

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.

A Small but Mighty Ministry

For over 20 years, Right Sharing has been blessed to be supported by a special ministry: the Quaker Missions Stamp Project. This project has exemplified Right Sharing's mission: work that engages the community to transform something modest but important.

The project was started in 1996 by Brad Hathaway of Mattapoisett Friends Meeting in Massachusetts. Brad collected and sold stamps, the proceeds of which were sent to Quaker organizations including RSWR. Earl Walker of Claremont Friends Meeting in California took over the stamp ministry in 2009.

For the past eight years, Earl has faithfully served as the steward of the Quaker Missions Stamp Project. Many RSWR supporters and Meetings have sent Earl their large stockpiles of stamps over the years. Thanks to Earl's generosity with his time and resources Right Sharing has received over \$11,000 from recycled stamps! In 2017, Earl stepped back from the Quaker Missions Stamp Project. Right Sharing is so grateful to Earl for his service and support of Right Sharing's work.

A NEW HOME FOR THE STAMP PROJECT



Coordinator Amy Perry (right) and First Friends member Linda Lee sort stamps

Right Sharing is excited to announce that the new home of the Quaker Missions Stamp Project will be at Indianapolis First Friends Meeting! Amy Perry is the current coordinator of the Stamp Project, and she has already been hard at work sorting stamps, gathering a committee, and learning best practices from Earl. We are so thankful she has stepped into this position with such grace and kindness, and are looking forward to learning where this new collaboration will lead us.

It has been wonderful to watch as the stamp ministry has grown into a community ministry under the care of First Friends' Witness and Service Committee.

The First Friends Youth Group

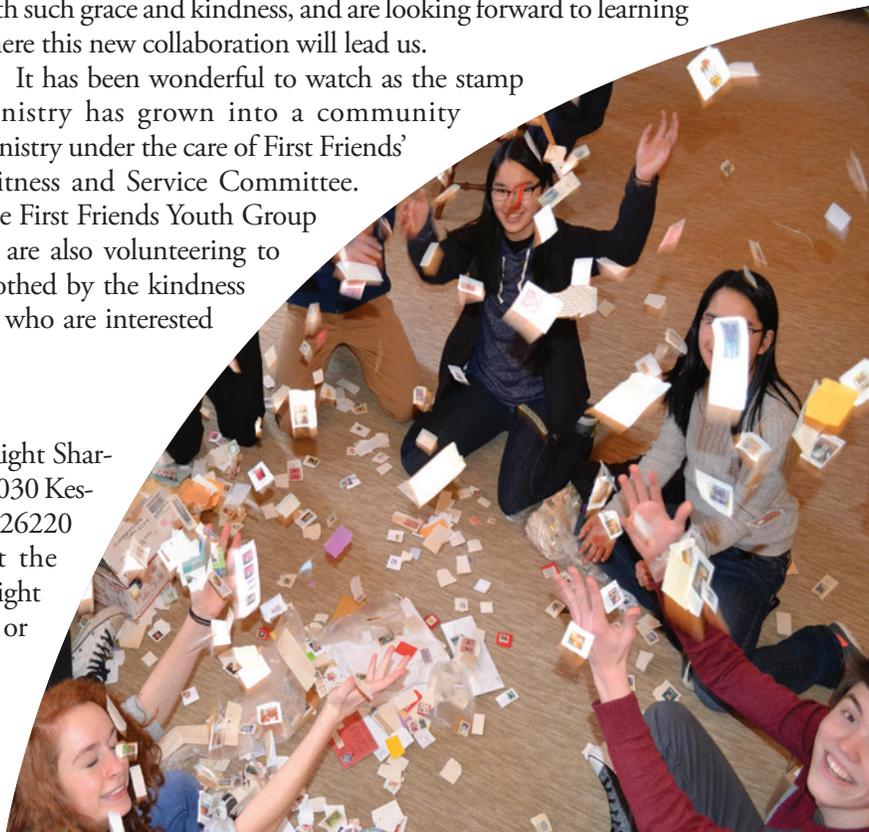
and Monday Meditational Group are also volunteering to help. The transition has been smoothed by the kindness and generosity of so many Friends who are interested in being of service to this ministry.

SEND IN YOUR STAMPS!

Mail stamps to: Stamps for Right Sharing, c/o Indianapolis First Friends, 3030 Kesler Blvd East Dr, Indianapolis, IN 426220

If you have questions about the stamp project, please contact the Right Sharing office at (765) 966-0314 or rswr@rswr.org.

The First Friends youth group celebrate the variety and number of stamps.



The Importance of the Group

Right Sharing of World Resources requires that beneficiaries of grants be part of a self-help group. Each group consists of 20-30 women who meet together once or twice a month for peer support, which increases their success and sustainability. The benefits of the group, however, are greater than economic, as it provides an opportunity for the women to be in community with one another and to support each other as problems or needs arise. It helps the women's voices be heard in the community and gives them political and social clout that they otherwise wouldn't have.

