



**SHARE** El Salvador

La Fundación SHARE

## 2011 Annual Report



# Celebrating 30 years of Solidarity

Dear Friends of SHARE El Salvador,

Over the past 30 years SHARE has celebrated many victories and mourned losses, and 2011 was no exception. Among our many accomplishments SHARE and our counterparts celebrated 25 scholarship students' graduations from high schools and universities, provided over 50 micro-loans for women's economic initiatives, trained 55 farmers in organic, sustainable practices, contributed over \$30,000 to flood relief efforts, and taught over 800 women about the rights afforded to them through the newly enacted Life Free of Violence Against Women laws.

While there are many reasons to celebrate, there is also cause to mourn. In October over five feet of rain fell on El Salvador in less than ten days, destroying more than 165 million pounds of basic grains. Communities across the country watched as a year's worth of hard work was washed away before their eyes in record shattering floods. SHARE continues to walk with these communities as they rebuild, replant, and find creative ways to prepare for future disasters.

As we work with communities in El Salvador to rebuild we are also working with the Salvadoran community in the U.S. to call for Permanent Residency for the 270,000 Central Americans living in immigration limbo with Temporary Protective Status. SHARE is organizing this national campaign in coalition with over 20 other organizations across the nation. We invite you to join this exciting campaign and call for the rights of Salvadorans everywhere.

Thank you for your support.

In Solidarity

Jose Artiga  
Executive Director

Nicolas Avelar  
Board Chair

## US Office Staff

José Artiga  
Executive Director

Sarah Berg  
Development Coordinator

Martha A. Dueñas  
Program and Operations  
Coordinator

## El Salvador Office Staff

Isabel Hernandez  
Field Office Director

Bethany Loberg  
Sistering Accompaniment  
Coordinator

*A partnership between SHARE and The Volunteer Missionary Movement makes this position possible.*

Marly Cardona Moz  
Solidarity Education Coordinator

Marisol González  
Administrative and  
Project Assistant

## Mujeres Ganaderas: Across Generations

"In the countryside we never used condiments like they do now. We used salt, lemons, and herbs. Now people use ketchup and these things are expensive." Recalls Santana, a member of the Board of Directors of the Mujeres Ganaderas Cooperative that started almost 20 years ago, right after the signing of the Peace Accords.

Over the past two decades the Cooperative has grown in size and influence, as has the processed, imported food Santana was referencing. This cooperative, located in the plains of San Vicente, was started when five women pooled their savings to begin

providing micro-loans for other women in their community to buy dairy cows. In 2001, SHARE supported the Cooperative as they gained recognition from the Salvadoran Government and purchased land.

**"Before we had nothing, now we have a place to gather, discuss our lives..."**

Now, over **223 women have received micro - loans through the Mujeres Ganaderas**. With offices, land, and 12 veterinarians the Cooperative has changed the lives of thousands and is creating a market for locally produce dairy products and beef.

"Before we had nothing, now we have a place to gather, discuss our lives and the difficulties we are having with the animals," said Santana.

While they have a lot to be proud of, the Board of Directors of the Cooperative are proudest that they are able to teach their daughters how to organize their community, respect themselves and know that they are as capable as any man.

Cooperatives like the Mujeres Ganaderas are not only building leaders, providing food for their communities and creating jobs, they are also creating a culture and an economy based around locally produce food.

# In Appreciation

*Without*

*the loyal support of individuals, foundations, religious orders, grassroots partners, and so many more, SHARE's work in El Salvador would not be possible. Thank you to everyone who walked in solidarity*

Anonymous  
 Andrew Bein and Isabella Blackman  
 Carolyn and John Boitnott  
 Judith Beuchner  
 Mary Catherine Bunting  
 Bill and Mary Carry  
 John Hoffmeyer and Janet Corpus  
 Emmanuel Crabbe  
 Barbara DiTomasso  
 Daniel Eiben  
 Evan Fales and Mary Eagle  
 Richard Friedberg  
 Richard Geidel and Nancy Braus  
 Bill and Bunny Griffiths  
 Collier Hands  
 Marion and Franklin Kellogg  
 Paul Kendall and Sharon Rives  
 Paul and Tracy Kleine  
 Don and Diane Lippincott  
 Christopher Lloyd  
 Tim Muth  
 Dan and Sally Natchek  
 Robert Peick  
 Patricia Safavi  
 Karen Scott and Mario Perez  
 Michael Simon  
 Helga Tarver

Florence Wagner and Judith Broder  
 Lucy Williams and Faith Perry  
 Margaret and Lee Zeigler



