

**The SHARE Foundation: Building a New El Salvador Today**  
**2006 Annual Program Report**  
**A Review of Programs and Institutional Priorities**

March 7, 2007

In 2006 the SHARE Foundation: Building a New El Salvador Today commemorated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of accompaniment and social justice work. At a celebration in Washington, DC with El Salvador's Human Rights Ombudswoman, SHARE supporters reflected on 25 years of solidarity with the people of El Salvador and committed to another 25 years of accompaniment. During this anniversary year exciting advances were made in all three programs - Advocacy, Local Development and Grassroots.

SHARE's Advocacy Program continued to support Salvadoran counterparts who are resisting neo-liberal economic policies and are committed to creating alternative economic solutions for the most marginalized in El Salvador. Through cross-border relationships SHARE organized its base in the US and El Salvador to take necessary action to advocate against the extension of free trade policies and the environmental damage caused by infrastructure projects and anticipated by proposed mining excavation. The Advocacy Program also coordinated closely with SHARE's US base and Salvadoran-American communities to articulate and organize around a strong stance for immigration rights in the US.

SHARE's Local Development Program supported the analysis of long-term sustainability of its strongest counterparts in the Lower Lempa as part of the strategic shift to the zone of Chalchuapa. Local development work was steady and deepened as women's groups participated in trainings on leadership, emergency prevention, organization, civic participation and women's empowerment. For example, a three-year women's literacy project was begun to enhance educational capacity through basic reading, writing and arithmetic that transforms the lives of women with whom SHARE works as they become leaders in their communities.

The Grassroots Program has gained new communities and maintained historic partners in the US who accompany Salvadorans through sistering-partnership solidarity relationships. The Grassroots Team engaged in an evaluation process to explore new paths for growth with a strategic plan for the future. Two initiatives identified as key areas of focus are the Youth Partnership program, which has continued to gain momentum with new members, and a new consortium program just beginning with universities and theological schools. Grassroots projects in El Salvador continue to focus on women's and youth organizing, and are now also working on advocacy against the surface mining exploration.

Through its El Salvador and two US offices SHARE continues to coordinate successful speaking tours and utilize e-newsletters, its website and other means to disseminate information about these programs. This ensures strong and informed advocacy and fundraising networks that are aware of the current projects, as well as future needs and challenges of El Salvador and SHARE.

# **I. Advocacy**

## **Introduction**

The SHARE Foundation accompanies various organizations and projects in its work to advocate for justice and equality on both an international and national level. Through collaborating with local and international coalitions, SHARE works for a joint vision of development policies in the United States and El Salvador that seek a basis of human rights and justice in fair trade, land distribution, emergency prevention, immigration, development policies and women's empowerment.

In 2006, SHARE's advocacy program prioritized the creation of alternatives to economic policies and neo-liberal measures that deepen poverty and eliminate vital safety nets for the poor, such as the extension of free trade policies through the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA), large infrastructure projects such as the Plan Puebla Panamá (PPP) and proposed open pit and subterranean metallic mineral exploration.

Furthermore this past year SHARE built its advocacy support in both the US and El Salvador through education of our grassroots base on the impact of free trade initiatives, human rights and emergency preparedness in the wake of the ever changing climate patterns wrecking havoc on the region.

In 2006, SHARE advanced these priorities as follows:

## **Just Trade Activities and Advocacy**

In January, SHARE's DC office collaborated with members of the local Salvadoran community to organize a protest on the implementation of CAFTA. SHARE helped plan the 2006 Week of Action for Trade Justice (April 16-23) with Inter-Action and Interfaith Working Group on Trade (IWG) colleagues who composed and edited reflections to contribute to the *Semana Santa*, Easter and Passover reflection effort. These reflections highlighted SHARE counterpart, The Association of Communities Affected by the Beltway and Bypass (ACAPb), trade agreements, and immigration. These reflections were disseminated among colleagues' networks and websites, as well as SHARE's US base.

SHARE participated in a conference hosted by the National Family Farm Coalition and Grassroots International. The conference featured small-scale farmers from the Global South and focused on creating connections between Northern and Southern family farmers.

SHARE was also part of an NGO consultation with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on food security and revitalization of the Global South's rural sector. SHARE contributed our partners' analysis of CAFTA and encouraged the reviews of the impacts of the trade agreement done by NGOs to share with IFAD.

### **The Stop CAFTA Coalition**

As a member of the Stop CAFTA Coalition, SHARE DC promoted and participated in events marking the anticipated March 1<sup>st</sup> CAFTA implementation date, including a press event in front of the White House during Salvadoran President Saca's visit with President Bush. The event generated coverage in the US and Salvadoran papers.

In September, through the Stop CAFTA Coalition, SHARE planned a CAFTA monitoring project, which produced an initial report on the effects of CAFTA in the region. The report covered the implementation process in each country, initial reports on impacts in labor rights, agriculture, migration, investment, services, militarization and debt. Information from the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) and the Confederation of Salvadoran Associations for Agricultural Reform (CONFRAS) helped SHARE contribute a chapter on the impact of CAFTA on the Salvadoran agricultural sector. The report was distributed to policy-makers, the media, colleagues, and SHARE's US base.

Report results show a rise in consumer prices, a large jump in agricultural imports from the US and unfair agricultural competition with US subsidized farmers. However, SHARE's counterpart organization CONFRAS is working to organize farmers in areas most threatened by CAFTA. CONFRAS is advocating, mobilizing and creating strategic plans to promote and protect local farmers' production and sales in the midst of CAFTA impacts.

"Small farmers throughout Central America are developing strategies to promote their livelihoods given the reality of CAFTA. In El Salvador, peasant farmers associated with the Confederation of Federations of Salvadoran Agricultural Reform (CONFRAS), a grouping of Salvadoran cooperatives, have defined an action and advocacy approach in five important areas to promote farmer survival in the face of CAFTA."

-Stop CAFTA Report, 2006 (33)

*(photo: CONFRAS meeting with rice farmers)*



### **The Confederation of Salvadoran Associations for Agricultural Reform (CONFRAS)**

In January of 2006 SHARE supported CONFRAS with a project in support of organizational work and advocacy in the context of CAFTA, as well as promoting women's participation at the different decision making levels of the confederation. CONFRAS met with farm workers organizations to share their proposal and establish coordination with the National Agricultural Coordinating Body and the Popular Resistance Movement (MPR-12). On October 18<sup>th</sup>,

CONFRAS led a demonstration where they presented their proposal to the Salvadoran Legislative Assembly.

CONFRAS also carried out a project with Equipo Maiz called the *Economic Literacy Program* in order to outreach and educate various grassroots base on the impacts of free trade agreements, with a particular focus on CAFTA.

