



Right Sharing

of WORLD RESOURCES

2ND QUARTER 2021 | www.rswr.org

Compassion in Action

LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP MAKES IMPACT

For the past nine years a 30-person meeting in Ireland, Eustace Street Friends, has been sponsoring RSWR projects thanks to the stewardship of Siobhan Walshe. In 2012 she traveled to Kenya with the World Conference of Friends. She did not know that the experience would give her a leading that would send love across the globe. RSWR interviewed Siobhan this spring to see how the many years of this relationship have impacted her and her meeting. She says:

“When I first returned from attending the 6th World Conference of Friends and from my field trip to RSWR’s projects in Kenya in 2012, I felt compelled to try to do some fundraising to support women and their families who might benefit from

The Lokirimo Friends Women’s Group was sponsored by Eustace Street Friends Meeting in 2015.

similar micro-grants from RSWR. I had met 12 groups of women in Western Kenya who had benefited hugely from being able to start their own businesses. I had seen with my own eyes their various enterprises and heard with my own ears how this had not only changed the lives of these women, my sisters in Christ, but also the lives of their families and communities. And once I knew this, I couldn’t unknow it. It simply was impossible to forget.

“I brought my concern to my Meeting and they have been supporting me in my fundraising attempts ever since. Every

Evaline Minage of the Mugunga Friends’ Women’s Group, Kenya works at her tailoring business. The Mugunga FWG was sponsored by Eustace Street Friends Meeting in 2013.

Continued on next page



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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Learning from our Partners



Sandra of the Lokirimo FWG in her shop.

SIOBHAN continued from page 1

HOW DOES SPONSORING WOMEN'S GROUPS PLAY INTO YOUR OWN PASSION AND/OR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD?

"I am aware that most people in the world live very difficult, unstable lives because of extreme poverty, lack of education, inequality, and conflict, and that women and children generally bear the brunt of these.

"Because I believe in social justice, I have a responsibility to do something about alleviating this world condition. I live a privileged life but if I didn't, I would hope that people would stand in solidarity with me and also offer me practical help. What use is compassion without action?"

WHAT KEEPS YOU AND YOUR MEETING INVESTED IN THIS TYPE OF RELATIONSHIP?

"My Meeting believes it is the right thing to do and that it is in keeping with our Quaker testimonies and ways. I feel the same, and we also

realize that the need is still there – it is ever-present, so we have to continue to respond."

HAVE YOU LEARNED ANYTHING FROM OUR PARTNERS?

"Although the field trip in Kenya lasted only five days, more than nine years later my Meeting is still involved with fundraising — so the answer is undoubtedly Yes. The women whom I met moved me greatly with their welcome, their hospitality, and their joyfulness and loving kindnesses. Their resilience in the face of drought, climate change, domestic violence, civil unrest at times, and endemic poverty is truly awe-inspiring. What I also found very impressive was their resourcefulness and determination to improve the lives of their families and their communities."

If your Meeting would like to sponsor a project, please reach out to rswr@rswr.org



Covid-19 HEALTH INSURANCE

Our partner organization in Tamil Nadu, The Comprehensive Society for Community Development (COSCO), responded to the pandemic by enrolling all of the women in a health and life insurance program, so that they could access healthcare if they needed it. This NGO also did intensive training on the Covid-19 virus and all of the health protocols needed to stay safe from it.

COSCO Insurance Enrollment with a Smile

Updates from Our Partners

Maziwa Women Group KENYA

Maziwa Women Group, in **Vihega County, Kenya**, is a group of women who do business together in the local marketplace. Maziwa is a Swahili word that means milk. Women who had milk would sell it at the market early each morning. One day, the milk sellers met together and agreed that each woman would save Ksh.20 (15¢) every day, so that at the end of the month she would have Ksh.600 (\$4.50) to invest in a small business in the market. The members engaged in "table banking" as a way of combining their financial resources to have some capital to invest in their businesses. Each woman contributed Ksh.200 (\$1.50) per month to the table banking activity; the total was then loaned to one or two women. Maziwa Women Group received a grant from RSWR in July 2020 to expand and grow its existing small businesses. Recently, the RSWR Field Representatives, Samson Ababu and Pauline Ayodi, visited the group and some of their businesses.



MARY ABASA is 42 years old and the mother of four school-age children. She runs a kiosk, where she sells



cereals, groceries, and second-hand shoes. Her family depends on her income because her husband is not employed. He helps her in her business by going to the large markets to purchase the vegetables that she sells in her kiosks.

PAMELA ACHIENG is also 42 years old and married. The mother of four school-going children, she sells dried fish and vegetables. In this picture, she is being interviewed by RSWR Field Representative Pauline Ayodi.



Maziwa Women Group ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

MRS. M. RAJESWARI sells costume jewelry and is a member of the Wisdom Foundation's Self-Help group. She used to rely on her husband's income, until an unfortunate accident resulted in the death of her son and the sudden responsibility to raise four grandchildren while also paying for her daughter's marriage. Her husband's income was not enough to



Mrs. M. Rajeswari with her grandchildren, daughter, and costume jewelry.

cover the family's needs. Since people in her area cannot afford to buy real gold jewelry, costume jewelry is popular. She started small with her sales and then joined a self-help group organized by the Wisdom Foundation. The women in this group received loans to open home-based businesses, so they could run their business and care for their children at the same time. With a loan of Rs. 10,000 (USD \$133), she expanded her business. She has repaid two loan installments and is able not only to care for her son's children, but also to help her daughter's children.



RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES

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When you designate Right Sharing of World Resources, all your Internet searches and purchases will contribute to the transformative work of RSWR with no cost to you.

www.goodsearch.com

PLANNED GIVING

Consider making RSWR a part of your estate plan. Find out more at: www.rswr.org/planned-giving/

Stamps from Near and Far

The Stamping for Dollars team was curious about the geographical distribution of our donors. This United States map has a pin at every location from which we have received a stamp donation since April 2017. We learned that donors in 43 states send us stamps. Notice that the Eastern third of the US has more stamp-sending locations than either the Central or the Western third. We also receive stamps from nine foreign countries: Canada, Costa Rica, Great Britain, France, India, Finland, Australia, Switzerland, and Norway.



If you are interested in sending us your stamps please mail them to: Stamps for Right Sharing, c/o Indianapolis First Friends, 3030 Kessler Blvd. East Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46220
If you require an acknowledgment that your stamps have been received, include a name and an email address or phone number in your package. It may take us a few weeks to reply.

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