

# Right Sharing OF WORLD RESOURCES

*"Let us then see what love can do"*

*William Penn, 17th Century Quaker*

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*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.*



As I stood to speak at our 50th anniversary celebration in April, there were tears in my eyes and my heart was bursting open with the abundance of God's love and generosity flowing through the room. The early dream of Right Sharing of World Resources, born at the 1967 FWCC World Gathering, has succeeded beyond imagination. All the love that was palpable in the room that night has been rippling forth and multiplying in the world throughout the last 50 years.

This love and the commitment to share are the essence of Right Sharing. It is the foundation that grounds our next fifty years and beyond. The support and generosity of our donors, coupled with the diligence of our partners, enable profound transformation in the communities we serve.

I experienced some of the fruits of this transformation when I visited the Rural Women's Development Trust (RWDT) in Tamil Nadu, India, in 2016. This tiny NGO received four Right Sharing grants from 2008 to 2014. The total amount granted was \$14,426. These grants initially served 113 women in 4 Self-Help groups. Today the funds have been repaid and revolved to assist 36 Self-Help groups in 45 villages to benefit approximately 3800 people!

The resiliency of these marginalized women is outstanding. Their income has more than doubled, they are gaining new skills and respect at home and in the community, their children remain in school and pursue higher education, and they are no longer working in the tobacco industry or as indentured laborers without hope for a free life. They are deeply grateful for the affirmation, seed money, and educational support of RSWR.

Thank you for sharing your love to support and serve so many. It is a powerful force for change and good in the world. I am awed by the recognition that, if we could do so much with such a small beginning, our possibilities for the future are infinite.

With God's abundant love,  
Jacqueline Stillwell  
General Secretary

*RWDT chair caning project and vegetable selling (inset)  
More photos on page 5*

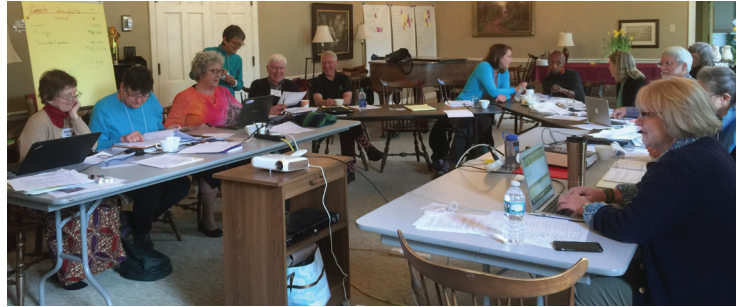


# 23 New Projects Funded!

At the RSWR Board meeting in Indianapolis in April, 23 new projects were chosen for funding! The Board carefully deliberated to select projects that would provide the greatest opportunities for the individual women involved, while also having a benefit to the larger community.

Five projects were chosen in Kenya, including one with a group of Masai Quakers located near the Tanzania border. The area has been hard-hit by a drought, and many animals that the people depend on for their livelihoods have died. The RSWR grant comes at a crucial time for this group to rebuild its herds.

In India, the projects chosen include 12 groups with a wide range of businesses: selling tea and crunchy rice snacks at a local train station, organic farming, photocopy services, tailoring, and several others. The businesses are limited only by the imagination of the women entrepreneurs and the local market!



*Spring 2017 Board choosing projects*

In Sierra Leone, one of the 6 projects involves a group of foster mothers working to support adopted orphans. Another group will use funds to restart a chicken farm after devastation by the civil war and the Ebola crisis. Also chosen were several groups that are growing cassava, rice, and groundnuts – staple foods that have been in short supply since the Ebola crisis.

## *Sharing Success Stories from recently completed projects...*



### KIDUNDU FRIENDS CHURCH WOMEN GROUP

**Kidundu Friends Church Women Group (KFCWG) in Kenya** discovered that the key to succeeding in business is training. They applied to RSWR in the fall of 2014 but were not chosen because they did not have enough knowledge to handle a RSWR grant effectively. Instead of giving up, they asked the RSWR Field Representative, Samson Ababu, to train them in how to prepare a grant application. They also joined a Kenyan government program offering business training to youth and women. They reapplied to RSWR in the fall of 2015 and received a grant!

In their final report, KFCWG reports that they all now have thriving businesses; their monthly incomes have doubled or tripled, and in some cases, quadrupled. Their school-going children can now afford lunch and school uniforms. Here are the stories of two individuals in the group:

**Margaret** (left) and her family were displaced from their home in Njoro during the post-election violence in 2008 and were unable to return. When they came to the village, Margaret joined the Friends Church and Kidundu women's group. With encouragement from other members, she started a dried fish business with a loan from the RSWR grant. The business is now thriving, and she is able to support her husband and four children. **Rabeca** (right) is a single mother of one girl. She left her husband because of his bad behavior. The women in her church group, who have been very supportive of her, helped her start a dried fish business. The RSWR grant enabled her to expand her business, and she has already repaid the loan. Her daughter has re-enrolled in school. Today, Rabeca and Margaret work together and support each other in the dried fish business and are also prayer partners.