### Foundations and Religious Orders

Calvert Foundation Giving Fund  
 Chalfonte Foundation  
 Christus Health  
 Dominican Sisters of Springfield  
 Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose  
 Dominican Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Houston  
 Francis Fernandez and Carmen Flores Fund  
 Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration  
 MAZON  
 New World Foundation  
 Racine Dominican Mission Fund  
 Share Our Strength  
 Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati  
 Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Ministry Fund  
 Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community  
 Sisters of St. Francis, Mount St. Francis  
 Sisters of the Holy Cross  
 St. Francis Lutheran Church Endowment Fund  
 Rachael & Ben Vaughan Foundation  
 Titcomb Foundation  
 University Lutheran Chapel Endowment Fund  
**Grassroots Partners**  
 Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church  
 Christ the King Catholic Church  
 Cretin-Derham Hall High  
 Detroit Sister Community/ St. John Fisher  
 Eastern Michigan University  
 Friends of El Salvador Mid-Michigan/ Faith Weavers  
 Georgetown University  
 Good Shepard Parish (KS)  
 Good Shepard Parish (WI)  
 Greater Milwaukee Synod  
 Holy Spirit Parish  
 Maryland Presbyterian Church

The Northwest School  
 Partners Across Borders  
 Paulist Center  
 St. Andrews by the Bay  
 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 Visitation Parish  
**Board of Directors**  
 Nicolas Avelar  
 Locke Schultz Jaeger  
 Martin Eduardo Martinez  
 Francisco Lopez  
 Rev. Jeff Johnson  
 Angelica Garcia Rivera  
 Jean Stockan  
 Jose Artiga  
 Natalia Rodriguez  
 Alexandra Aquino Fike  
 Guadalupe Mejia  
**In Memoriam**  
 Saul Solorzano  
 Father Dean Brackley  
 Dickens Warfield  
 Chris Saudek  
 Faye Butler

## Addressing Climate Change in San Simon

Big changes are happening in the small community of San Simon on the banks of the Bajo Lempa River. The people of San Simon have been working closely with organizers from SHARE's partnering organization, REDES, to implement new planting techniques that will prevent erosion, develop a seed bank and organize seed exchanges with local communities to plant a variety of



crops that are healthier and sturdier.

Roberto Melendez has been a leader in implementing these new techniques and teaching them to others in his community. Melendez' passion and support has inspired others in his community to begin their own gardens. Now 70 families have started their own gardens and are explaining the importance of growing native varieties and best planting techniques to their neighbors.

With the leadership of REDES, Melendez and other San Simon Community members created a disaster preparation plan for the floods, hurricanes and

earthquakes that wreck havoc on this small village every few years.

Unfortunately, this October their plan was put to the test. Over five feet of rain fell on communities in the Bajo Lempa, producing record-shattering floods and washing away the entire crop for 2011.

Thanks to the organization of the community the emergency plan was successfully implemented and no lives were lost.



## *Youth lead the way to Gender Equality*

Over the past year nine young women in rural communities surrounding Suchitoto have continued their high school educations because of the support they received through their participation in SHARE's Scholarship and Leadership Development Program. Through their participation in this program these young women received financial support for uniforms, school fees and materials, trainings on women's rights, sex and gender, and participated in discussion groups about these topics through out the year. After receiving trainings these young women facilitated discussion groups and workshops on women's rights and health in their communities.



SHARE staff from the US office had the opportunity to meet with these young women in October, we witnessed how this program has changed the lives of the young women in the program and the lives of other young women in the community. One such young women is Veraly, a youth leader, scholarship recipient, and an active member in El Salvador's only all female, rural batucada (drumline). Veraly is the youngest of three, her mother focused on putting her two sons through school and when the time came for Veraly

to enter high school there was no money left. Now Veraly is a leader in her community, she uses the knowledge she gained from her workshops to teach other young women in her community about reproductive health and women's rights.



**“I thank God that I received this scholarship and these trainings. One day after I led a training a woman came to me and said if she had known these things she wouldn't have had her kid so young. Many girls in San Rafael never have a talk and are pregnant at 13,”**

Another scholarship recipient, Anaris, went on to explain that they have been the victims of many rumors and criticism in their communities for their involvement in these programs.

“They say that we are feminists and want to be better than the men, that we're sexually loose, that we're crazy” While these brave young women have been forced to deal with backlash from some in their communities, other community members have embraced what they are teaching. In fact, there was so much interest from high school students that the school is starting to incorporate sexual education into their curriculum thanks the leadership of these nine young women.

Five of these young women will be graduating in 2012, and we are excited to see where their futures take them and to continue celebrating their successes together.

### ***In 2011 SHARE El Salvador's Scholarship and Leadership Development Program:***

•**Supported 20 community leaders** in becoming young professionals through **university scholarships**. Two students graduated in 2011.

