



Right Sharing of WORLD RESOURCES

SUMMER 2018 | www.rswr.org

Empowered with Purpose

In January, I traveled to Tamil Nadu, India, with fellow RSWR Board member Doug Smith and former Board member David Camp, to learn about the Right Sharing experience from the women with whom we partner through our grant-training and skill-building service programs. During our two-week visit, we were privileged to meet many strong women and learn how their training has contributed to the success of their RSWR-funded individual and group projects.

This was my first trip to India, although I had previously visited the other two regions RSWR serves: I was in Kenya in 2016 with members of my family, and in Sierra Leone in 2017 as a member of the Board, along with General Secretary Jackie Stillwell and former Board member Lucretia Humphrey. Although culture and history mean that our work in each region is specific and unique, some common themes and experiences were evident in my travels. While all the women with whom we partner have a very low income and limited formal education, they are hard-working and often the sole source of family income. The women are good

at organizing and are willing to work across differences for the betterment of the group. They are very committed to the welfare of their children, especially



Marian Beane and General Secretary Jackie Stillwell with the women of Fourabay Market Women Association in Freetown, Sierra Leone.



their education. Throughout my visits I heard stories of marginalized women feeling a greater sense of empowerment. This came about as they developed a greater capacity to provide for their families, including school uniforms and fees, more

Mrs. Jayanthi, Managing Trustee of Women's Voice Trust, in Chinnamanur, Theni District, welcoming RSWR board member Marian Beane to a group's brick-making project.

nutritious food, and a new roof on their home. It was also expressed through the modeling of respect and acceptance of differences, gaining a sense of greater respect from their husbands, and experiencing a higher standing in the community.

I am humbled by the strength of purpose and determination of these women and the opportunity Right Sharing and its supporters have been given to partner with them in important and meaningful ways. It has been a blessing to see their business successes, to observe their pride in the betterment of their families and their empowerment in their communities, and to witness their gratitude for RSWR's contribution to making all of this possible.

—Marian Beane

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.

Board of Trustees

Beth Henricks
Presiding Clerk
Western YM

Mary Eagleson
Recording Clerk
New York YM

Chris Siegler
Treasurer

Donna Anderton
Philadelphia YM

Marian Beane
Piedmont Friends YM

Bruce Birchard
Philadelphia YM

Jonathan Brown
North Pacific YM

Max Carter
North Carolina

Francesca Costantino
Baltimore YM

Carol Anne Ferlauto
New York YM

Tom Gates
Philadelphia YM

Elizabeth Gates
Philadelphia YM

David K. Leonard
Philadelphia YM

Rachel Madenyika
New York YM

Elizabeth Reuthe
New England YM

Yvette Shipman
Lake Erie YM

Douglas Smith
Pacific YM

Sally Weaver Sommer
Lake Erie YM

Nilufer Wilkins
Southeastern YM

The Importance of the Field Representative



Board Treasurer Chris Siegler shares insights from his recent visit to Sierra Leone

In March, I traveled to Sierra Leone. RSWR's Field Representative, Sallian Sankoh, and I visited three projects. This was the first time I had been back since 2013, just before Ebola ravaged the country. What I saw this time was a country recovering from that devastating epidemic with great spirit and purpose. I also saw the incredible role Right Sharing projects are playing in that recovery, due in large part to Sallian's guidance and support.



Sallian working in her office at the YMCA.

Sallian meeting with a group of recipients of an RSWR grant.

Sallian's passion for women's empowerment is the foundation of our work in Sierra Leone. She presents a strong role model for these women who seldom encounter women in leadership positions. Qualifying for an RSWR grant is not an

easy task for women in remote, rural villages in Sierra Leone, many of whom have no formal education. When a group of women expresses a desire to apply for a grant, Sallian supports them through the application process.

If the group is selected for funding by the RSWR Board, Sallian and Ahmed Sesay return to the group to lead formal training in the organizational and leadership skills necessary for the self-help group (SHG) to operate well.