*Continued on page 5*

# Educational Resources

When RSWR was founded, one of the goals was to provide **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS** in the US to encourage discussion and understanding of how the imbalance of world wealth has long-term negative outcomes for our world. To fulfill the second part of our mission, RSWR has developed many resources to educate about global wealth disparities and the experiences of our partners. All of the available activities can be found on the RSWR website under the “Resources” tab.

Right Sharing has put together this removable insert for use by your meeting, church, or community group. This handout lists a selection of activities appropriate for groups of all ages and sizes. Refer to it the next time you’re looking for an activity that will bring people together to engage cooperatively and generate meaningful discussion. **WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THESE RESOURCES!**

Have questions about any of these activities or want to learn about others? Contact RSWR Program Director Sarah Northrop at [sarahnorthrop@rswr.org](mailto:sarahnorthrop@rswr.org).

## GRATITUDE CALENDAR

Have you ever given thanks for your toilet? How about your electrical outlets? What about light bulbs? Or your warm socks?

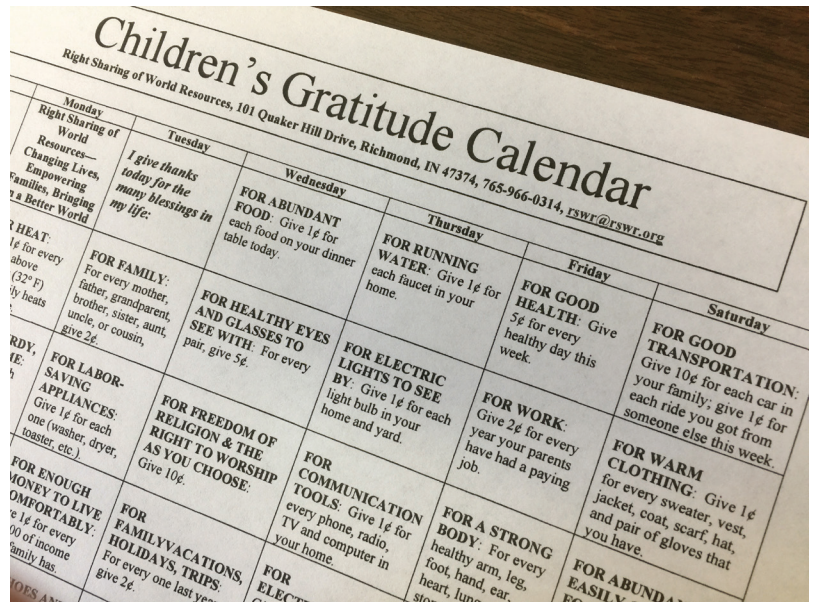
This Calendar, which can be downloaded from the Right Sharing website in both adult and children’s versions, encourages us all to think about and appreciate the many comforts and conveniences of modern American life that we often take for granted. An item is listed for each day of the month. For each item earning a thank you, participants are invited to give a small donation to Right Sharing of World Resources.

[rswr.org/gratitude-calendar/](http://rswr.org/gratitude-calendar/)

## COOKING FOOD FROM KENYA, INDIA, OR SIERRA LEONE

Food is an important way to share culture. Cooking foods that our Right Sharing partners might eat is a way to understand their life and culture a little better.

You could make **sukuma wiki** from Kenya, which means “stretch the week.” Kenyan women make this dish of greens, onions, and tomatoes at the end of the week to serve with **ugali (corn mush)** when all of the other food is gone. You could also try to make **idly breakfast rice cakes** from India, which many of



our partners sell. **Groundnut stew**, from Sierra Leone, has been called its national dish. Groundnuts, a type of peanut, are often grown by RSWR groups that have farming businesses.

[rswr.org/cooking-with-our-partners/](http://rswr.org/cooking-with-our-partners/)

## SIMPLE MEAL

Hosting a Simple Meal raises awareness of how we live, and how our use of resources impacts the ways our fellow humans are able to use resources. A Simple Meal reminds Friends “to live simply so others may simply live.” A Simple Meal is an opportunity to raise awareness about our food consumption and its effect throughout the world. In many places, including within the US, people do not have a choice of what or how much they eat.