**Symposium, Lobbying Workshop, and Outreach to DC-area Salvadoran Community with Dr. Beatrice de Carrillo, Human Rights Ombudswoman of El Salvador.**

SHARE organized a symposium and lobby training called *“Strength and Hope in a Time of Crisis: the Intersection of Violence, Trade, Immigration, and the Environment in El Salvador,”* on October 2nd in conjunction with the SHARE DC 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Dr. Beatrice de Carrillo, lawyer, author, university professor, and currently the Human Rights Ombudswoman of El Salvador, was the keynote speaker for the Symposium. She spoke on violence, economic justice, immigration, and the impacts of CAFTA on El Salvador.



The lobby workshop was held after the symposium with the Stop CAFTA Coalition Report on *“Six Months Since Implementation,”* that was disseminated via congressional visits. Participants shared links between the effects of CAFTA and increasing immigration to the U.S. Later they lobbied their representatives to take the “No More CAFTAs” pledge in the run-up to November elections.

*(photo: Dr. Beatrice de Carrillo speaking at event with DC-area Salvadoran community)*

**Multi-lateral Banks**

SHARE DC initiated meetings with multilateral bank experts to explore potential points of collaboration, and identified opportunities for engagement with the banks (Inter American Development Bank and World Bank) via monitoring of loans after Hurricane Stan and via the context of the Plan Puebla Panama. The spring meetings of the World Bank took place on April 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, and SHARE attended meetings on Latin American trade and finance linkages, the impact of trade on migration flows, and expectations for the WTO Doha-“Development” Trade Round. SHARE DC also participated in the planning retreat with the Religious Working Group on the World Bank and IMF.

**Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)**

The Millennium Challenge Account is a program started by the Bush Administration to increase development funding to countries of the Global South who promote “free” trade economic policies. As El Salvador became a Millennium Challenge Account eligible country, SHARE DC has followed the progress of the MCA. SHARE participated in an MCA Working Group at Interaction, which coordinates advocacy efforts with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), members of Congress, and colleagues.

“We will strive to support the communities with which we work so they stay informed to analyze and prioritize their needs. We ask that NGOs advocate with the US Congress to ensure that it is well informed about the MCC implementation and that it exercises its oversight powers to ensure that the MCC requires adequate civil society participation.”

-Marina Peña (ESO Director) speaking about the PPP Northern Highway and the MCA in an interview from the magazine “Monday Developments.”

SHARE funneled analysis of the MCA from its El Salvador Office to the Working Group for use in joint advocacy. The SHARE DC office outreached to Congressional offices regarding the MCA in El Salvador and was invited to submit questions to the House of International Relations Committee briefing on the MCA within El Salvador.

The MCC five-year contract for \$461 million with El Salvador was approved by the MCC Board on November 8<sup>th</sup> and signed in Washington on November 29<sup>th</sup>. SHARE DC attended the signing ceremony during which the contract was highlighted as an essential “complement” to CAFTA and Plan Puebla Panama.

### **Mining**

The implementation of neo-liberal trade policies are advancing rapidly as demonstrated in the granting of 35-40 licenses to transnational mining companies for exploration purposes in the Northern section of El Salvador. These US and Canadian mining companies enjoy the same rights and cheap labor as Salvadoran Companies, although they are larger and wealthier. Mining companies in El Salvador will have to pay no more than 2% of its profits to the government, a very small tax considering that an ounce of gold is currently worth around \$700. Companies continue the exploration process throughout El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala, and if given permits to begin gold and silver exploitation, will create huge environmental damages from the strip-mining, open pit and subterranean process they are planning to implement.

Strip-mining is the cheapest extraction method, but also the most costly to the environmental and social surroundings. Blasting and displacement of huge quantities of earth and rock expose underneath layers of rock to air and rain that can create acid drainage which occurs when rainwater washes off the newly acidic oxygenated rock. Contemporary methods to extract gold and silver from the ore involve a cyanide leaching process that has been known to contaminate surrounding land, surface water and ground water. When combined with sulfides from acid drainage the cyanide run off creates sulfuric acid more dangerous than battery juice.

### **Mining and the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)**

SHARE DC and Oxfam America visited the Associate Director for El Salvador and relevant staff at the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) to discuss the incompatibility of mining with the MCC development goals. SHARE urged the MCC to share concerns about mining with the government of El Salvador, particularly the Ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources and Economy, as well as with President Saca. SHARE DC coordinated with US and Salvadoran Sister Cities on mining through information sharing, participation in strategy calls and a joint letter-writing strategy.

SHARE DC promoted a letter-writing campaign in the lead-up to the MCC Board meeting. The letter was directed to the seven MCC Board members, and expressed the desire that any MCC funds to El Salvador would be conditioned on the halting of metallic mineral mining activities. Furthermore, SHARE DC communicated concerns with Representative Kucinich as the House of Representatives voted on the 2007 Foreign Operations Bill on June 9<sup>th</sup>. Representative Kucinich proposed an amendment to the bill that would have cut any funds from the Millennium Challenge Account for financing of the transnational highway planned for Northern El Salvador to connect Guatemala and Honduras. Rep. Kucinich shared his concerns about the beneficiaries of the super highway and its connections to the mining exploration in the same regions.

### **Puebla Panama Plan - Association of Communities Affected by the Beltway and bypass (ACAPb)**

SHARE and ACAPb began the year in January 2006 with an eight-month long advocacy project. ACAPb implemented a training process of its own governing council and community by working to organize door-to-door and holding meetings and assemblies. The construction process of the beltway and highway bypass has continued. The Ministry of Public Works (MOP) in El Salvador cut down over a thousand trees in September of 2005 while construction machines began to disturb residence more so moving into 2006. These factors led to greater landslide risk for the rainy season. With increased disturbances and pressure from MOP to evict residents, ACAPb was able to organize more people and support among local neighborhoods of Soyapango, Barrio San Jacinto, Colonia San Antonio Abad, Ciudad Delgado and Colonia Escalòn.

“The machines have gotten close to our houses, devastating the land in such a way that creates landslide risk in temblor or heavy rains, and winter is coming soon.”

-Quote by ACAPb participant, March 29

Construction workers and police often met ACAPb protests with harassment and threats; however, the communities continued to struggle for their land rights through demonstration and marches showing a strong presence to government and media alike. ACAPb presented a letter of denouncement to national and international press regarding the MOP’s unfair treatment towards communities. They also held press conferences gaining national coverage and participated in a radio program from YSUCA at the University of Central America. MOP’s originally low offers of \$11 per .69 cubic meters, for compensation of displaced families, was recalculated to \$65 per .69 cubic meters plus moving costs’ due to ACAPb’s strong organizing and advocacy efforts.

### **Immigration Rights**

SHARE DC monitored US immigration legislation in 2006 (Temporary Protected Status and immigration reform) and investigated Salvadoran asylum claims in the US to track escalating human rights violations in El Salvador. SHARE facilitated the creation of a bilingual SHARE statement on immigration for the website, e-newsletter, and for dissemination among its base.

“We oppose legislation that increases the militarization of the border. In the name of national security, thousands of immigrants have died because of inhumane border policies. We support policies that create economic opportunities in their countries of origin and that promote human-centered development--not free trade agreements that further impoverish the poor and increase migration.”