Through her visits to and mentorship of the group, Sallian establishes a strong rapport with the women. When I accompanied her to visit funded SHGs to monitor their progress, I got to see this in action. You can feel the women respond to her, as she alternately praises them for their hard work and admonishes them to stick to their loan repayment schedule and maintain their savings programs. It was clear that this kind of ongoing mentoring is vital to a group's success. Sallian understands the enormity of the challenges faced by these women, many of whom are widows (either from Ebola or the rebel war of 1991–2002) who are trying to feed their families and pay school fees so their children can attend school.

It was enlightening to see one of RSWR's Field Representatives in action, and it demonstrated to me how essential their work is. Right Sharing is blessed to have partners like Sallian Sankoh in Sierra Leone, Samson Ababu in Kenya, and Dr. R. Kannan in India. It was a truly humbling experience to visit with the women in Sierra Leone and listen to how their Right Sharing grant has changed their lives, as well as the plans they have and what they need to do next to build on their successes.

Project Partners

Sierra Leone

Adama Rogers is the mother of three children; her husband works as a fisherman. She previously helped other women in the village with their businesses, but was paid very little and was struggling. In 2016, she joined a group of women with Action for Women's Empowerment, received a loan, and started a business. She enjoys how engaging the work is, and her business has been successful. In addition, her children now attend school and are eating well. She says, "The lives of my children and me have totally changed."

See photo page 3

Project Partners



Kenya

Eppiness Uside is the Chairwoman of the Makomo Friends Youth Group, a group of young adult Friends that applied for a grant. She used her initial \$50 loan to buy chickens so she could sell their eggs. The business did so well, she was able to pay back her first loan quickly, and then she

received a second loan of \$100 to expand her chicken business. After that was repaid, she received a \$200 loan to open a food kiosk! She now runs both of the businesses and they continue to grow, and is proud of her hard work and successes.

Eppiness Uside, Makomo Friends Youth Group, at her food kiosk.

India

Tamilarasi was widowed four years ago. Unable to find consistent work, she was making only \$1.50 a day, which wasn't enough to send her three children to school. She joined a self-help group sponsored by Society for Women Education and Economic Trust (SWEET). With her loan from the group, she opened a petty shop. She has worked hard and is now making \$3-\$4.50 a day. This increase in income has made a big difference for her family, as now her children are able to attend school.

Kavitha is 29 years old, with two children, ages 2 and 5. In 2009 she and her husband went to work as bonded laborers to settle a debt. They worked 12 hours a day without rest or leave, and Kavitha faced many health problems. In 2014 government officials and the Rural Women Development Trust (RWDT) team raided



Kavitha (Rural Women Development Trust).



the workshop, and she was freed. The RWDT team encouraged her to join a self-help group and take skill training in coir rope making. She now has regular work and a good income; moreover, her oldest child just began school.

Tamilarasi (Society for Women Education and Economic Trust) and her children at the petty shop she opened with her loan from the RSWR grant.



Adama Rogers (Action for Women's Empowerment).



RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES

101 Quaker Hill Drive
Richmond, IN 47374

RSWR Return Service Requested

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

Support RSWR

NEW RSWR PHONE AREA CODE

We are transitioning to a new phone service and have a different area code. After July 2018 reach the Right Sharing office at 937.966.0314.

USE AMAZONSMILE

Visit smile.amazon.com and select Right Sharing of World Resources. While we are mindful of the consumerism Amazon can foster, using AmazonSmile enables you to support important work when you shop.

DONATE NOW

Give by June 30, 2018 to help RSWR finish our 2018 fiscal year strong! Send a check in the enclosed envelope today or donate online at www.rswr.org/donate.

Are you looking to advance community and equity in the world? Is your meeting or community organization seeking to grow together through shared purpose and learning?



Interested?

For more information, including cost, contact the Right Sharing offices at sarahnorthrop@rswr.org or 937.966.0314 to find out more.



Right Sharing offers the option for individuals, meetings, and other groups to sponsor a specific RSWR project in one of the regions we serve (Kenya, India, or Sierra Leone) through a Donor Designated Project (DDP).

This can be a wonderful opportunity for you and your meeting to come together around a fun piece of business: raising funds, choosing a project, learning more about the history and culture of the region, and sharing reports from the group. It also provides the occasion for education and sharing about how our choices affect others, and the reality of global wealth inequality.

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

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.

rswr@rswr.org
www.rswr.org

