



Right Sharing

of WORLD RESOURCES

WINTER 2019 | www.rswr.org

Spreading the Gift of Hope Around the World

Are you seeking to create positive change in the world, both far away and at home? Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) offers donors the opportunity to fund an entire project in India, Kenya, or Sierra Leone. West Richmond Friends in Richmond, Indiana, funded a RSWR project in 2018.

West Richmond Friends (WRF), which is a semi-programmed Friends meeting, is part of the New Association of Friends. WRF members and attenders hold a concern for social justice, and, throughout the meeting's 110-year history, members have been involved with Quaker social outreach organizations, including RSWR.

Each year, beginning in January and ending in March, the WRF Witness and Service Committee fundraises for annual Outreach Projects. Last year, the meeting felt called to fund half of a RSWR project as a 2018 Outreach Project.

General Secretary Jackie Stillwell visited WRF in February 2018 to give a presentation about RSWR. The meeting also hosted a simple meal, which was both a learning experience for the meeting and part of the fundraising for the Outreach Project.

"THE IMAGES WEST RICHMOND RECEIVED FROM OUR RIGHT SHARING PARTNERS IN KENYA MAKE IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT A SMALL INFUSION OF FUNDS CAN HAVE A HUGE IMPACT ON THE LIVES NOT ONLY OF THE WOMEN WHO BORROW FUNDS, BUT ON THEIR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES AS WELL."

— Susan Chase, WRF member



Mary Ondisa is a member of Kipchekwen Friends Women Group and is a mother of seven.

Working with RSWR Program Director Sarah Northrop, the meeting chose a region and a project approved by Right Sharing's Board. When choosing a project, WRF wanted to fund one in Kenya with connections to the United Society for Friends Women (USFW).

In July 2018, WRF became the sponsor of the Kipchekwen Friends Women Group in Hamisi, Kenya (for more about the group, see page 2). The meeting is excited to soon receive the six-month report from the group.

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"LET US THEN SEE WHAT LOVE CAN DO." – William Penn, 17th Century Quaker

GOD CALLS US TO THE RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES, FROM THE BURDENS OF MATERIALISM AND POVERTY INTO THE ABUNDANCE OF GOD'S LOVE, TO WORK FOR EQUITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH OUR SISTERS AND BROTHERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

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RSWR Project Stories

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RSWR is grateful for the generosity of the WRF community. Their yearly Outreach Projects are a wonderful example of a community working together to give the gift of hope and change for another community across the world. WRF is an excellent model for other interested meetings and groups.

"WE APPRECIATE THE FEEDBACK FROM SAMSON [RSWR FIELD REPRESENTATIVE IN KENYA] AND THE PICTURES OF THE WOMEN WE WERE ABLE TO SUPPORT."

— Louise Beede, WRF member



West Richmond Friends outside their meetinghouse.

RSWR Project Stories

KIPCHEKWEN FRIENDS WOMEN GROUP (KFWG)

HAMISI, KENYA

The women of KFWG have been working together as a self-help group since 2014. They had previous challenges with getting funding for their businesses, as the loans provided by the county government came with high interest rates, and bank loans required title deeds (none of the women are landowners). However, their fortunes changed when the group's chairwoman attended a workshop on Women in Business at East Africa Yearly Meeting. She heard about Right Sharing's work there, and invited Field Representative Samson Ababu to visit the group. With the generous help of West Richmond Friends, the group received its grant in July 2018.



Grace is a member of KFWG and a mother of six. Her business is selling bananas at bus stops.

RURAL INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (RICE)

BO DISTRICT, SOUTHERN PROVINCE, SIERRA LEONE

RICE is located in an area that was particularly devastated by the Ebola epidemic, and everyone in the community suffered in one way or another. The 40 women in this group applied for a RSWR grant in an effort to recover from these hardships. In June 2018, all 40 women received a loan of \$109 to grow rice, cassava, and groundnuts. As of their six-month report, the project is going well, with women making loan repayments to the group. Each woman is also saving \$3.50 per month, which increases the community's resiliency in case of future instability.

BENEFICIARY STORY: IYE SWARAY

Madam Iye Swaray (right) is an Ebola survivor. She lost her husband, son, daughter-in-law, and one of her granddaughters in the Ebola epidemic. In the aftermath, she was caring for her child and grandchild, but she could not return to her home for fear of Ebola. With her loan, she was able to start a retail charcoal business at a local trade fair. She now lives with a relative and is saving money to support her family. She says that her work with RICE and the support of RSWR have restored her hope and joy.



Project Stories

MULTIPURPOSE ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL UPLIFTMENT TECHNOLOGY AND HUMAN INTEGRITY (MARUTHI)

SIVAGANGAI DISTRICT, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

The 24 women in the MARUTHI group were all living in very challenging situations without monetary support from male family members. They were mostly working as maids for very little money, and were not able to send their children to school or pay for healthcare. In January 2017, with their loans from the RSWR grant, each of the women chose one of five income-generation projects: running a snack stall, vegetable vending, tailoring, ironing clothes, or fish vending. One year later, the initial beneficiaries have paid off their loans and 23 new women have received a loan with the repaid funds. Additionally, 16 of the original 24 beneficiaries have reached sustainability with their businesses, and the other eight are expected to soon follow.