- Excerpts from SHARE's statement on Immigration

SHARE also sent action alerts to the US base on comprehensive immigration reform legislation and participated in the April 10<sup>th</sup> rally on immigration in DC with Baltimore area SHARE sister-communities. SHARE facilitated the publication of an article on immigration and remittances in NETWORK's *Connection* magazine.

Furthermore, SHARE DC and supporters from its San Francisco office participated in the immigration march on May 10<sup>th</sup> with estimates of over 300,000 people present. SHARE collaborated with local partners in encouraging the base to make phone calls and visit their Members of Congress to call for more comprehensive immigration reform. In solidarity with Latino workers who were participating in the Day of No Immigrants, SHARE's Board of Directors President approved that SHARE San Francisco and DC offices close on May 1<sup>st</sup> and participated in the marches in both respective cities.

### **Violence and Militarization Watch**

#### **The International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) and the School of the Americas (WHINSEC)**

SHARE DC worked with a US-based coalition to plan next steps on building congressional interest in and awareness around the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in El Salvador. Representative Jim McGovern also sponsored an amendment to the Foreign Operations Bill to eliminate funding for the WHINSEC (formerly known as the School of the Americas). SHARE circulated action alerts on the amendment with the base to generate calls and letters to base members' representatives. Unfortunately, the amendment did not pass due to Congress' conservative majority.

#### **Violence at the National University of El Salvador**

On July 5<sup>th</sup>, violence broke out between protestors and police near the El Salvador National University during a march against increases in electricity and transportation prices. SHARE DC responded by sharing information with the US grassroots base, religious allies, colleagues, and members of Congress. SHARE promoted a letter with base, colleagues, and congressional offices sponsored by Representatives Jim McGovern and Tom Lantos that called upon Secretary Rice to review actions of the police force and seek to calm tensions. The letter was signed by nearly 50 members of Congress. Due to SHARE efforts, the office of Representative Barbara Lee convened a special strategy session for legislative assistants to brainstorm follow-up actions with the State Department and international organizations such as the Organization of American States.

## Women's Empowerment

### **Institute of Research, Training and Development for Women (IMU)**

SHARE supported IMU and the Association of Women for Gender Equality (AMAIG) in a project to strengthen women's participation in local advocacy in Chalchuapa through municipal coordination. AMAIG worked to design municipal strategies on raising women's political participation; however, resistance and sexism within the municipality made the project's implementation very difficult. In spite of this struggle, AMAIG gained five positions on the Citizen's Council, three positions on the Emergency Prevention Council and two positions on the Women's Council. In addition, AMAIG gave workshops on peace building and advocacy for women's rights in hopes to increase local consciousness on the importance of gender issues within the municipality.

### **November 25<sup>th</sup> - International Day of No Violence Against Women**

"San Salvador - *Ni Una Muerta Mas!* - Not Even One More Death" was the title of the 2006 women's activist demonstration to speak out, march and protest against the violation of women's rights and violence against women. This action educated participants by speaking and giving literature on the issue of femicide, an important sociological and feminist topic on the extraordinarily high percentages of missing or murdered women. In addition, there were educational forums on the Salvadoran national human rights laws against domestic violence (laws that are not generally enforced). Leaders and participants spoke to major news channels, newspapers and radio stations to spread the importance of women's empowerment on a national level.

*(photo: leading feminist activists from Mexico, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador and Panama holding a press conference on femicide)*



### **Meso-American Women for Peace (MdP - Mujeres de Paz)**

SHARE accompanied the Meso-American Women for Peace in the organization and implementation of a public educational forum, November 30<sup>th</sup>- December 4<sup>th</sup>, on the women's rights issue of "Femicide." Feminist leaders from Mexico, Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador spoke, educated and led workshops to educate others on the extreme nature of violence against women as seen in the high numbers of female homicides and disappearances wherein fifty-percent of all female homicides are committed by a

current or ex-spouse. Feminist leaders encouraged women to struggle for the rights and provided information for them to get involved with organizations that work for women's empowerment. This international gathering of feminist leaders allowed opportunities to further organize and coordinate around these important issues setting goals for the MdP to extend their education to a global level through various means of communication.

## **Post-Disaster Reconstruction and Emergency Prevention**

### **Disaster Prevention and Emergency Preparation**

SHARE has been part of the SPHERE Project coordinating body in El Salvador and has dedicated time to strengthening this network internationally. SHARE was able to coordinate education and awareness in disaster prevention and emergency preparation through the SPHERE Project in San Vicente, Chalchuapa, San Salvador and Aguilares. This is an influential step in the process of preparing to minimize the vulnerabilities in communities in the geographic regions that SHARE accompanies while educating in the necessary prevention and relief aid strategies.

At SHARE's initiative, SPHERE was able to coordinate a series of meetings with the United Nations and SNF (National Secretariat of the Family). The UN has adopted the SPHERE project for preparation and humanitarian aid during emergencies. SHARE DC compiled a list of websites and partners who could post press releases and contribution information in an emergency.

### **Consciousness for Spiritual and Economic Recuperation (CREDHO)**

In October of 2005 Hurricane Stan and the eruption of Ilamatepec Volcano (Chalchuapa) together caused seventy-four deaths, millions of dollars of damage and thousands of displaced people. SHARE supported an eight-month CREDHO project in the zone of Chalchuapa, where historically there had been little organization or emergency preparedness. CREDHO worked for reconstruction and rehabilitation through mental health programs, food security and advocacy for emergency disaster prevention. CREDHO held training workshops with affected communities that included SPHERE Project training, mental health and crop management. CREDHO worked with local leaders to develop committees responsible for emergency preparedness with a committee for evacuation, relief shelters, and food supplies and health care.

### **Levee Reconstruction in the Lower Lempa** *(photo: CDM Tecoluca overseeing levee construction)*

In December of 2005 SHARE initiated an eight-month project with the Confederation of Rural Agricultural Reform Federations in El Salvador (CONFRAS) and the Tecoluca Municipal Council (CDMT) to create a network of advocacy around the levee reconstruction process in the Lower Lempa after the severe levee breakage and flooding during Hurricane Stan. Various non-governmental organizations such as the Association of Rural Communities for Development in El Salvador (CRIPDES- San Vicente) and United Communities of Jiquilisco worked alongside SHARE in advocacy to the Salvadoran Ministry of Agriculture (MAG) to make sure the levee rebuilding process was done with transparency, providing future protection against floods. Together these NGOs along with CDMT gave continual surveillance and research around the reconstruction points at Montemar,



Los Lotes, La Babilonia, Taura, Rancho Grande and Cañada Arenera. The MAG Minister Salaverria visited the Lower Lempa where United Communities organized forty community representatives that convinced the Minister to extend the levee reconstruction to Bosque of Nacuchiname where another 9.9 kilometers of levee needed to be repaired and rebuilt after Hurricane Stan.