•**Supported over 60 active, organized youth** in their formal and informal education, through **high school scholarships** and **workshops** on human rights, culture of peace, historical memory, organic farming, and other issues of interest to young people.

•**Made the high school graduation** of 23 young leaders possible! In a country where only **15%** of the rural population reaches high school, this is a major achievement for young people and their families.

## Delegates and Communities forge lasting relationships

SHARE had the joy of hosting 164 wonderful delegates in 2011. With delegates ranging in age from 13 to 74 and many on their first trip to El Salvador it was an intergenerational and eye opening experience for many. Over half of SHARE delegates in 2011 are 25 years old or younger and SHARE is excited to build up the next generation of the solidarity movement.

This year delegates from Northwest School and St. Sebastian's Parish enjoyed the company of Salvadoran community members during their time in San Salvador, allowing for continual learning and laughter. One evening at reflection, youth from St. Sebastian's Parish asked Jaime, a nineteen-year old from Teosinte, Chalatenango what he could say in English.



Jaime shook his head, responding, "No, *casi nada*, hardly anything. *Solo lo más esencial*, just the most essential: I love you!" and he threw his arms open toward the whole group, a grin lighting his face.

**“The world became a smaller place. Instead of 'the people' in El Salvador, I now have my brothers and sisters in El Salvador. I am part of a family I was unaware of previously.”**

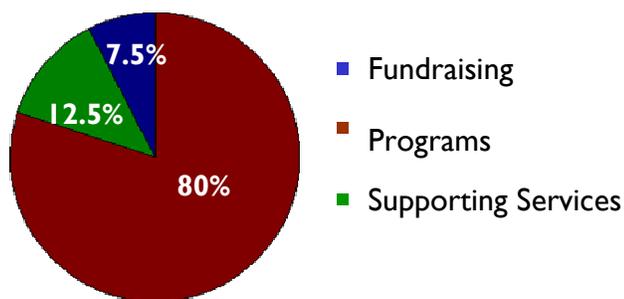
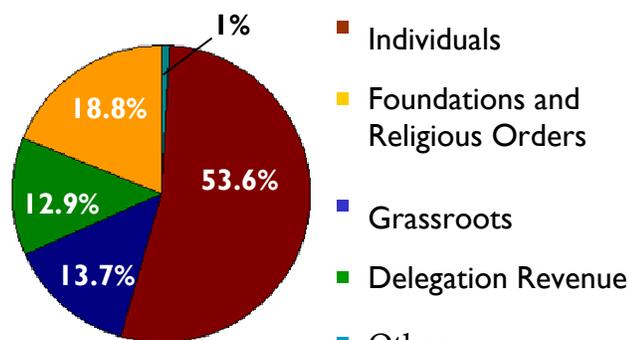
Accompanying Salvadorans as they resisted mining deeply moved many delegates. During visits to Radio Victoria, The Cabañas Environmental Committee, and ASIC, delegates heard Salvadorans speak passionately about caring for the earth and their communities, and learned that these Salvadorans face death threats for speaking out against mining.

Annette Becker from Good Shepherd commented, "I think this experience affected me so much as I have been passionate about the environment and our moral obligation to be good stewards of the earth for many years. I do this willingly and with conviction but never – ever – ever with any concern that my involvement will put myself or my loved ones in danger."

Visiting and staying in rural communities proved the greatest highlight of all – sharing in Salvadorans' daily lives and forming deep relationships with their host communities; relationships that span generations, continents, and decades.



### Financials



### SHARE 2011 Income and Expenditures

#### Income

Foundations and Religious Orders	\$90,432.52
Delegation Revenue	\$62,250
Grassroots Partners	\$65,984.67
Individuals	\$257,998.85
Other Income	\$4,585.01
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$481,251.05</b>

#### Expenditures

Programs	\$375,055.68
Supporting Services	\$58,894.52
Fundraising	\$35,528.22
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$469,478.42</b>

***"I have realized that the U.S. has a huge impact on the rest of the world. Who I vote for and what resources I use impact what goes on in other countries. I feel compelled to do something to let other people in my community know how much of an effect we have." - 2011 Youth Delegate from Cretin-Durham Hall***

**SHARE's 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.

**The following core values guide our work:**

- Women's Empowerment
- Citizen Participation
- Leadership Development
- Environmental Sustainability

**Have questions? Want to learn more?  
We would love to hear from you.**

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[www.share-elsalvador.org](http://www.share-elsalvador.org)



**"[The Cooperative] has helped very much, now when there is an emergency we have something to sell, there is never a lack of food or a cup of milk. We even have extra to help our neighbors when they need it."**

**- Maria Leticia of the Mujeres Ganaderas Cooperative**



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Address

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