, consider how a grant might support your growing project's vision.

Please email admin@foodsresourcebank.org for copies of these brochures.



After 13 years, what have we learned about development?

FRB's support of agriculture development has often been focused on training, seeds and tools with the goal of helping farmers access needed resources to help them become more productive. While increasing production can be an important part of a program, it has become clear to FRB that for development to be truly effective, it must be more holistic. Communities appreciate and acknowledge the impact of irrigation, improved seeds, and training in conservation farming, but conversations and workshops with program participants reveal great wisdom and understanding of the long-term challenges they face. These challenges might not have an obvious connection to a well-intended visitor, but discussions with program leaders in FRB's 50+ programs continually points to this learning.

Many of FRB's programs, like the Uganda-Teso program, are focused on training, improved seed varieties, and tools. Others, like the Dominican Republic-Bateyes Program have focused on connecting crop production to local markets. In some programs, like the Cambodia-South program, farmer field schools have been established to allow communities to try new techniques in a low-risk environment. In the Tanzania-Sengerema program the local organization is developing and distributing manuals on land ownership.

Whether it's agricultural, financial, nutrition, land rights, water, market access, education, gender, or otherwise, the key to successful development is the relationship and conversations built between people in the communities and the program partners. Ideally, the community drives the conversation. In most places, investments in seeds, training, and tools will only be effective if communities have also focused on land to invest in or access to markets or proof that new techniques will actually work.

FRB is grateful for the partnership of organizations and volunteers who understand this approach to development. We encourage an ongoing dialogue to consider development in new ways. In order to change the world to be a more just place, we need to start with long-term relationships built on listening, learning and action.



Tomatoes in a greenhouse, part of the Jordan-Greigra Program

Mark Your Calendars for the 2013 Annual Gathering

Join FRB in Byron Center, Michigan for the 2013 FRB Annual Gathering, August 9-10, 2013. Gather with volunteers, growing projects, board directors and staff from across the country and celebrate our collective effort *to grow lasting solutions to hunger*. The Annual Gathering webpage will be updated as more details come together. Registration will begin in April.

When: August 9-10, 2013

Where: Friendship Christian Reformed Church
190 - 100th Street SE
Byron Center, MI 49315

Agenda:

Aug 9th: Welcome Barbecue - 6 pm

Aug 10th : Annual Gathering

8am Worship Service

9am-4:30pm Annual Meeting with keynote speaker, breakout sessions & lunch

6pm Celebration Dinner in honor of Bev Abma



Marv Baldwin and volunteers at the 2012 Annual Gathering



Bev Abma with a participant in the Armenia-FHSLD Program

Help Us Thank and Honor Bev Abma

As many of you might know, longtime FRB staff member Bev Abma is retiring in August 2013. With FRB since its beginning, Bev has traveled to over 90 countries and touched the lives of countless people with her work. To honor her and her legacy we would like to compile a book of messages and mementos for her to keep. Everyone is invited to send a message of good wishes or a reflection on your memories of her. Everything we receive will be compiled in a book and presented to her at FRB's 2013 Annual Gathering in August. Please feel free to include photos with your message or get creative with a project. Email Kelsey@foodsresourcebank.org with thoughts or questions.

Items can be sent to: Foods Resource Bank
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