

1ST QUARTER 2025 | www.rswr.org

# Our Shared Struggle

I am Executive Director because of Right Sharing's vigorous commitment to partnership.

I'm excited about partnership within the RSWR team — for example, the late January consultation in Kenya among all of our Country Coordinators and five of our U.S. staff. It's rewarding to be part of a team whose members are committed to learning from each other and to co-creating a more impactful organization.

I sometimes find it hard, however, to feel like an authentic partner to the groups with which RSWR works. There is so much that separates us: wealth, history, culture, and more. When I was visiting groups in Guatemala in December, I heard a lot of effusive gratitude for Right Sharing. It was genuine, but it didn't help me feel like a partner. It made me feel like a benefactor. Then one woman spoke of luchando — struggling. Her group was struggling to improve the lives of women. Luchando is a movement word that I associate with civil rights organizing in the U.S. The word shifted something in me. I could respond genuinely to the woman, "We are in the same struggle. We each have our part. Luchando juntas. Struggling together."



Sarah Northrup and Traci Hjelt Sullivan with members from La Benedicion Women Group in Chiquimula, Guatemala



God touched my heart at that moment. I pray that my heart can retain this insight. The Right Sharing network is composed of diverse partners and we have much to learn from one another as we struggle together for a better world. I am grateful for the piece of our mission that each of you carries in your heart. We meet each other on the journey not as saviors but as servants to one another.

> Twee Hed Juli-Traci Hjelt Sullivan **Executive Director**

Some of the women on the RSWR team during the recent consultation in Vihiga County, Kenya.

# 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 PARTNERSHIPS WITH OUR HUMAN FAMILY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

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# Community, Culture, Change

We often talk about long-term systemic change being a marathon, something that changes over generations and in small, sometimes unnoticed, ways. In just my few short years with Right Sharing of World Resources, I've seen an intertwining of shifts in culture and shifts in local systems — all the results of seeds planted many years ago and nourished by countless people who have come before me.

Many cultures in the world have been impacted by patriarchal values. From the US to the countries in which RSWR partners with women's groups, these values have shaped the ways in which women have been able to advocate for their interests and determine their own futures. Many examples of shifts in these cultural norms in the women's groups with which we partner arose during a recent conversation with RSWR Country Coordinators.

In Tamil Nadu, India, local political meetings known as Gram Sabhas have mostly been attended by the men in the village. Each woman who is a part of an RSWR-supported women's group in India is now encouraged to attend these meetings. RSWR India Country Coordinators have shared the many ways in which women in the groups are now more involved in local politics.

During a recent visit to the Lengo Tahidi Women's Group in Migori, Kenya, a group member shared about how they have observed a decrease in domestic violence in their community. She associated this shift with the group's ability to offer both financial and moral support to each of its members, both deterrents to home-based violence

These are simple but profound stories of how being in community with one another can help shift culture, and possibly even the systems in which we exist, over time. These stories, these communities, have brought me hope, as we continue to struggle together for a world that supports a life of dignity for all.

Megan Fair
Director of Advancement

Lavinda and her daughter Blessing at her vegetable stall in Migori, Kenya. Lavinda is part of the Lengo Tahidi Womens Group.



# 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/



# Deepening "Right Relationship"

RSWR partners with women's groups around the world, and we are also creating space for those with relative abundance to explore a shared responsibility for one another and the earth. Our "Right Relationship" program calls us to the spiritual and practical work of moving toward the right sharing of world resources.

With the support of RSWR volunteer board members, RSWR is in the process of updating resources and creating new ones: the "Power of Enough" workshop, First Day School curricula, the gratitude calendar, and describing practices like Simple Meals. RSWR is eager to hear your ideas for other resources to further this work. Meanwhile, be on the lookout for new program announcements.



The RSWR team participates in a group activity at the recent consultation in Kenya

Go to our community engagement webpage to learn more about how to get involved: https://rswr.org/community-engagement.

# Members of the Indianapolis First Friends Stamp Team meet with RSWR Country Coordinators Eva Ramirez and Abi Murugesan in Richmond, Indiana

# Stamp with Us!

Your used stamps can help transform the lives of women in Guatemala, Kenya, India, and Sierra Leone! In partnership with Right Sharing of World Resources, the Indianapolis First Friends Stamp Team receives, processes, and sells used and new stamps in support of RSWR's mission. The stamp program accepts stamps of all issue dates and countries, both used and unused stamps, sheets of stamps, albums, boxed collections of stamps, envelopes, and postcards.

For more details about stamp donations please go to https://www.indyfriends.org/stamps. Please consider donating

your stamps to RSWR today!

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