

Cents-Ability Gifts at Work Around the World

Across the nation, churches and families continue to participate in Cents-Ability, with each person giving a few cents at each meal. Those gifts add up, and a portion of them is given to the Presbyterian Hunger Program to support organizations helping to alleviate hunger and eliminate the underlying causes – both in the United States and around the world.

We are glad to be able to share news from our partners about some of the goals they and their communities achieved with Presbyterian support early in 2020.

South Sudan

250 women participated in training on horticulture, crop production, post-harvest management, and value addition. Seeds and tools were provided for them, as well as for 500 additional women farmers who had previously received training. Nutrition and food security for the people of Mayendit County improved, and there was less dependency on food aid in the communities. *Photo courtesy of PHP partner Hope Restoration South Sudan, Mayendit County, Unity State*



Nicaragua

Thirty families have better physical and environmental conditions in their homes because of the installation of improved stoves and training. The new stoves use less firewood, reducing the cost of purchasing firewood or lessening the amount of time women spend in search of firewood. Other benefits of the project include better hygiene in the kitchen, less deterioration of ceilings and kitchen utensils caused by indoor smoke, and less time needed to prepare food. *Photo courtesy of PHP partner Asociación Fénix*



Kentucky

Vincent suffered from obesity and depression. Then with some research on nutrition and guidance from people he met at a Fresh Stop, he chose a path of embracing whole plant foods and avoided animal products. He shared, “In the six months since share season started, I am down 60 pounds . . . my depression is manageable to the point where I can maintain a full time job, and I am climbing the walls with all the energy I have.” While others may have less extreme results, healthy eating can bring positive changes for many, and New Roots continues its mission to help make that a possibility for more people in 2020.



Fresh Stop Markets are offered bi-weekly in eight Louisville neighborhoods that lack any other outlets for fresh food. The demand for fresh fruits and vegetables spiked in communities across the

region in wake of the covid-19 pandemic. A sliding scale allows everyone to participate, regardless of income. Through the work of New Roots and the generosity of its partners, recipients of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and others with low income can get the same amount of fresh, organic food – whether they can pay for a full share or only a portion. *Photo courtesy of PHP partner New Roots*

South India

In South India, PHP long-time partner Chethana has been working to promote nutrition-sensitive agriculture and organizing farmers into Farmer Producer Organizations, so that marginalized communities can achieve food and nutrition security. This year the coronavirus has affected the livelihoods of many. People living in the plains areas of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have been severely affected with issues of food insecurity due to government lockdowns, which have had a particularly negative impact on people who depend on selling goods in informal markets for their livelihoods. Many farm families have experienced decreased demand for their farm products due to the bans on large gatherings and festivals and had challenges exchanging seed varieties with other farmers before the planting season. However, due to the improved organization of farmers, many Chethana groups were able to procure food from local farmers and provide food assistance to hundreds in need by operating through the farmer producer organizations. And despite all the challenges, Chethana trained more than 300 farmers in non-chemical agricultural techniques, and farmers transformed 32 hectares of conventional farmland into organic farmland with increased crop diversity and food crop cultivation. *Photo by Valery Nodem, PHP, from a visit with Joining Hands partner Chethana*



“Seed is the most important aspect and the key to all agricultural operations. The quality of the produce depends on the quality of the seed.” --Chethana.

2020

The effects of the covid-19 pandemic have been hard in many of the countries where our partners are at work. As we have in the United States, they have seen loss and struggles. Some have had to postpone their goals due to shutdowns. But with perseverance and courage, they continue to serve their communities. Because of their work in previous years, the resiliency of many communities and their focus on sustainable agriculture has allowed them to continue to feed their families. Please pray with us that our partners in ministry, their families, and the communities they serve will be able to walk in hope.



We are glad to hear good reports from our partners, and we are thankful to those who make support for their work possible. Supported by One Great Hour of Sharing and gifts from individuals, churches, and presbyteries, the Presbyterian Hunger Program works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its underlying causes in places like Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and the United States. Please pray that the Lord of the Harvest will lead our work and help us to faithfully use the gifts that are given for hunger ministry.

More and better food. Solidarity with people. A more livable environment.

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