Message from the Executive Director

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your solidarity with the people of El Salvador over the past year!

2013 will be remembered as a year of triumphs and challenges for the human rights movement of El Salvador. From the abrupt closure of Tutela Legal, the Archdiocese office on Human Rights, to the Supreme Court admitting a lawsuit challenging the 1993 Amnesty Law, to an order from the Supreme Court for the Attorney General, to investigate the San Francisco Angulo Massacre and the ransacking of the Probusqueda offices, there was never a dull moment.

It seems that with every step towards progress there is an attack on the human rights organizations that are leading the way. SHARE has accompanied these organizations through all of the highs and lows of 2013.

In March 2013, we organized a Tour for Truth and Justice that visited eight states and more than 1,000 people to raise awareness of human rights abuses in El Salvador. Our 2014 Truth and Justice tour will speak at eighteen events in just two weeks to continue raising awareness about the attacks on human rights organizations and possibility of over coming the Amnesty Law.

In the coming year SHARE will continue to support the recently formed "Tutela Legal Maria Julia Hernandez", named after a former SHARE board member and human rights champion.

We thank you again for your support and invite you to continue with us in the movement for truth and justice for victims of human rights in El Salvador.

En Solidaridad,

Jose Artiga
Executive Director

Nicolas Avelar
Board of Directors Chair

Isabel Hernandez
Field Office Director
Community Development Program

- Fifty-nine high school students received scholarships to continue their education and develop their leadership skills through organizing literacy circles, community events, and anti-violence campaigns.

- Twenty-six community leaders with a strong social conscience and experience in community development received university scholarships. The knowledge and skills they are gaining will contribute to the future wellbeing of their communities.

- In rural La Paz, 200 cooperative members, students, teachers and families learned to plant and care for 5,000 fruit trees.

- In rural Chalatenango one hundred and fifty-four (154) women participated in a series of workshops and received materials to grow organic vegetable gardens.

- In Northern San Salvador twenty women participated in a two week course where they learned technical skills to start their own business and eighteen women participated in workshops and received materials to grow organic vegetable gardens.

- 223 community leaders from Chalatenango, Cabañas, Cuzcutlan, and San Vicente learned how to define and map risk zones in their community, develop an emergency alert system, and disseminate this information to their community.

Community Development Highlight: Fruit Trees for a Sustainable Future

Dozens of children, one thousand fruit trees, and a whole lot of dirt made for one very messy Tuesday afternoon at the El Maneadero School in the southern region of La Paz, El Salvador.

Why all the commotion? SHARE’s partnering organization, CONFRAS, was teaching children, their parents, and teachers to plant and care for their new school yard orchard.

With the support of SHARE, students, parents, and teachers in La Paz combated childhood hunger by planting 1,000 fruit trees in schoolyard orchards in 2013.

According to the World Bank over 40% of children in El Salvador are undernourished and children in rural areas are twice as likely to suffer from malnutrition as children in urban centers.

The benefit of fruit trees doesn’t end in the schoolyard, SHARE has partnered with the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation and CONFRAS to train 120 women cooperative members in La Paz to care for and plant another 4,000 fruit trees. The women who participate in these trainings and lead their cooperatives in planting orchards are re-defining the role of women in their community.

This project will also build environmental resilience for the region. Extreme weather devastates communities in La Paz year after year. Droughts and floods destroy crops, forcing El Salvador to import basic grains, which in turn continues to drive up food prices.

The use of non-native crops and massive deforestation (El Salvador is the second most deforested country in the Western Hemisphere) increase vulnerability to droughts and floods. Fruit trees, however, are native to this region and their deep roots help them access water during droughts and prevent run-off and landslides during floods.
Advocacy Program

- In communities surrounding the Port of La Libertad, 460 women participated in workshops where they learned about the rights afforded to them through the Law for a Life Free of Violence Against Women.

- Fifty-four women received training and support to create a Women’s Rights Agenda and implement a Gender Equality Policy in their communities.

- During the 2013 Tour for Truth and Justice Marina Ortiz of ProBusqueda, Paty Garcia of Comadres, and Bethany Loberg of SHARE met over 1,000 people across the U.S. and educated them about human rights abuses during the civil war and today.

- More than 500 women, many of whom participated in workshops funded by SHARE, marched through San Salvador demanding equal rights for rural women.


- SHARE partnering organization, CONFRAS, advocated for national policies that support small scale farmers, such as the recently passed, Law to Control the Use of Pesticides and Fertilizers.

- In Northern San Salvador 600 women participated in a series of 30 gender equality workshops.

### Rural Women Demand an End to Violence Against Women

Since the [The Special Law for a Life Free of Violence against Women](#) passed in November of 2010 SHARE’s longtime partnering organization Organization of Salvadoran Women for Peace (ORMUSA) has worked tirelessly to ensure that women are able to take full advantage of these laws.

“Women need to know that there are spaces for them to [denounce these crimes](#),” explains Silvia Juarez of ORMUSA. Although the femicide rate has only dropped slightly, the number of court cases and convictions concerning violence against women have increased. According to Juarez, this is because women are slowly learning their rights, denouncing these crimes, and most importantly, standing up for themselves.