### **Local Organization and Education**

#### **CREDHO**

SHARE also supported CREDHO in a year project for the development of local organization leadership and political advocacy with fifteen different communities from Chalchuapa. CREDHO trained local leaders in the analysis of societal problems, rhetoric and presentation, advocacy strategy and community organization. CREDHO workshops concentrated on democratic systems, solidarity, justice work, gender awareness, leadership development, environmental protection and civic participation. Some of the local areas of focus for advocacy included lack of potable water, health care, energy, crime and waste management.

#### **Salvadoran Association of Local Development and Democracy (FUNDASPAD)**

SHARE supported a project with FUNDASPAD in Districts five and six of San Salvador to strengthen citizen participation through the local elections of March 2006. With SHARE's accompaniment, FUNDASPAD developed voter information centers and trained over six hundred local leaders through workshops and forums. Two permanent committees were formed regarding local development and citizen participation. Coordination was established with the Institute of Women to incorporate the importance of gender equality. Subjects of training included electoral process, official electoral laws, poll services, citizen participation in the election, voters' education and voters' rights.

#### **Evaluation of Damage and Need Analysis (EDAN)**

SHARE supported a three-day training in Chalchuapa and Atiquizaya on how to evaluate and analyze local needs in regards to health-care, housing and infrastructure. EDAN's training gave prescriptions of how to take necessary actions to ensure social changes using their evaluations as an advocacy tool.

## II. Local Development

### Introduction

As in its other programs, SHARE's Local Development follows three integrating principles of women's empowerment, citizen participation and leadership development. The Local Development Program provides grants, advocacy support and technical assistance in developing sustainable economic projects, work-plans, proposals, reports, budgets, evaluations and outreach. In 2006 the Local Development Program supported organization and leadership trainings, women's literacy campaigns, local election voter education, economic initiative analysis, and women's empowerment trainings.

### Strategic Zone Transition

It has been part of SHARE's current strategic plan to redirect its flows of support from the previous target zone of the Lower Lempa Region to our new target zone in Chalchuapa and Atiquizaya, in the Western part of the country. In 2006, as part of this transition process, SHARE concentrated on accompanying its counterparts of the Lower Lempa in the progression of developing greater organizational self-sustainability. At the same time, SHARE deepened its local development work and relationships within the new target zone.

### Lower Lempa Zone - Sustainability, Literacy Training and Civic Organization

*(photo: cooperative member selling products at agro-service store)*



#### **The Marta Gonzalez Cattlewomen's Cooperative (ACAMG)**

In 2006, SHARE supported a study done by ASESORES to analyze and report on ACAMG's sustainability, reviewing and updating their internal rules and credit policies. The report gave ACAMG suggested measures to ensure future sustainability.

SHARE has served as a facilitator to develop ACAMG's own fundraising program in respect to obtaining additional funding from other foundations and donors. SHARE

recommended ACAMG to American Jewish World Service (AJWS) to which ACAMG submitted an application and were subsequently granted \$25,000. The Clarence Foundation also chose to support ACAMG with a grant for necessary technical purchases and gender equality training.

After Hurricane Stan, the women of ACAMG were essential in the reconstruction process of the Jiquilisco region. SHARE supported ACAMG in a humid agricultural project that utilized the wet soil after the floods to replant crops and yield a productive harvest, after the first harvest

was lost. This project was a success and helped bring food security and economical sustainability to a community that was damaged tremendously by the hurricane.

Furthermore, in 2006 SHARE supported ACAMG with a literacy program in collaboration with the Association for Women in San Carlos Lempa (ASMUR) and the Association for Economic Development and Social Progress (CIDEP). The literacy program was officially certified from the Ministry of Education and plans to run through 2008. The first phase of the literacy training was completed at the end of 2006.

The literacy campaign visited different communities where cooperative members live in order to encourage the women to participate in the program. Currently twenty women participate in two learning circles. The women are from the various communities of Zamorano, La Canoa, El Marillo, La Limonera, Sisiguavo, Nueva Esperanza and Mat de Piña. Although some have struggled with the economic cost of eyeglasses or transportation to classes, the women remain committed to learning, and many have already learned the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic.

*(photo: CDM Tecoluca civic engagement caravan)*

#### **Tecoluca Municipal Development Committee (CDM of Tecoluca) - Civic Education Project**

This past year SHARE's Local Development Program supported CDM Tecoluca in a civic education project to encourage participation, organization and voter education for the local elections of March. Through door-to-door knocking and holding local assemblies, CDM worked to raise consciousness on the right to vote and analysis of local and national socio-political awareness. Accomplishments and outcomes included a high voter turnout of eighty percent of registered voters and the victory of the CDM supported Mayoral Candidate, Simon Amaya, who received sixty-four percent of the votes.



#### **CDM Tecoluca and the Inter- institutional Foundation (FLAZO)**

SHARE supported an exchange program to strengthen coordination between the CDM and an NGO from the Eastern Zone of Usulután called Inter-institutional Foundation (FLAZO). Mayors and council members coordinated training workshops on local development, emergency prevention and alert systems, community organizing against domestic violence and risk awareness on emigration to the US. CDM then brought these workshops to various Tecoluca local communities.

#### **Social Initiative for Democracy (ISD)**

SHARE accompanied civic-political participation activities in Zacatecoluca, which included assistance, and education in acquiring a DUI, an official ID required to vote. Forums with

candidates helped promote a conscious vote while ISD trainings for election officials assisted with poll organization and management. Activities organized by ISD included home visits to over six hundred and fifty houses and various market centers to distributing information on DUI acquirement. ISD covered public forums, schools and over a thousand houses to promote voter education.

### **New Target Zone in Chalchuapa and Atiquizaya - Organization, Literacy, Leadership, Women's Rights and Economic Initiatives**

In 2006 SHARE continued to further the objectives of the 2002-2006 strategic plan by moving its local development work to Chalchuapa, in Santa Ana, and Atiquizaya, in Ahuachapán. In this region SHARE's work has focused on organization, economic development, leadership trainings, women's empowerment and women's literacy. Throughout the year there has been greater commitment by the local government and other agencies in the area. Furthermore, the women involved in this process are developing as active leaders in their communities and municipalities.

"For FEDECOOPADES and their base cooperative, they've moved forward in how many people have learned to read and write, and in their capability for leadership and organization preparing many more to occupy important positions within the cooperative."

-Teacher of Literacy Campaign, Mercedes Campos

### **The Federation of Cooperative Association for Agriculture Production in El Salvador (FEDECOOPADES)**

In 2006 SHARE continued to accompany FEDECOOPADES in the new target zone. The project "Literate and Organized Women Make Productive Businesses" supported the organizational, educational and leadership efforts of the women's committees of three FEDECOOPADES cooperatives: El Jicaro, Paso Carrera and La Reforma-Manguito.

