



SHARE El Salvador

La Fundación SHARE

2015 Annual Report



Message from the Executive Director

Mission

SHARE strengthens solidarity with and among the Salvadoran people in El Salvador and the United States in the struggle for economic sustainability, justice, and human and civil rights.

Vision

To transform society, SHARE increases the capacity of organized communities and their partners through our model of mutual accompaniment.

SHARE's Model of Mutual Accompaniment

As an organization of international solidarity, SHARE recognizes that it is not our role to enter communities, identify problems, and define and finance solutions. Instead, it is the people and communities living the cycles of injustice and oppression that need to lead the long-term efforts for structural change. Our role is to support the empowerment of and walk in solidarity with these communities, organizations, and individuals.

SHARE Program Areas

- Community Development
- Advocacy
- Grassroots
- Major Delegations



In 2015 the National Assembly of El Salvador honored SHARE for "its remarkable humanitarian, charitable, and cooperative work for the benefit of the Salvadoran people."

Queridos amigos y amigas,

In December, SHARE led a 115 person delegation to commemorate the lives of the four sisters who were killed during the armed conflict: Ita, Maura, Dorothy, and Jean. It was one of our biggest delegations yet, and closed out our year with an important and inspiring reminder of what solidarity looks like.

SHARE fuels the movement for human rights. Since day one we have supported the mothers of the disappeared. They search for their children; they want truth, justice and reparations. The mothers have organized a campaign every year to pressure the National Assembly to declare August 30 as the Day of the Disappeared, as many other countries have done. In 2015 we worked with Inside Out Project to have renowned photographer, Adam Kufeld, travel to El Salvador to take pictures of these mothers. This July, the pictures were displayed in support of the campaign to declare August 30 the Day of the Disappeared.

For many years, SHARE has accompanied hundreds of cooperatives and thousands of rural women to advance the Food Sovereignty and Security Act. Oftentimes, legislation is introduced and defeated. Years pass, and the educating, organizing, and mobilizing continues. Many more meetings, marches, leaflets, community gatherings, and one-on-one conversations, like drops of water, build the wave that one day passes the legislation people want.

SHARE is part of the movement to support youth. Every scholarship we give tells a young person we believe in them, and want to help them become professionals and leaders in their community. Young women are learning to produce their own food in vegetable gardens, to eat healthfully, and to improve their diet.

Thousands of hours are spent brainstorming and planning strategies to incorporate youth in healthy activities that remove them from violence. SHARE is working with girls in San Vicente to teach them about their human rights to prevent them from getting pregnant at 10, 12, and 14. The program is so successful that we have the participation and collaboration of the mayor and the school system.

We invite you to continue supporting SHARE as we fuel the movement for the environment, human rights, and youth. With your support SHARE has been in solidarity with El Salvador for 35 years. You are part of the thousands of drops of water that build the many strong waves that create a more just society.

Un abrazo y bendiciones,

Jose Artiga, Executive Director

Locke Jaeger, Board President

Isabel Hernández, El Salvador Office Director

Community Development Program

With your help, SHARE accompanied communities and social organizations with projects addressing women's empowerment, community development, and youth projects!

- **21** high school leaders from communities in Chalatenango, Tecoluca, San Vicente, Aguilares, El Paisnal, and Tacachico received scholarships to continue their education and develop their leadership skills by organizing literacy circles, community events, and anti-violence campaigns.
- **27** community leaders with community organizing experience but limited resources received university scholarships. Of these students, **5** graduated in 2015 in the areas of Social Work and Education.
- **204** women learned different specialties such as computer skills, bread making, and artisanship that they can now use to generate income to benefit themselves and their families.
- In **100** communities in the Departments of San Vicente, San Salvador, Chalatenango, and La Libertad, SHARE supported women's committees and associations. Over **200** women received training on managing home gardens and learned about healthy food and nutrition.
- **8** savings and loans groups were strengthened, and participating women received workshops on money management, saving, and finances.

SHARE's 2015 Human Rights Tours



Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, SHARE was able to host two human rights tours in the U.S. in 2015. The tours were an incredible way to connect with SHARE's supporters in the US, and bring important human rights leaders from El Salvador to the U.S. to advocate for and raise awareness of under-examined issues.

Our first tour brought Alejandro Diaz, a lawyer for Tutela Legal to multiple cities in the U.S. Diaz spoke about the work of Tutela Legal, a legal organization that focuses on human rights cases and seeking justice for victims and their families from El Salvador's armed conflict. In particular, Diaz talked about Tutela's efforts to have the files of human rights victims, currently locked by the Archbishop of El Salvador, released, in order to obtain truth, justice, and reconciliation for the relatives of those massacred in El Mozote, Rio Sumpul, La Quezera,

and other locations, and to obtain international justice for the murder of Oscar Romero.

