WINTER 2016 WWW.RSWR.ORG

# 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.

# Building Partnerships



Siobhan Walshe

When you meet Siobhan Walshe from Eustace Street Friends Meeting in Dublin, Ireland, the first thing you notice is that she radiates joyful energy. Siobhan and her small Quaker meeting of approximately 30 members have raised funds to sponsor four Right Sharing of World Resources projects. It all started when Siobhan traveled to Kenya in 2012 for the 6th World Conference of Friends. There she went on a field trip to visit the local Right Sharing projects. Siobhan says: "We met 12 groups in total and visited 30 individual businesses ... ranging from selling bundles

of firewood, cereals and vegetables, mushroom farming, raising poultry or livestock, to dressmaking, knitting, or banana fibre handcraft. Everywhere we were greeted with heart-warming welcomes and great hospitality.

"When I asked how starting a business had affected their lives, almost without exception the women answered, 'I can now feed and send my children [or my grandchildren] to school.' One woman from Shivikhwa Friends Women Group said, 'I walked with my head down; now I can walk with my head up. I'm empowered!' She also said she no longer had to beg her husband for money for salt. Another woman from the same group said, 'The grant has changed our lives – the future is bright.'"

Siobhan returned to Ireland inspired, saying: "Sponsoring a RSWR project seemed to me to be a way of acknowledging the enormous efforts that these women were making to improve their own lives and those of their families. In Ireland we take universal access to education for granted, but that huge privilege isn't available in Kenya. From talking with Samson Ababu, who led the tour and who is RSWR's field representative in Kenya, I understood that this method of micro-grants and micro-lending is very successful in changing the quality of people's lives."

Siobhan's meeting enthusiastically agreed to help the women in Kenya by sponsoring a project through RSWR. Initially, once a month, she baked cakes and bread to be sold after Meeting for Worship

during Sunday social time, but she soon realized that it would take too long to raise funds for a project with this effort alone. So a small, informal committee was charged with finding additional ways to fundraise. The group organized a concert with two choirs, which was a great fundraiser and social success. They made successful applications to two Irish Quaker Funds – Irish Quaker Faith in Action (IQFA) and Dublin Monthly Meeting Concerns Fund. Recently, they provided lunch for about 40 Friends who were attending Yearly Meeting committee meetings. Little by little, they raised enough funds to sponsor four RSWR projects.

Continued on page 3



Continued on page 3 Daughter and mother selling grain and beans at local market



# Financial Summary | 2015

IN **KENYA** INDIA SIERRA LEONE

**PROVIDING PARTNERS GRANTS SUPPORT TRAINING** SITE VISITS **EDUCATION FOLLOW-UP** SELF-SUSTAINABILITY

FINANCIAL **SUMMARY** for fiscal year 7.1.2014 through 6.30.2015

Revenue	Contributions In-Kind Donations Earned Revenues Restricted Contributions Total Revenue	\$ \$ \$ \$	510,711 7,288 74,336 10,270 602,605
Expenses	Program Services Adminstrative & General Development Outreach Total Expenses	\$ \$ \$	428,824 31,941 76,499 537,264

Assets Cash and Cash Equivalents 413,845 Accounts Receivable \$ 9,820 Prepaid Expenses \$ 1,231 Fixed Assets (net) 2,922 Deposits 1,900 Investments 1,293,712 **Total Assets** 1,723,430

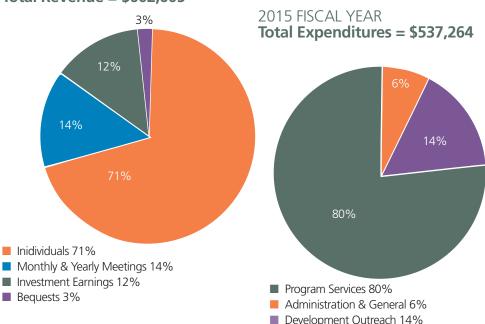
Liabilities Accounts Payable 3,359 Grants Payable 58,775 Notes Payable 217,472 Total Liabilities 279,606

Net Assets

**Endowment Fund** 1,348,323 Temporarily Restricted 30,160 Unrestricted – Other 65,341 **Total Net Assets** \$ 1,443,824

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$ 1,723,430

# 2015 FISCAL YEAR **Total Revenue = \$602,605**



Siobhan added, "Ireland is coming through a recession, marked by poverty, unemployment and homelessness throughout the country. We are struggling with this as a nation and as Quakers. Organizations such as Right Sharing of World Resources remind us that it is within our power to support our sisters and brothers in developing countries who also need our practical help and spiritual support. Fundraising for RSWR projects has given Eustace St. Friends Meeting an opportunity and the means to do this. Last month our Meeting agreed to fundraise for another three years to continue supporting RSWR projects in Kenya."



Eustace Street Friends Meeting

# Eustace Street Friends' Sponsored Projects



**Lokirimo Friends Women Group**, which is located in the remote Turkana region of Kenya, received their funds in July 2015. Lokirimo Friends Women Group (LFWG) decided to start something to sustain themselves for a longer time. Shown above are some members of the group in front of a rental house their group is building.



Elizabeth of LFWG has a 5th grade education. She had been losing money selling charcoal. With her RSWR grant she began a business selling used clothing. Once a month, she travels 7 hours one way by bus to the nearest "big" city to buy clothing in bulk. She resells it for almost twice the cost in her sidewalk stall in Lodwar. Elizabeth has a husband and a 2-year-old. In the monthly meetings of her women's group she is learning to manage her business finances, save regularly and use the bank.

Avakali Vo Vulavu Women Group received a grant in July 2014. Mama Rose (right) sells handmade soda ash filters in her stall along with dried fish, beans and other household items.



**Matioli Friends Women Group** received their RSWR grant in January 2013. Jen (above) was unable to send her 6 children to school because of required school fees. Then, as a member of the Matioli Women's Group, she received a micro-loan to start a business selling charcoal, vegetables and fingerling fish. Her husband is a farmer, so she will sell his vegetables when they are harvested. Now she buys a few onions and tomatoes to attract buyers. Her additional income is enough to send all her children to school.

**Mugunga Friends Women Group** also received their RSWR grant in January 2013. Here the women are working in their community garden in April 2014.



### RIGHT SHARING of WORLD RESOURCES

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# Impact Generations!

Would you like to make the kind of impact Siobhan Walshe and the **Eustace Street Friends Meeting** in Dublin, Ireland, have made by sponsoring a project? There is an abundance of approved applications awaiting your support.

See our website for more information: http://www.rswr.org/donors/ donor-designated-projects/



# Thank You for Your Tributes

Right Sharing of World Resources thanks you for your gifts in honor of or in memory of these special individuals in your life. What an extraordinary

tribute to their lives! Thousands of women and their families, living in the poorest parts of the world, are benefitting from your generosity that has begun a positive cycle of change.

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Mark and Kathy Napier Clair and Patti Pickard Wendy and John Reitzel Zachary Reitzel Ann and Curt Shaw Chris Siegler Penny Sitler Washington Waldorf School 6th Grade Class Western Shore Worship Group Joachim Weyl Edith Wilson Wilbur and Lorie Wood

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Contact Mary Eagleson at rswr@rswr.org

# Right Sharing of **World Resources**

Jacqueline Stillwell General Secretary

Todd Knight **Development Director** 

765.966.0314

rswr@rswr.org www.rswr.org



RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES projects are supported by individuals, monthly meetings and yearly meetings. Contributions are tax-deductible in the USA and may be sent directly or through your meeting or church.