#### Trainings

Organizational development trainings handled topics of interpersonal relational skills, team building, board member responsibilities and work plans. Leadership development workshops dealt with topics of effective communication, power and authority, being proactive and creative, solidarity, delegation of power and conflict management. The number of members throughout the cooperatives has grown - nearly doubling from seventeen to thirty at El Jicaro, adding five new members in La Reforma and one addition to Paso Carrera.

"I'm very grateful to FEDECOOPADES and SHARE for bringing us training, organization and literacy capacities in which I have now realized the value we have as women to defend our rights and support each other."

-Gladis Noemi Rosales Garcia

### Literacy Program

Almost fifty percent of women in the cooperatives are illiterate which puts them at a great disadvantage in developing businesses and leadership skills. SHARE supported the three women's committees in a dynamic and transformative literacy program.

*(photo: Amparo Hernandez of La Reforma Co-op attending literacy circle)*

From the beginning the literacy program coordinated with the Ministry of Education of Santa Ana, and Mercedes Campos, a member of La Reforma cooperative, took up teaching responsibilities for the three cooperatives. They use the Paulo Freire method of popular education that incorporates their own reality to *Ver, Juzgar y Actuar* (See, Judge and Act). Words become alive when these women find meaning in their own experiences and let this profound learning move them to action. They are not only learning how to read and write, but they are transforming their consciousness and their country.



In these three cooperatives, only 15% of women are official members of the cooperatives. Therefore, the literacy training is widely known as a success, teaching more women to read, write and do arithmetic so that they can take on the leadership positions necessary to work at the cooperative.

### Economic Initiatives

In La Reforma-Manguito they've built a new place for their store because the previous store was located in an old storage unit. Their ability to manage the local store and corn grinder has grown as more education has brought greater capacity to fill positions. Their facilities consistently serve the local community by making it easier to purchase daily products without traveling great distances.

"Both youth and adults are very involved with SHARE's projects of producing bread and selling it. The project seems to be going very well by involving many, teaching new skills and providing an economic chance for the women involved."

-Rosario Menjivar, El Jicaro

The Jicaro and Paso Carrera bakeries are successful during coffee harvest season, their busiest time for sales as a result of an influx of workers. In other periods, women from El Jicaro cook and sell food throughout their community. This past year Paso Carrera struggled with profit growth but is in process of learning how to make different types of breads and cakes to compete with other bakeries in the region.

FEDECOOPADES has also been active in conducting medical surveys of the women in the cooperatives through interviews to detect medical needs. As a result, five women received successful eye surgeries, coordinated by FEDECOOPADES.

**Association of Women for Equal Rights and Gender (AMAIG)**

In 2006 SHARE continued to support AMAIG via The Women’s Institute (IMU) in organizational and social strengthening of the women and literacy. With the leadership of AMAIG’s President, Doris Gonzalez, AMAIG has continued to build up support networks and empowerment groups to educate on gender awareness. With over thirty training workshops throughout the year AMAIG has worked with a range of topics such as: gender awareness, human rights, peace advocacy and leadership development. AMAIG’s trainings also dealt with the importance of local women’s role on the municipal council to organize around civil protection laws.

SHARE supported AMAIG with their literacy campaign through learning circles in the communities of San Sebastian and Michele Calderon; in all there are twenty-four women in the literacy circles.

*(photo: women from AMAIG display their crafts in a meeting)*

Furthermore, SHARE accompanied AMAIG in the process of identifying economic initiatives that would generate sustainable income for the cooperative members. SHARE assisted the contact between AMAIG and Foundations for Development of Micro and Small Business (FADEMYPE) to do market research and analysis for the region. FADEMYPE is planning to begin a project to train women in business start-up and management skills.



### **III. Grassroots**

#### **Introduction**

The SHARE Foundation's Grassroots Program is at the heart of the organization by coordinating cross-border solidarity relationships of Salvadoran and US communities through a sistering-partnership program. This program facilitates the accompaniment of US parishes, schools, universities and seminaries with Salvadoran regional and community projects. These projects include women's empowerment, youth organizing, education scholarships and environmental advocacy.

#### **Grassroots vision of accompaniment for sistering-partners:**

- **Physical/Moral:** Cross-border visits of US group delegations to partnering Salvadoran communities and Salvadoran tours to the US provide physical support. Through these experiences, people connect and support each other through their joys, struggles, faith and shared experiences.
- **Advocacy:** US Grassroots base promotes community organizing and advocates in solidarity to work for just US policies that promote sustainable solutions to poverty, rural development and human rights in El Salvador.
- **Financial:** Salvadoran communities need financial support as they seek sustainable alternatives to poverty and rural development policies through leadership development, citizen participation, and women's empowerment.

#### **Grassroots Evaluation and Projection**

In 2006, the Grassroots Evaluation and Projection Committee was created, consisting of SHARE staff members, promoters and board members. The goal of this committee has been to re-evaluate and explore new paths for growth with a strategic plan for the future. The Grassroots team has been very influential in this evaluation process providing necessary input, research and planning. Some of the changes and focus points include continued development around new programs of youth and university and seminary partnerships, increased community organization around an annual week-long commemoration of Archbishop Oscar Romero and an enhanced Grassroots Promoter role to include greater advocacy links.

#### **Grassroots Sistering-Partnerships Continue to Grow**

Since 2005, the Grassroots Program has added five new regional sistering-partners. Currently there are 28 active sister communities with two new groups in the process of becoming either youth partners or sister committees; additionally there are several other groups in negotiation for partnerships. In 2006, eight sistering-delegations came to El Salvador from various parishes and schools. There were also several different foundation and organizational delegations, such as the Women for the FMLN and religious foundations for the Commemoration of the Four Churchwomen December 2<sup>nd</sup> Delegation.

## Youth Partnerships

University Lutheran, Cretin-Durham Hall High School and North Western High School joined the newly developed youth partnership program, and the latter two went on successful delegations to visit their sistering-communities. The Grassroots Program worked hard to



develop new styles of delegations that appealed more to youth populations by creating very active itineraries that also involved Salvadoran youth. New activities included events such as soccer games, mural painting, bonfires, dances, drama and talent shows. This new program is also very influential for Salvadoran youth organization to interact with youth from different places, exchange stories and encourage each other.

*(photo: Cretin-Derham Hall youth delegation mural project)*

## Theological Schools and Universities: Organizing a Consortium of Solidarity

Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley and Colgate Rochester-Crozer Divinity School have both been on delegations while Drew University Theological School is planning a delegation for January of 2008. SHARE is also in contact regarding possible discernment delegations and future partnerships with Loyola University in Baltimore, Eastern Michigan University and Bellarmine University in Louisville.

All three seminaries are planning to sign a commitment to SHARE through the Solidarity Consortium, an ecumenical group of seminaries and higher education institutions that are working to strengthen their emphasis on contextual or immersion education. Seminaries, universities, professors and students have the opportunity to collaborate, dialogue and work with each other around contextual education through the SHARE delegation experience. This may include course material for the delegation and student cross-registration for delegation "immersion" courses to receive credit and dialogue around issues of globalization, women's empowerment, immigration and liberation theology. Furthermore, the consortium model creates opportunities for grant funding through foundations.