In Kenya, a group is often affiliated with more than one tribe, even though this practice is counter-cultural. In this way, the women are choosing to come together to change the culture. In Kenya, Sierra Leone, and India, Right Sharing groups also come together across lines of faith. In India, inter-faith collaboration is not generally encouraged, but that doesn't stop the groups made up of Muslim, Hindi, and Christian women from supporting one

another in their businesses and lives. In all three countries, the group is frequently a crucial source of social support and strength for the women facing difficulties in their marriages, family, or the larger society.

In Sierra Leone, the support of the group has also been invaluable to women who are survivors of the Ebola disease. Neighbors and even relatives have refused to have anything to do with an Ebola survivor, fearing that she could give them the disease or is somehow tainted. Oftentimes survivors have lost all their family members to the disease and are left without any support. The women's cooperatives in Sierra Leone have reached out to these women and invited them to be part of the group, helping them to feel valued and cared for and to develop an interest in living again. The presence of RSWR Field Representative Sallian Sankoh (who visits and supports all the groups in Sierra Leone) also further works to undo the cultural taboo affecting Ebola survivors.

Group Stories and Projects

KENYA

Nangili Friends Women Group has 60 members. They erected a tomato greenhouse where they commercially grow tomatoes as a group project. This endeavor provides an income for the group that goes into its revolving loan fund, which is then used to make loans to individual members for their own small businesses. RSWR Field Representative, Samson Ababu, says: "The Nangili project is an economic powerhouse within the entire region."



Nangili Friends Women Group



The Shikulu Friends Women Group with their pastor (second from right) and the motorbike their group purchased

Shikulu Friends

Women Group had the idea to buy a motorcycle for their small village, where minimal transportation had made it extremely challenging to get access to healthcare. The group hired a driver, who takes people where they want to go for a fee. The motorcycle brings in \$109 per month for the group treasury. They even asked their pastor to bless their motorbike!

Stories...

The women of **Jitahidi Self Help Group** have individual small businesses, but they also have a group catering business on the weekends, in which they all participate and share the profits. The business is also a bonding opportunity as they collaborate and work together.

INDIA

When former RSWR Board Member Linnea Wang visited groups in India, one of them was proud to show her photos of them being arrested! This came about because they had confronted a wealthy landowner who had let water out of the community water reservoir, which had damaged the land. The landowner called the police on the women, and 300 of them (and their children!) ended up being arrested. Because there were so many women involved, the local government took notice, and eventually a court ruled in their favor. The women received compensation, and the landlord was required to replace the water tank.

In 2015, a RSWR partner was sexually assaulted. Crimes such as this against women often go unpunished in India; indeed, even though the woman pressed charges, the police refused to arrest the man. The other women in her self-help group supported her and organized 80 women to demonstrate outside the police station. The local press took notice and began covering the story, so the police were forced to arrest the man. It eventually became national news and brought the issue to everyone's attention.



Chairlady of the Jitahidi Self Help Group with their catering supplies



The tent and chairs the Jitahidi Self Help Group uses for their catering business



Women in India arrested for protesting



Self Help Group meeting in India



Mamie Kamara

SIERRA LEONE

Ebola struck Mamie Kamara's home in July 2014. Her husband and all of her children died of the disease. She also became ill and had to go away to seek treatment. She recovered, but returned home to find that she was the only surviving member of her family. In addition, her neighbors and friends distanced themselves from her and wouldn't interact with her. She met the director of Tewoh Community Development Organization (TCDO), who encouraged her and put her in contact with other Ebola survivors and widows in the TCDO group. After starting a soap-making business with her loan from the RSWR grant, she said, "I now have happiness and joy. I once again have friends, and I can now buy nice clothes, and eat good food, and socialize with my community."

RIGHT SHARING of WORLD RESOURCES

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Richmond, IN 47374

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<https://rswr.org/donors>

BECOME A MONTHLY SUSTAINER

Regular giving from a checking or savings account, or by credit card is greatly appreciated! Sign up at:

<https://www.rswr.org/donors/regular>

PLANNED GIVING

Consider making Right Sharing part of your estate plan. Find out more at: <https://www.rswr.org/donors/planned-giving/>



ATTEND
“The Power of Enough”
WORKSHOP WITH JACKIE STILLWELL
MARCH 23-25 AT POWELL HOUSE



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

For more details on the workshop and registration, visit:
www.rswr.org/power-of-enough

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?**

General Secretary Jackie Stillwell will be offering a workshop on “The Power of Enough” at Powell House at 524 Pitt Hall Rd, Old Chatham, NY, March 23-25, 2018. 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.

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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