The Simple Meal is also about building community. Organizing and sharing the meal can be purposeful as well as fun, and a number of Monthly Meetings hold annual Simple Meals to benefit Right Sharing programs. Visit our website for ideas, recipes, and information on how to hold a simple meal for your religious community. There are also activities and games to prepare children to understand and participate meaningfully in a simple meal.

[rswr.org/simple-meal/](http://rswr.org/simple-meal/)



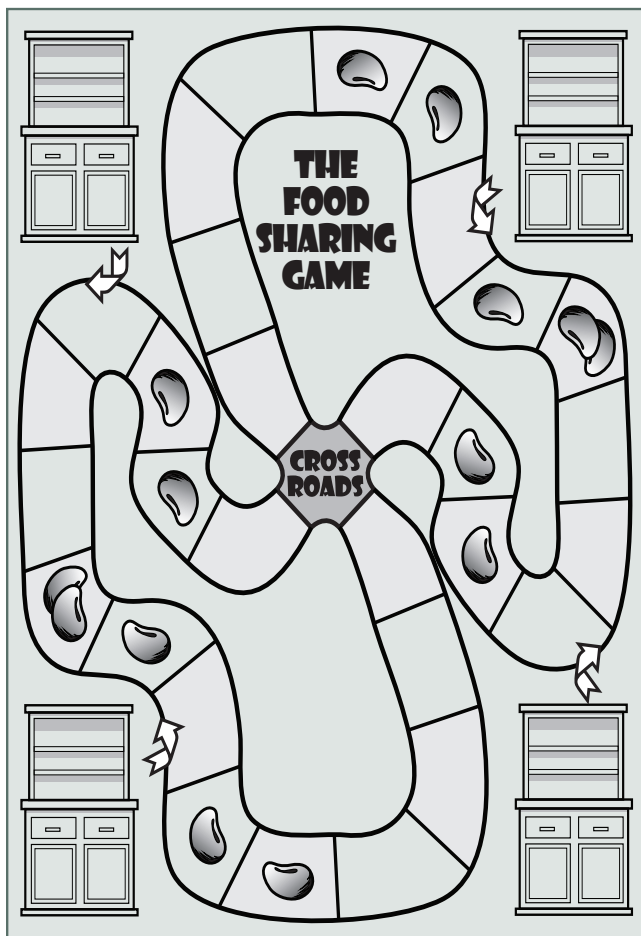
Woman in India making idly rice cakes

## GRAHAM CRACKER GAME

The Graham Cracker Game is a simulation game that gives participants a feel for world inequity, both in terms of space and distribution of world resources. You can use it in older children's Sunday (or First Day) School classes, adult education classes, youth groups, and inter-generational groups. There should be at least 15 people in the group, and it takes about an hour to play.

## 10 CHAIRS OF GLOBAL INEQUALITY

If your group is small, another game, Ten Chairs of Global Inequality, can help children or adults learn similar concepts. If your group is really small, it can even be played as the "Five Chairs of Global Inequality." This game doesn't take as long to play as the Graham Cracker Game and can also be used as part of a children's message in Meeting for Worship.



## FOOD SHARING GAME

The Food Sharing Game is a game for young children, ages 5-8. It follows a common board game format for children, where you throw a die and move around the board collecting items and taking them to your home space. However, this game has a twist to it. Unlike most games, where you look out only for yourself and "winning" means getting the most for yourself at the expense of others, this game encourages sharing and helping others, and "winning" means that everyone has enough.

## RIGHT SHARING GAME

The Right Sharing Game is for youth from third grade up. It was developed by the Right Sharing of World Resources Committee of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting in 1989. It is a cooperative board game that promotes understanding of the economic inequities that exist in the world. Through play, students consider solutions to these inequities. Players move toward a Right Sharing World in which sustainable local economies are supported by self-help projects, simple living, and conservation.



There are a limited number of copies of this game. You can borrow a copy from Right Sharing of World Resources for use with a youth group or school class, but be sure to order it well in advance of the date you need it to be sure it is available. Order the game by calling the RSWR office at 765-966-0314 or e-mail Sarah Northrop, Program Director, at [sarahnorthrop@rswr.org](mailto:sarahnorthrop@rswr.org).