## Themed Romero Week

The Grassroots Team is working to emphasize community organization and advocacy with the US base through the annual commemoration of Archbishop Oscar Romero. Romero Week serves as an excellent opportunity to reach more people through education, awareness raising, fundraising and advocacy support. Each year the week will follow a different theme according to the goals and contemporary issues SHARE would like to address: the theme for 2007 is "Building Peace in a Post-War Society: Global Lessons from El Salvador." Each year SHARE's Grassroots Team will send out literature to help Promoters and US base participants in organizing around the particular theme for that year.

## **SHARE Organizes US Grassroots Base to Support Justice Advocacy**

SHARE DC office stays in close communication with the Salvadoran and US Grassroots base as they are both key components in effective advocacy campaigns. SHARE created advocacy education materials for the website about the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) and the mining situation in Northern El Salvador along with popular education materials on Plan Puebla Panama that was sent out to the US base. In addition, SHARE DC developed advocacy guides for writing, calling or visiting a local member of congress, which was sent out to US base.

SHARE DC made contact with the Chicago Religious Leadership Network on its visa denial situation that was a significant problem in 2006 when attempting to plan tours for Salvadoran representatives in the US. The Washington Office on Latin America drafted a dear colleague letter on the visa situation to be co-sponsored by Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Judy Biggert (R-IL) and SHARE mobilized its base to solicit signatures for the letters.

SHARE DC and the Grassroots Team promoted two action alerts in October. The first was the letter-writing campaign on the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) and the other was an alert and request for solidarity regarding increased military presence in the Salvadoran sister-community of Arcatao, helping to further develop SHARE's advocacy alert system of notification for the future.

### **Salvadoran American Involvement and Advocacy for Immigration Rights**

SHARE works closely with the Salvadoran American community, particularly on advocacy related initiatives to promote solidarity with the people of El Salvador and to commemorate the Salvadoran history of martyrs, such as Archbishop Oscar Romero and the Four US Churchwomen. Relationships were further cultivated with Salvadoran American communities during the immigration rights social movement throughout the Spring of 2006 in which SHARE was very active. Salvadorans both in El Salvador and in the US expressed the increasing issue of emigration and the need for immigration rights.

“We would like to communicate to you that eleven people from our community have emigrated to the US because they feel it necessary to help the financial well being of their family and community who are economically disadvantaged.”

-CRIPDES Community of La Hacienda, El Salvador

SHARE and their Salvadoran base worked closely with Central American organizations in the United States, such as Casa de Maryland, Milpa, and the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) to advocate for immigration rights. These relations create space for Salvadoran Americans to forward their analysis of the connections between poverty, immigration and rural development, and link their efforts with those of US solidarity, human rights and development organizations. SHARE has also accompanied Salvadoran organizations in their struggle for

equitable immigration reform and extensions for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Salvadoran immigrants.

### **The Essential Role of the Promoter**

The volunteers who promote SHARE's sistering-partnerships have always been an essential part of the Grassroots Program. Through the Grassroots Evaluation and Projection committee and Promoter retreats the role and work of Promoters was re-organized to reflect the current goals of SHARE.

Promoter responsibilities have shifted to emphasize growth in SHARE's base. Promoters will concentrate on increasing youth involvement, promoting SHARE projects, organizing for advocacy and creating stronger ties with Salvadoran urban parishes. SHARE Promoters will be more involved in Romero Week, national delegations, tours and promotion to potential sistering-communities. Additionally, Promoters will work to nurture the faith component between sistering-partnerships, distribute updates from El Salvador and ensure sistering-communities live up to SHARE's vision of accompaniment and solidarity.

### **2006-2007 Grassroots Projects through Local Partner, Association of Rural Communities for Development in El Salvador (CRIPDES)**

Through SHARE's Grassroots Program sistering-partners are able to work in solidarity with a wide range of regions, projects and communities. At the center of all projects are citizen participation, women's empowerment and leadership development. US sistering-communities accompany Salvadorans financially, in advocacy, morally and spiritually throughout five geographic sub-divisions or regions of CRIPDES: 1) CRIPDES Southern La Libertad 2) Association of Communities for the Development of Chalatenango (CCR) 3) Association for the Municipal Development of New Tenancingo (ADMNT) 4) Union of Communities of Northern San Salvador and La Libertad (UCRES) 5) CRIPDES-San Vicente. CRIPDES is a nationally and internationally recognized NGO with a base of approximately 300 rural communities in El Salvador.

### **Youth and Women's Empowerment, Organization and Advocacy**

These projects work from empowerment models that recognize local inhabitants as proactive leaders and decision makers for development in their communities, rather than mere spectators, victims, or recipients of assistance.

*(photo: CRIPDES-San Vicente Inter-regional youth conference, youth member rapping)*

### **CRIPDES-San Vicente's Integral Youth and Women's Organizing**

This project promoted capacity building and leadership training with women and youth through organization and advocacy for public policy, local development and social and economic justice.



The youth project included 1,100 youth from 32 communities that directly benefited from activities including organizational and technical support for youth committees, five academic scholarships, five youth leadership formation trainings, an environmental-awareness hike and painting classes.

The women's project involved 1,200 women from 29 communities who directly participated in women's committees, leadership formation trainings, and technical assistance for ten organic home vegetable gardening economic initiatives.

#### Leadership and Organizational Development in Communities of the CCR, Chalatenango

This project strengthened civil participation in grassroots structures (women's committees, youth committees) and developed new leaders with ability to advocate for just economic and local public policies. The women's project consisted of 230 women in 48 communities focusing on citizen rights. The youth organizing included 135 youth in 28 communities focusing on new leadership with a vision for social change, solidarity, cooperation, equity and pride in cultural identity. Together various communities organized theater presentations by youth and for youth on educational issues such as HIV/AIDS prevention and emergency prevention.

#### Youth Organization, Culture and Recreational Sports in Northern San Salvador and La Libertad

This project reached out to approximately 500 youth in 30 UCRES communities that promoted sustainable youth leadership and participation in UCRES educational and recreational activities. UCRES provided organizational and technical support to 26 youth committees, a regional youth promoter, a regional youth assembly, fundraising and project administration trainings for regional staff.

#### Organization and Leadership Strengthening with Women of Ten Communities in Southern La Libertad

Through participation and leadership of women in community organization and local development this project worked with 230 women from ten communities in five municipalities of the Southern La Libertad. Women's organizational structures created participation in local socio-political analysis and facilitated leadership of women in the proposal of solutions to problems of gender discrimination.

#### Local Organizing and Training with a Focus on Gender and Citizen Participation with Young Leaders in the Rural Area of Tenancingo

Youth leadership and organization in Tenancingo was part of an ongoing process led by CRIPDES to seek long-term solutions to the social problems faced by rural communities. This project focused on equipping youth with the tools, capacity and resources necessary to analyze and advocate for an improved quality of life in the communities. It provided resources and support to the central Municipal Youth Committee as well as toward the formation and support of 12 community youth communities.