Raising [awareness](#) of this law does not only mean [educating the victims](#), but also ensuring that those that make up the justice system, ie., police officers, judges, social workers, etc, handle these cases appropriately. With the support of The Dominican Sisters of San Rafael and the Rachael and Ben Vaughan Foundation SHARE has supported ORMUSA in training police officers, social workers, and medical personnel in responding to women who are victims of violent crimes.

“We have been training police officers, building attention centers, and promoting gender equal policies for quite some time now. And finally we are seeing some results,” explains Juarez. Six Women’s Attention Centers have been constructed in different PNC (National Civilian Police) units throughout the country. But ORMUSA will not stop there. They plan on having ten centers in place before the end of the year. And plan to have twelve centers by the end of 2014.
Grassroots Program

- In 2013, SHARE brought 135 delegates on a life-changing journey to El Salvador.

  “There is so much to say—but I can no longer be isolated from the suffering of the world—we are all connected and our blindness is a form of violence—when I don’t act on behalf of injustice, I am also the oppressor.”

  2013 SHARE Delegate

- Zulma Hernandez of CRIPDES and Sarah Hall of SHARE were blessed with the hospitality and generosity of SHARE supporters as they visited a dozen SHARE Grassroots partners in seven cities across the Midwest and East Coast.

New Sistering Relationship between St. Thomas More Newman Center and CRIPDES Sur La Libertad

Members from St. Thomas More Newman Center, a Catholic parish located in Columbia, Missouri, contacted SHARE in late 2012. They were looking for a new, long-term sustainable solidarity relationship for the parish. Four representatives from various parish programs visited with SHARE staff and CRIPDES Sur coordinators in June of 2013, and learned about SHARE’s unique model of mutual accompaniment. After four days visiting various communities with CRIPDES Sur coordinators, many conversations with SHARE staff, and continued discernment with parish members upon their return to the U.S., St. Thomas More Newman Center officially signed the Sistering Covenant in September 2013! A unique aspect of this new sistering relationship is a spiritual connection with the Immaculate Conception Parish in La Libertad.

A unique aspect of this new sistering relationship is a spiritual connection with the Immaculate Conception Parish in El Puerto de La Libertad, a faith community committed to social justice and serving the poor throughout the region. U.S. women religious Dorothy Kazel and Jean Donovan served in this parish before their martyrdom on December 2, 1980.

¡Bienvenidos y Bienvenidas!

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

Foundations & Religious Orders
- Chalfonte Foundation
- Congregation of the Humility of Mary
- Dominican Sisters of Hope
- Dominican Sisters of San Rafael
- Endowment Fund of University Lutheran Chapel
- Felician Sisters of North America
- Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
- Fruit Tree Planting Foundation
- Leadership Conference of Women Religious LCWR Region 14
- Leadership Conference of Women Religious LCWR Region 7
- MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
- New World Foundation
- North Bay Maryknoll
- Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
- Servants of Jesus
- Share Our Strength
- Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
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- Ministry Fund
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Georgetown University
Good Shepard Parish (KS)
Good Shepard Parish (WI)
Greater Milwaukee Synod
Holy Spirit Parish
Maryland Presbyterian Church
The Northwest School
Paulist Center
St. Edward’s Parish
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
St. John Francis Regis
St. Mary of the Assumption
St. Patrick’s Church
St. Sebastian Church
University Lutheran Chapel
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- Alexandra Aquino-Fike
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* A Partnership between SHARE and the Volunteer Missioner Movement makes this position possible.

Meet SHARE Scholarship Student: Rubia Guardado!
A leader in her community, Rubia Guardado is among the first SHARE El Salvador Legacy Fund Scholarship Recipients. During the last four years as the Women’s Program Coordinator with the CCR Rubia played a vital role in shaping women’s rights, education, and empowerment programs in the rural department of Chalatenango in northern El Salvador. She volunteered full time to organize rural women in her community and is now a lead promoter for the current Women’s Program Coordinator.

In 2013, Rubia began studying social work at the university level with help of the SHARE El Salvador Legacy Fund

This SHARE scholarship creates opportunities for Rubia and other women in her community to create pathways to food sovereignty and equal rights: **“I will have a better capacity to help the community. I will have more political advocacy experience and technical knowledge. The community gives me strength and the drive to continue studying.”**

The SHARE El Salvador Legacy Fund supports students like Rubia to gain the skills and education to lead their communities to a more just and prosperous future. The Legacy Fund has over $500,000 in gifts and pledges of real estate, life insurance, IRAs, and bequests. There are many ways to leave your legacy with SHARE contact sarah@share-elsalvador.org for more information.

Expense
- Program $427,875
- Fundraising $62,696
- Administrative $47,505
- TOTAL $538,076

Income
- Individuals $267,590
- Foundations & Religious Orders $138,918
- Grassroots Partners $81,971
- Delegation Income $136,391
- Other $1,103
- TOTAL $625,973

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