

SHARE El Salvador *La Fundación SHARE:* CROSSING BORDERS, BUILDING COVENANTS



Building on 30 Years of solidarity with the people of El Salvador

Expanding Our Mission: As SHARE celebrates thirty years of solidarity with the people of El Salvador, we are pleased to announce an expansion of our mission.

Beginning in 2011, SHARE will begin dedicating our resources to the Salvadoran community in the United States in an effort to strengthen developing relationships and partnerships with the Salvadoran community in the United States. This new binational focus on the El Salvadoran community will strengthen our capacity to continue to make a difference in the lives of so many. Our current work in El Salvador will continue, now with this new and exciting binational dimension to our mission. We have revised our statement of mission as follows to take into account this new focus:

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.

Building on 30 Years of Solidarity with the People of El Salvador: Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities.

SHARE is extremely proud of the past thirty years. During the war years, we became a recognized international leader offering humanitarian aid, accompaniment and human rights advocacy. In the post-war era, we have become a highly respected international organization helping to advance a model of sustainable community development and civic participation in El Salvador with a special focus on the environment, women, and youth.

Countless volunteers, delegates, foundations, congregations, religious orders, schools, board members, staff, elected officials, and individuals have contributed to SHARE's success. You represent the invaluable cornerstone upon which SHARE has built enduring relationships. From accompanying refugees in the Going Home Campaign in the 1980s to building a vibrant Sistering Program; from bringing the voice of the Salvadoran people to the US Congress and the World Bank, to advocating for just policies that create opportunities for impoverished rural women to start businesses; from developing scholarships to remembering the martyrs: you have made our work possible. Just as we have helped transform the lives of our sisters and brothers in El Salvador, we have been transformed.

In taking this step of reshaping our vision and focus, we want SHARE to be as effective in the future as we have been in the past. And we will continue to count on your indispensable support and accompaniment as we share this mission and expand our work to include the growing and vibrant Salvadoran–American community in the United States.

A New Partnership with the Salvadoran-American Community

Over the past century, Salvadorans have left their homeland in response to war, violence, and economic crisis. Accompanying the people of El Salvador requires that we include many who have strong connections but no longer live within the borders of this country. It is estimated that one third of the population of El Salvador lives outside of El Salvador, the largest number living in the United States.

The 2010 census places Salvadorans as the third largest Latino community in the US, after Mexicans and Puerto Ricans. Salvadorans living in the U.S. represent not only a sizeable population group, but also a culturally and politically engaged, well-organized community. Salvadorans have organized more than one hundred Hometown Associations who seek to provide material, moral, and political support to their homeland. Like so many immigrant communities who have settled in the United States, the Salvadoran community has organized social services, community and cultural centers, and student organizations in dozens of cities across the United States.

During the last year, SHARE has been in dialogue with many Salvadorans living in the U.S. – including leaders of various Hometown Associations, social service organizations, immigrant rights organizations, and religious communities, as well as professionals, artists, and Salvadoran elected officials in the United States. This diverse group has encouraged SHARE to devote time and energy to strengthening and expanding the links between Salvadorans as well as between Salvadorans and North Americans. Through this effort we aim to broaden the SHARE community in the United States, to identify joint initiatives, build capacity, and maximize the impact of our work at home and abroad. Some initial ideas include:

- A women’s empowerment initiative that links women taking literacy classes in rural El Salvador with women studying computer skills in San Francisco
- An international coordinated advocacy project to block multinational mining corporations from drilling in El Salvador
- A project that allows young Salvadoran-Americans to learn about their heritage and the civil war years visit their homeland, and develop a binational network of Salvadoran youth working for social change
- A project that establishes links and support between microlending projects for women in rural El Salvador and small businesses of Salvadoran entrepreneurs in the United States
- An initiative that promotes cultural exchange through the arts by supporting joint workshops and performances in both El Salvador and the U.S.

SHARE invites you to renew our covenant and cross borders together!

We hope you are as excited by this focus and direction as we are! Through the investment and work of SHARE, the past thirty years have been transformational for the people of El Salvador. Now, the possibilities for binationally focused projects that empower the Salvadoran community across borders and expand the reach of our core values are promising. As we celebrate our past achievements, we enthusiastically invite the SHARE Family to continue your support of this extraordinary work.

SHARE’s Core Values

In both the US and El Salvador, the following core values will continue to guide our work:

Women’s Empowerment: Make education and holistic development opportunities available to women and girls to improve their economic, social and political positions in their communities and organizations.

Citizen Participation: Promote active engagement in democratic processes, community decision-making and advocacy campaigns.

Leadership Development: Nurture the skills of a broad base of people, including women and youth, to prepare them to be democratic leaders that empower others.

Environmental Sustainability: Advocate for and raise awareness of environmental justice, including preventing and responding to climate change.