BENEFICIARY STORY: BOTHUM PONNU

Bothum Ponnu (right) is 40 years old and lives with her husband. They are also the caretakers for her husband's elderly parents. Previously, she would collect clothes from rich families and wash them at a community tank located two miles away. Then

she fractured her leg and was unable to walk to the tank, thereby losing that source of income, and the family was struggling to meet basic needs. Through becoming involved with MARUTHI, she received a loan of \$142 to begin an ironing business from her home. She now earns \$2 a day and her income is able to support her entire family. Her in-laws are now able to be well cared-for, and she says that her husband now treats her with more respect.



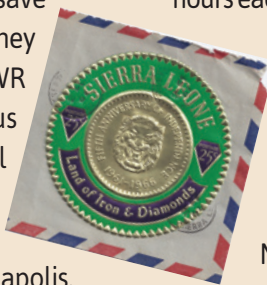
Interested in Funding a Project?

If you, your meeting or church, or another group wants to fund half (\$3,250) or a whole (\$6,500) donor-designated project, please let us know! RSWR will help donors who are interested in funding a half-project to pair up with one another. Find out more on our website at www.rswr.org/sponsor-project/ or contact General Secretary Jackie Stillwell at 603.933.2608.

“Stamping for Dollars” – An Update on the Stamp Program

For the past many years, Right Sharing has encouraged supporters to save their used postage stamps so they could be sold to benefit RSWR projects. In 2017 the previous steward of the program, Earl Walker, retired after eight years of dedicated service, and a team at First Friends in Indianapolis, Indiana, graciously took up the program.

The team, which goes by the name Stamping for Dollars, is comprised of seven dedicated Friends: Co-coordinators Amy Perry and Brad Jackson, along with Norma Wallman, Linda Lee, and Ed Morris (who help to sort stamps), Jody Coffin-Long (who does data entry), and Mary Blackburn (who helps send stamps to buyers). Most of



the sorters volunteer between two and six hours each week. The team enjoys the work and is glad to be able to partner with Right Sharing in this way. In 2018, the team volunteered over 425 hours!

The stamp sorters gather on Monday afternoons. They sort while visiting with one another and enjoying the work together. Currently, the team has three regular stamp buyers. The buyers often have particular stamps they want for their collections. They know the sales benefit RSWR's work, and are glad to support a worthy cause while obtaining desired stamps.

In 2018, the Stamping for Dollars team

contributed \$1,647.53! This money will go toward funding future Right Sharing projects. The Stamping for Dollars Team joins Right Sharing in thanking everyone who has sent in stamps.

RSWR is enormously grateful for Stamping for Dollars! Their dedication and hard work are a blessing. A special thanks to co-coordinator Amy Perry, who graciously provided the information about the team and photos presented here.

Middle: A stamp from Sierra Leone. Photo: Brad Jackson. Right: Co-coordinator Brad Jackson with bags of stamps. Photo: Linda Lee.





RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES

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Richmond, IN 47374

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NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 8
RICHMOND, IN

Support RSWR

SEND YOUR STAMPS

You can contribute to Right Sharing by saving used postage stamps. Visit www.rswr.org/stamp-program/ for more information and send your stamps to: Stamps for Right Sharing c/o Indianapolis First Friends, 3030 Kessler Blvd. East Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46220.

BECOME A MONTHLY SUSTAINER

Regular giving from a checking or savings account, or by credit card, is a great way to support RSWR all year long! Sign up at: www.rswr.org/recurring/

PLANNED GIVING

Consider making RSWR a part of your estate plan. Find out more at: www.rswr.org/planned-giving/

ATTEND

“The Power of Enough”



WORKSHOP WITH JACKIE STILLWELL AT THE FGC GATHERING

DO YOU:

- Have faith that God has given us an abundance of all we need (time, energy, skills) to do the work we are called to do?
- Struggle to keep balanced and centered because you take on more than you are called to do?
- Faithfully make space for God to act in the work you've been given?
- Have too many things cluttering your life?

RSWR General Secretary Jackie Stillwell will be offering a workshop on “The Power of Enough” at the FGC Gathering this summer, June 30–July 6, 2019, at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa. Participants will experience new perspectives through queries, storytelling, games, and singing. Attendees will leave with a deeper sense of self and connection to how our personal choices ripple forward to others.

If you are interested in inviting Jackie to offer this workshop at your yearly or monthly meeting, please contact the Right Sharing office at rswr@rswr.org.

RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES
contributions are tax-deductible in the USA as allowable by law. RSWR is a 501(c)(3) organization; our tax identification number (EIN) is 31-1636209.

Right Sharing of World Resources

Jacqueline Stillwell
General Secretary

Sarah Northrop
Program Director

Genevieve Beck-Roe
Communications and
Development Associate

Isabel Ringley
Office Manager

937.966.0314
rswr@rswr.org
www.rswr.org