Our second tour, organized with CARECEN San Francisco, brought 4 trans activists from the Salvadoran LGBTQ rights organization Arcoiris to the Bay Area. The LGBTQ population in El Salvador experiences extreme discrimination and hate crimes, and Arcoiris is the first organization in the country to work with the trans community. As one of the activists from the tour stated, "Most of us don't make it to 35 because of HIV, violence, or suicide... but HIV isn't really what's killing us. Violence and discrimination are." SHARE supports the rights of all members of the LGBTQ community and the work these activists are doing to combat transphobia and discrimination. The tour was an opportunity to bring attention to a pressing issue and learn from these incredible and dedicated activists.

Project Spotlight: Women's Leadership Development

During the **2015** year SHARE supported a training program for women leaders run by Las Melidas.

- **18** women participated in workshops on women's rights, local and national governance, and leadership skills.
- **15** women received an accreditation from the University of El Salvador for completing the program and are now equipped with the skills to assume positions of leadership both locally and nationally.
- Las Melidas organized an exchange with **35** women in politics from the Legislative Assembly and the Central American Parliament. The event provided a space for the program participants to meet other women in politics and learn from their experiences.
- Las Melidas also organized the 5th National Congress for Rural Women to create a plan to bring rural women's issues to the national agenda. They aimed to have 150 women attend, and **336** women participated!
- SHARE continues to support women's empowerment and women in leadership by promoting projects that train women on their rights and give them the skills needed to be advocates for change.



Women attend a workshop as part of the leadership training.

Major Delegations Spotlight: Remembering the Churchwomen

- In December of 2015 SHARE organized a delegation to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the murder of the four churchwomen who were killed in El Salvador in 1980.
- Led in partnership with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the 115 delegates included sisters and lay men and women from across the country.

"I gained a much greater understanding of what happened in El Salvador in the past 50 years and the unfortunate role the US government played in the civil war there, causing the deaths of thousands of people. I also gained greater appreciation for what is presently happening to build up hope and justice for the people, especially those who continue to suffer injustice and threats of terror from gangs and organized crime (especially women and children). I was inspired by the strength of the women who seem fearless and determined to make their country a beautiful and safe place to live."

-Mary Louise Chesley-Cora, Churchwomen Commemoration delegate, from Hockessin, DE



Participants from the churchwomen delegation with Executive Director Jose Artiga.

Grassroots Program

Thank you to our wonderful Grassroots Partners for your support and solidarity with the people of El Salvador!

- In 2015, **49** delegates, **34** of which were students, participated in life-changing journeys to El Salvador.
- The delegates came from **4** grassroots partners: Drew University in New Jersey, Northwest High School in Washington, Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Kansas, and St. Sebastian in Wisconsin.
- SHARE was happy that so many young, student delegates participated and got a chance to visit El Salvador!

“Life in Teosinte is not taken for granted—every moment is precious. Why do these people want to continue living in Teosinte working as hard as they do to make a life for themselves? I believe they choose to live in Teosinte because this is the life they know. They want a place for their families, a place they can call home and live in peace. The passion and love in the hearts of the Salvadoran people is great. The struggle for peace, equality, and justice continues.”

-Sue Olson, 2015 delegate with St. Sebastian, Milwaukee, WI



Delegates from St. Sebastian getting picked up at the airport.

Grassroots Partner Spotlight: Good Shepherd Parish, Kansas

Good Shepherd has partnered with the community of El Buen Pastor in Aguilares, San Salvador for 28 years!

In June they sent an 11 person delegation to El Salvador to visit their sister community.

When Good Shepherd arrived in El Buen Pastor, they got a surprise greeting from the community. The kids gathered at the town entrance with signs to welcome them and sang to the delegates as they entered the community.

It was truly an inspiring moment that showed how powerful solidarity partnerships can be.

As SHARE turns 35 this year, we continue to learn from the amazing examples of solidarity that our supporters and communities show!



The Good Shepherd delegation gets a warm reception from the children of El Buen Pastor.

Interested in becoming a Grassroots Partner or know a group that might be? Contact our Grassroots Program Coordinator, Claudia Martinez, at grassroots@share-elsalvador.org

Thank you to our generous donors!

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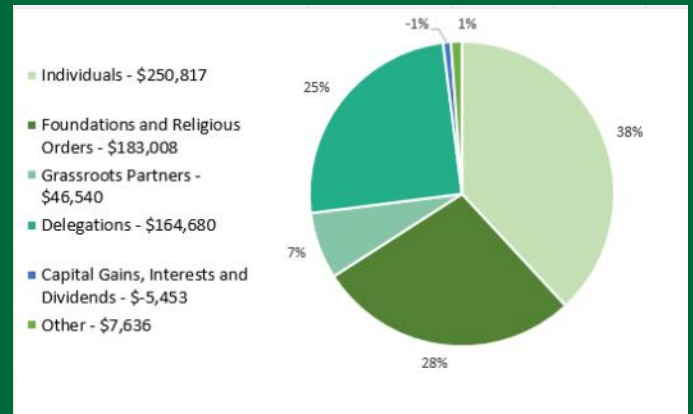
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Expense