## Success Stories continued

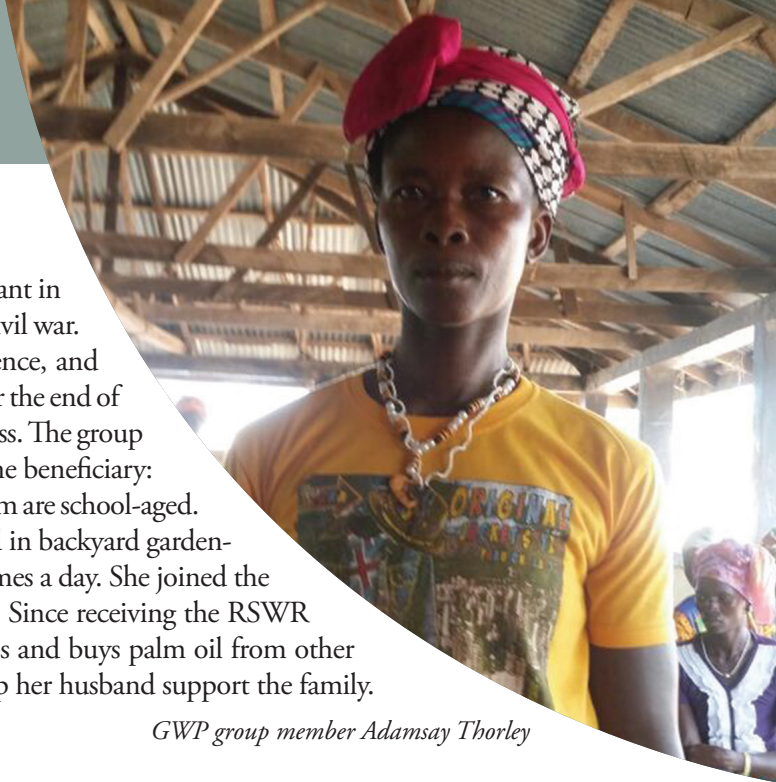
*Continued from page 2*

### GBENTHAS WOMEN IN PROGRESS

**Gbenthas Women in Progress in Sierra Leone** received an RSWR grant in June 2016. The group is located in a village that was destroyed by the civil war. The inhabitants of the village experienced immense amounts of violence, and almost all of the houses were looted and burned down. Fifteen years after the end of the war, the community was still struggling with poverty and hopelessness. The group came together to try to rebuild the community. Here is the story of one beneficiary:

**Adamsay** is thirty-two and is the mother of four boys, three of whom are school-aged. Her husband works as a seasonal farm laborer. She used to be involved in backyard gardening, but found she couldn't make enough for her family to eat three times a day. She joined the Gbenthas group in 2015 at the invitation of the community women. Since receiving the RSWR grant in 2016, her life has changed significantly. She now grows crops and buys palm oil from other villages for resale. She is able to take good care of her children and help her husband support the family.

*GWP group member Adamsay Thorley*



### SHARON SOCIETY OF PONDICHERRY



*SSP women making floor mats*

**Sharon Society of Pondicherry (SSP) in India** is a group that works with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The NGO runs a school for intellectually disabled children, and has also formed a self-help group for the children's mothers, many of whom were living in poverty. SSP supported the mothers to start income-generating activities that they could do from their homes so they wouldn't have to leave their children while they worked. The mothers collectively decided to take up floor mat production. This was a particularly smart choice, because there are many textile mills in the area and they use the waste from the mills to make the mats. The project has been very successful. All 24 of the initial beneficiaries have repaid their loans in full, and 40 new women have received loans from the repaid funds. In addition, the women have been able to make repairs to their homes, pay off old loans to money lenders, and buy nutritious food for their children. Most importantly, they have a home business they can do while caring for their children.

*CELEBRATION PHOTOS continued from page 1 – The gathering in April at the Indianapolis First Friends*



## RIGHT SHARING of WORLD RESOURCES

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### *Celebrate RSWR's 50th Anniversary!*

In 2017 Right Sharing is celebrating 50 years of partnership. We are looking forward to another fifty years and beyond of building relationships and sharing resources to create greater equity and wellness in the world.

**TO FIND OUT MORE  
AND JOIN THE CELEBRATION, VISIT  
[www.rswr.org/celebrate](http://www.rswr.org/celebrate)**



### *Thank you, Earl!*



the RSWR offices has been sent to Earl. We know that many of you in your homes and Meetings have also saved up large numbers of stamps to send to Earl, in addition to other collectibles such as baseball cards and coin collections. Since taking over the stamp program in 2009, RSWR has received over \$11,000 from recycled stamps.

*We know you join us in thanking Earl for his service to Right Sharing for the past 8 years.* He has provided a vital resource for Right Sharing. We wish him much rest and healing as he steps back. As we seek someone new to take over the stamp program, please continue to send stamps to the RSWR offices.

**RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES** projects 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.

### **HELP CONTINUE THE QUAKER MISSIONS STAMP PROJECT**

Are you a stamp collector, or do you know someone who is? Right Sharing is looking for someone to continue the important work of the Quaker Missions stamp project.

To find out more or to volunteer, contact [rswr@rswr.org](mailto:rswr@rswr.org)

### **Right Sharing of World Resources**

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