



Right Sharing

of WORLD RESOURCES

1ST QUARTER 2023 | www.rswr.org

The Right Sharing family is growing!

I am excited to introduce you to the RSWR Guatemalan Coordinators: Eva Ramírez and Ruth Bueso. Meeting these women filled my heart with hope and confidence in Right Sharing's future.

Eva Ramírez was born in a rural community in Quezaltepeque, in the state of Chiquimula, Guatemala. She is mother to an 11-year-old daughter. Eva has a degree in Education and has taught literacy and gardening, along with running her own small business selling snacks to put herself through school.

Eva feels that working for RSWR is a wonderful opportunity to transform rural women's quality of life. She sees that women tend to promote community development and are concerned about improving conditions in their homes and families.

Ruth Bueso is an evangelical Friend, a teacher, and the wife of a pastor. The church they steward is called "Embassadors Amigos." Ruth brings with her 15 years of experience helping women in the rural areas of Guatemala through her church.



Guatemalan Coordinators
Eva Ramirez and Ruth Bueso

She says, "What inspired me to work for RSWR is that all of us, as God's children, have a mission to fulfill. Since a door has been opened through this organization, I would like to use my abilities to help support the mission and vision of RSWR."

Sarah Northrop
Program Director



Eva Ramirez with RSWR General Secretary Jackie Stillwell, Ruth Bueso and RSWR Program Director Sarah Northrop together in Guatemala

IN 2022 RSWR JOYFULLY ANNOUNCED AN INTENTION TO PARTNER WITH WOMEN IN GUATEMALA. BOARD CHAIR MARIAN BEANE SAID, "THERE IS A STRONG QUAKER PRESENCE IN GUATEMALA, INVOLVING SOME 20,000 PEOPLE...LOCAL QUAKER WOMEN ARE FORMING WOMEN'S GROUPS AND HOPING TO ORGANIZE FOR SOCIAL ACTION, MUCH THE WAY RSWR BEGAN PARTNERING WITH WOMEN IN KENYA MANY YEARS AGO."

PARTNERING WITH WOMEN IN COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION

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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New Faces Join the RSWR Team

After an extensive search to expand the team, Way opened for two women to join the Right Sharing Family! They come to aid Right Sharing in exploring with the Quaker community how to release the culture of materialism while focusing on connection, education, and equality. Each of these women brings to us her Quaker faith, her dedication to service, and her firm belief in increasing equity through partnership.

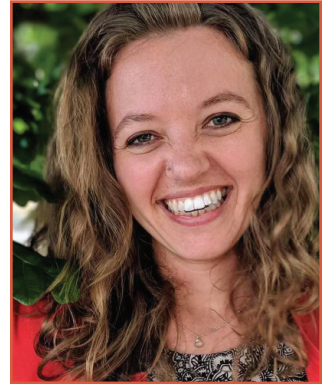


JESSICA WALKER-KELEHER who lives in Missoula, Montana, joins Right Sharing as the Associate Secretary of Programs. A former board member, she has worked in international education and international affairs, developing capacity through educational programming as well as in program design,

monitoring, and evaluation.

Jessica says, "I value that we as Friends look to community to discern way forward. We look to our communities locally as well as globally. I view Right Sharing's work as corporate witness, as communal witness, and as one approach to seeking equality via wealth redistribution. I feel like this is what Quakers today can uniquely offer the world."

MEGAN FAIR is the new Associate Secretary of Advancement. Born and raised in rural Ohio, Megan began attending Quaker meeting as a teenager, which compelled her to go to Guilford College in Greensboro, NC where she studied Peace and Conflict Studies and Nonprofit Management. She has served in various development and administrative roles in the nonprofit sector over the last decade.



Megan believes that RSWR offers a unique opportunity for supporters to work towards equity through meaningful partnerships with women around the world. She is moved by those who seek to unburden themselves from the weight of materialism and recognize the impacts of our choices and history in an interconnected world.



Internal Tranquility and the Spirit of Partnership

Last spring, Jon Watts traveled to Sierra Leone, Kenya, and India with Jackie Stillwell to create video vignettes about Right Sharing. As those videos are nearing completion, Right Sharing's communication director, Caitlin Churchill, interviewed Jon on how this project has impacted him.

HOW DID YOUR PERCEPTION OF RIGHT SHARING'S WORK CHANGE AS YOU TRAVELED TO THE PARTNER COUNTRIES?

I knew Right Sharing was working in partnership with groups of women and was giving microloans. What wasn't on my radar was the work of the field representatives, who are the stewards of the program. I saw the in-country representatives meeting with

Jackie and Jon are in Freetown, Sierra Leone

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the women face to face: they know each other by name, they're hugging each other. Right Sharing is not an international organization, it's a quilt of hyper-local organizations led by the people who live in the communities they serve.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR TRIPS?

Each country was very different, and our trip had to change course because of COVID. I deeply loved India. Our first meal in Tamil Nadu was with the in-country team and Alamelu. We ordered our food, and we just looked at each other for a while. There was no pressure to speak. We're just sitting there, and everyone is fully inhabiting their bodies, being at peace. Even in the stressful moments, there was an underlying culture of serenity, and that impacted me. I felt the contrast when we were talking about egregious working and living conditions – there was an

internal peacefulness that people had cultivated. When I returned to the United States, I felt the wave of anxiety that people in this culture carry with them at all times. I want to go back.

WHAT WAS A CHALLENGE YOU FACED?

Jackie and I were traveling in the spring of 2021. It was the height of pandemic restrictions globally. We had to get COVID tests in every region we visited, at multiple junctures. One big challenge was getting stuck in Sierra Leone over a small piece of paper that we did not know we needed. Our flight to Kenya was canceled while we handled the process of getting the paperwork in

Jon Watts and Kenyan Coordinator Sampson Ababu in Kisumu, Kenya

order. We were allowed to leave the country only after three days.

DID YOU HAVE ANY INSIGHTS INTO THE ROLE OF QUAKERS IN THE WORLD AS A RESULT OF YOUR TRAVELS?

America is one home to the world's wealthy minority, but we're impoverished spiritually in ways that we don't understand. Contrary to the culture I grew up in, having resources isn't the measure of the quality of my life. In the Quaker tradition, there is an aspiration to humbleness. God speaks through everyone, and working in partnership has the potential to open our hearts and bring us low. This brings us into an encounter with one another in a humble way.



Sibella Swaray, Jackie Stillwell, Ahmed Muckson Sesay, and Sallian Sankoh in Sierra Leone.



Jon Watts meets with RSWR partners in Tamil Nadu, India



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STAMP TEAM UPDATE

Amy Perry, one of the stamp team coordinators, posing a stamp-themed puzzle at First Friends Indianapolis. The puzzle was completed by Blake Baldwin while he waited for his wife, who was in a meeting of women at First Friends.

Thank you to the stamp team for your spirited representation of Right Sharing! Each year brings more connections among stamp collectors, Quakers, and the women's groups we partner with.

To learn more about the stamp ministry go to <https://rswr.org/stamp-program>



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.

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