Berta Saves the River / Berta salva el río
by Suzanne Llewellyn
Illustrated by Luis Chavez

This inspirational book engages children, parents, and teachers by portraying real-life indigenous, Honduran leader Berta Cáceres. Through Ana, a young girl living in a remote Lenca village, we see a drama of courage unfold. Against powerful odds, the villagers save their life-sustaining river from being dammed for the profit of others.

Berta’s story gives hope to people across the globe trying to protect their lives and livelihoods so they are not forced to migrate.

It explains why even women with babies are forced to make the life-threatening journey north to the United States when their livelihoods are destroyed. This universal story of courage demonstrates for children that they can shape their own futures.

All proceeds from the book go to Honduran Justice organizations via the SHARE Foundation.

Berta was a world-renowned human rights and environmental defender who understood the urgency of protecting Mother Earth. She was murdered shortly after leading a small village’s successful efforts to protect their river from being dammed.

The author traveled to Honduras with the San Francisco Bay Area-based SHARE Foundation and the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity to learn about root causes of migration from Honduras. This story reflects what she learned.

The book benefits Hondurans directly. All profits go to Honduran communities struggling for land, water, and resource rights. The SHARE Foundation will transmit funds via its grassroots partnership network.

Berta’s mother and Padre Ishmael Moreno (Fr. Melo), host of SHARE’s delegations, blessed the story. They will ensure it supports those who need it most.

To learn how SHARE supports the most vulnerable communities in Honduras go to: www.SHARE-ElSalvador.org

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From Berta’s Goldman Prize acceptance speech

In our worldview, we are beings who come from the earth, from the water and from the corn. The Lenca people are ancestral guardians of the rivers, in turn protected by the spirits of young girls, who teach us that giving our lives in various ways for the protection of the rivers is giving our lives for the well-being of humanity and of this planet.