## Grassroots Advocacy to Protect Environment and Communities from Extreme Damage through Strip Mining in Northern El Salvador

*(photo: Protest against mining exploitation)*

### Advocacy against Mining in Northeastern Chalatenango

This project worked to educate, organize and mobilize the population of affected communities of northeastern Chalatenango regarding the impact of mining exploitation. These communities advocated in defense of their water sources, crops, environmental health and human rights. The project promoted alliances with other local and national organizations concerned about the impacts of mining. Project components included 14 educational municipal assemblies and an international gathering in Honduras where mining is more advanced.



“In this land [Chalatenango], it is densely populated, agriculturally used, and the source of our basic needs. What will we do if [mining] development contaminates the land we use? We do not eat gold.”

-Esperanza. from Chalatenango

### Education and Advocacy Regarding Potential Impacts of Mining Exploitation in the Municipality of El Paisnal

This project worked to educate, organize and mobilize the 12 communities in the municipality of El Paisnal regarding the impact of mining exploitation, empowering these communities to advocate for and defend their water sources, crops, environmental health and human rights. The project promoted alliances with other local and national organizations concerned about the impacts of mining.

### **Education and Scholarship Support**

#### Community Organization and Scholarships Granting in Five Municipalities of La Libertad

Youth education and leadership development was supported by partial scholarships to 18 junior and senior high school students in five municipalities of Southern La Libertad. This scholarship program incorporated youth organizing, training, participation in community service, advocacy activities, promotion of youth into community council positions and regional youth theater groups.



*(photo: Several San Vicente youth scholarship recipients)*

#### CRIPDES-San Vicente Higher Education Development

University education of four community leaders in San Vicente strengthened CRIPDES regional institutional capacity to further promote local development and community organizing. Each of the four leaders worked toward a college degree and is committed to bringing greater education back to his or her community development work in San Vicente.

## **IV. Organizational Update**

### **Introduction**

SHARE staff strives to create sustainable networks of solidarity, accompaniment, local development and advocacy for just policies. As an organization, SHARE is always formulating new goals to adjust to challenges and changing situations through continual reassessment, strategic planning and effective implementation.

SHARE's three-office system is particularly unique because of its dynamic attention to space and place in accordance with the fieldwork context. SHARE's Advocacy Program works for human rights and socio-economically just policies in the capital cities of the US and El Salvador. Likewise, the Grassroots Program is able to link US and Salvadoran sister-communities across border divisions. Having offices in San Francisco, Washington DC and San Salvador allows SHARE to reach beyond geographical and national limits for a transnational form of solidarity work. All three Office Directors work in coordination to manage, administer and direct the various programs, events, projects and relationships SHARE continues to build.

### **SHARE Washington DC Office**

The SHARE DC Office Director, Tara Carr-Lemke, heads up all US Advocacy activities and works closely with the US Grassroots coordinator. The DC Office focuses on relationships and advocacy with the US Grassroots base and US Salvadoran community while continually working on website coordination, e-newsletter production and Promoter organization. The US Grassroots Coordinator, Chloe Schwabe, departed this year and SHARE has welcomed Elly Jordan, former Salvadoran Delegation Coordinator, as the new US Grassroots Coordinator who has been working hard since she entered the position in September.

SHARE DC has actively participated in the Grassroots Evaluation and Projection Committee, conducting analysis and gathering ideas for the future of the Grassroots Program. SHARE DC was also very involved in organizing the Promoter Retreat and the re-evaluation of the Promoter work within Grassroots. The DC Anniversary Celebration, September 30<sup>th</sup>- October 2<sup>nd</sup>, was a great opportunity to gather many SHARE's longtime volunteers, organizers and supporters to renew commitments while also forging relationships with new groups and individuals. This celebration was a time for various activities that included entertainment, fundraising, education and advocacy.

### **El Salvador Office- Field Work**

Marina Peña continues to be the Director of the Salvadoran Office where the different field officers are based including Grassroots Program Officer, Delegation Coordinator, ES Advocacy Program Officer and a Local Development consultant. The El Salvador Office has various programs in the same location and is able to coordinate well with each other when working on a local project.

After five years of serving as the Grassroots Program Officer, Leslie Bilchik will be leaving SHARE and returning to the US. Although Leslie will be missed, SHARE is glad to welcome Erin Yost-Garcia who has experience as a former staff member of CRISPAZ and began training for her new position with SHARE in February of 2007. As Elly Jordan transitioned out of her position as Delegation Coordinator a new Volunteer Mission Movement (VMM) Delegation Coordinator, Danny Burrige, began his work in August of 2006. SHARE is applying for an additional VMM staff in El Salvador to assist with some of the new initiatives driven by the Grassroots Program.

### **Staff Orientation in El Salvador**

Not all newly hired staff previously had the opportunity to visit our projects and counterparts in El Salvador, therefore in March of 2006 SHARE staff, Kathy Bolts, Stephanie Pile and Tara Carr-Lemke visited partners in all three programs - Grassroots, Local Development and Salvadoran Advocacy. Visits included the following counterparts - CRIPDES San Vicente, UCRES, CCR, and Sur de La Libertad; CDM Tecoluca; ACAMG; La Reforma, Paso Carrera and El Jicaro cooperatives in Chalchuapa; AMAIG and CREDHO in Chalchuapa; a CONFRAS meeting with rice farmers in La Libertad; and ACAPb in San Salvador.

### **Inter-agency coordination**

This year SHARE increased coordination with other agencies, especially Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Oxfam America and Lutheran World Foundation (LWF) with several issues in common, such as initiating the SPHERE Project principles and emergency preparation coordination. SHARE continues to coordinate with CRS on the Millennium Challenge Account and Oxfam America on mining. Oxfam International invited SHARE to be part of an initiative to observe CAFTA at the regional level and CRS is giving SHARE space to train leaders in the new target area in their school for social organizers. Two Chalchuapan leaders have been trained in the CRS School and two new leaders began in November. SHARE continues to work with the LWF and Oxfam America to watch human rights violations.

### **Relationship with the United States Embassy**

The US embassy usually maintains distance from organizations that may have opposing views, but during this last period their relationship with SHARE has improved. SHARE was invited to consultations about the Millennium Challenge Account and went to a lunch with the Ambassador to share their assessments about the social problems El Salvador faces. Two SHARE visa requests were given, and the Grassroots Team went to meetings and celebrations that the Embassy gave at which they made acceptable relationships with some Embassy functionaries which may serve beneficial in future coordination.

### **Presence in the Press**

This year SHARE's projects and accompaniment activities received attention from the press. The video about the levee emergency prevention was played on *Channel 21 News*, the *Prensa Gráfica* covered reconstruction work in Chalchuapa after Stan, SHARE's involvement with the Millennium Challenge Account made it in *Monday Developments* magazine and the *Co-Latino* covered the Human Rights Ombudswoman's trip to Washington DC.

## **San Francisco Development Team**

The San Francisco Office's main thrust is fundraising and coordination with SHARE programs to collaboratively move organization projects and goals forward. Fundraising is an important component to SHARE's accompaniment model because it provides the US base with an opportunity to physically support, commit and become active in their relationship of solidarity with the people of El Salvador. Fundraising is often an essential combination to advocacy and activities that promote education and awareness.

The Executive Director, Jose Artiga, and Deputy-Director, Angela Urata are both located in San Francisco. Stephanie Pile, the Development Director, oversees fundraising campaigns, Teresa Cruz continues to coordinate the Direct Mail, Phone Bank and Sustainer programs and Kathleen Bolts maintains solid grant connections to foundations and religious orders that fund SHARE. San Francisco staff is involved in overall organization finances, budgets, strategic planning, board meetings and three-office staff retreats/meetings.

### **Legacy Fund and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign of 2006**

The Legacy Fund was developed in 2005 to commemorate the twenty-five year legacy of Archbishop Oscar Romero, the Four US Churchwomen and all the 75,000 Salvadorans who were martyred in El Salvador. A lot of energy from staff in all three offices was directed towards this campaign, including follow-up with delegates from the two large 2005 delegations. In 2006, fundraising efforts among our base were directed toward the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign. The Anniversary fundraising will continue in 2007, including events in San Salvador, Milwaukee and San Francisco, procuring additional ads for the anniversary program book and implementing two online auctions.

### **Solidarity Gifts**

This new initiative provided an opportunity for individuals to make a contribution in the name of a family member or friend for a holiday or special occasion. Donors send a gift card to a person of their choice to let them know a solidarity gift for causes of women's empowerment, literacy or youth organizing had been made to SHARE in their name.

### **Sustainers**

The Sustainer Program, led by Teresa Cruz, allows the US base to be in monthly contact with SHARE updates through the Sustainer letter. Over four hundred sustainers give monthly, quarterly or annually to SHARE and are imperative to create continual support and to maintain relationships of solidarity. The Sustainer Campaign completed its goal to gain one hundred new sustainers in 2006.

## **SHARE Board of Directors**

SHARE is fortunate to have a dedicated group of professionals that serve as board members. The board met in January and November of 2006 where they engaged in dialogue around challenging issues and joined together to make decisions regarding SHARE's finances, budget, new program implementation, strategic plan and fundraising campaigns. Each board member actively serves as a fundraiser and as a vital connection to US base advocacy.

The board of 2006 gave their appreciation for Gigi Gruenke, Carmen Elena Castillo and Yanira Chacon-Lopez as they stepped down from their positions as board members. SHARE is pleased to welcome three new board members: Francisco Lopez, who has a long history of working with SHARE and the Catholic Community Services, Angelica Garcia, who is President of the Association for Women in the Lower Lempa, and Larry Kressley, former Executive Director of the Public Welfare Foundation.

### **Endowment Fund**

In 2006, the SHARE Board of Directors moved to begin an Endowment Fund as a permanent fund of the Foundation. The Endowment Fund shall receive and hold all gifts made to the Foundation from sources such as bequests, gift annuities, insurance policies, trusts, or other planned or deferred arrangements, as well as specific cash gifts, which are not otherwise designated. The Endowment Fund has been created and exists solely for the solidarity work of the Foundation, with its principal objectives being the promotion and development of programs, aiding sustainable development in rural El Salvador, advocacy efforts promoting social justice, grassroots programs and for non-recurring purposes not regularly budgeted by the Foundation.

### **SHARE Tours**

#### **Northern Ohio and Kansas City - April 1-11; Gigi Gruenke**

Gigi met with a number of religious orders (Sisters of St. Joseph Justice Office, Franciscan Sisters, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth), two sister parishes (Good Shepherd and Visitation), staff of the Inter-Religious Task Force, a couple of Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> delegates' parish communities, the Peace and Justice Office of the Diocese of Kansas City, staff of Rep. Dennis Moore and a Catholic Worker house.

#### **Texas - April 27-May 5; Carmelina Urquía and Kathleen Bolts**

Carmelina and Kathy visited Houston, San Antonio, Austin and Dallas and spoke at events with the Houston Salvadoran community, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word (CCVI), Dominican sisters and Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, and at high schools, and met with December 2<sup>nd</sup> delegates and donors.

#### **Wisconsin - May 6-11; Carmelina Urquía and Tara Carr-Lemke**

Carmelina and Tara met with SHARE Sustainers, sister parishes, prospective sister parishes, the Racine Dominicans, staff of Senator Russ Feingold, the Justice and Peace Coordinator for the Sisters of St. Francis, staff of US ES Sister Cities, and high school and grade school classes in Milwaukee, Madison and Racine.

#### **Seattle - May 20-25; Luis Campos, ESO Administrative Assistant**

Luis visited two sister communities - St. Patrick Parish, where he spoke at the Sunday liturgy and met with the social justice committee, and Northwest School, where he presented to numerous classes and attended an evening meeting of parents of students who participated in the March delegation.

**Los Angeles** - *May 10-25; Marina Peña and Teresa Cruz*

Marina and Teresa met with MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, a foundation that has significantly supported SHARE each year since 2003. They also met with major donors in the Los Angeles area.

**Minneapolis/St. Paul** - *October 20-25; Jose Artiga*

Jose visited Cretin Derham Hall High School to advance the sistering-partnership process. After speaking to ten classes the interest was strong, especially for delegations. Faculty is pleased with SHARE and the sistering agreement but struggles with the fundraising commitment. Jose met with a number of sustainers and recognized potential for their further involvement with SHARE delegations.

**Detroit** - *November 16-20; Stephanie Pile*

The Detroit Committee hosted an event where Stephanie presented current news about SHARE and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Stephanie visited with major donors, sustainers and religious orders and also coordinated a potential new relationship with Eastern Michigan University.

**Volunteers and Interns**

With the help of interns and volunteers SHARE works more efficiently while serving as a tool to educate and give experience to those who will be involved in solidarity work in their future.

Jill Stiehl was SHARE DC's spring intern and worked to complete the educational packet on Plan Puebla Panama Packet for the US base. Justin Knight served as the SHARE DC summer intern working on research and writing for e-newsletter pieces, updating congressional profiles, and continued the Salvadoran organization-mapping project. The DC Office was also pleased to have Adam Buehler as its Fall 2006 intern.

In the beginning of 2006 Noel Andersen moved his internship from the San Francisco Office to the El Salvador Office where he began working with the Grassroots Program and CRIPDES-San Vicente. Stephanie Kennedy joined Grassroots as well working with the CCR in Chalatenango. Both Stephanie and Noel provided Grassroots updates to sistering-communities by reporting on project progress and analysis. These two volunteers gave Grassroots an opportunity to fine-tune their new volunteer program.