



Right Sharing of WORLD RESOURCES

2ND QUARTER 2024 | www.rswr.org

Guatemala Program Grows Roots

After significant preparation and training, four women's groups in Guatemala received grants in April. Given that this marks the first time RSWR has issued grants to groups in Guatemala, it lays the groundwork for partnerships with many more communities in the future. In the four women's groups in this round there are 69 members, among them mothers who have a total of 143 children under the age of 18. The training, trust, and bonding nurtured among the women in these groups will have a lasting impact on these children and the future of the villages.

RSWR Country Coordinators Ruth Bueso and Eva Ramirez have been working with these four groups for over a year. They initially received training focused on personal growth activities to bolster self-confidence, followed by training in group dynamics to nurture support

among group members.

Groups then participated in a training focused on financial best practices and entrepreneurship, offered by the RSWR partner organization, COOSAJO – a cooperative bank and credit union.

Six new women's groups have already been identified to receive training in the future. The RSWR team continues to conduct outreach to the many villages in Chiquimula, in hopes that additional women will form self-help groups and apply to partner with RSWR. This milestone was made possible by the tenacious efforts of each woman in these partner groups and through the essential donations from partners around the world. Thank you for joining RSWR on this journey rooted in a spirit of abundance and equity.



Members of La Bendición Women's Group with their children holding avocado plants.



La Bendición Women's Group meeting to discuss saving and loans. They are located in La Pinalito, Chiquimula Department, Guatemala.

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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Preparing the Soil, Planting the Seeds

The year 2024 is an exciting time for RSWR's right sharing work. Guided by RSWR Country Coordinators in India, Guatemala, Sierra Leone, and Kenya, RSWR is expanding our programming in those countries. This expansion will ensure that each women's group receives one year of training prior to receiving a micro-finance grant, followed by three years of additional training and support. The increase in these enabling activities improves the quality of life of the women more deeply in a sustainable and self-determined way.

RSWR has developed the expanded training and grant programs into two distinct offerings. The initial one-year training opportunity is the **Preparing the Soil** program. Training, a savings plan, and effective group management are essential ingredients for the success of a group. RSWR Country Coordinators help groups develop an effective leadership structure, group management practices, and a group savings plan. The women's groups are also trained in best business practices and revolving loan funds.

Rural Women Development Association women's group is in the Western Rural District of Sierra Leone. Since partnering with RSWR, they've grown their businesses, which helps pay school fees and transportation to school for their children.

Groups that have completed the *Preparing the Soil* program are then eligible to apply for the **Planting the Seeds** program, which includes a financial grant of up to US \$6,500 for an independent women's self-help group in Guatemala, Kenya, and Sierra Leone, or up to \$7,500 for an NGO in India. *Planting the Seeds* is a 3-year RSWR partnership program that includes technical training and supportive monitoring for three years following the receipt of the grant. After 18 months, partner groups can apply for another grant of up to \$3,000 to expand and enhance their project.

As one of the RSWR Country Coordinators in Kenya, Samson Ababu, has said, "This is seed money – you are planting it, harvesting it, sharing it, and helping it grow." Over the years, RSWR has stood alongside women as they transform their lives and the lives of those in their communities. The expansion of our right sharing work will enrich the soil in which we are all planting seeds of hope for a future of abundance and equity.



RSWR partner organization National Education Services Trust (NEST) was founded by a rural woman to support women who are widowed or otherwise single and experiencing poverty. This project has grown from 33 women to 75 women via revolving funds.

NEST is located in Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu, India

Generosity and Mutual Learning

In the oneness of all life and the conviction that there is that of God in everyone, we believe that we bear responsibility for one another's well-being, and for that of the earth.

Trusting in the abundance of God's love, we are led to find creative ways to address the inequities of our world by sharing our material and spiritual resources. We bring to this work a spirit of humility, respect, generosity, and mutual learning.

—RSWR STRATEGIC PLAN, 2021



RSWR Team members Kannan, Abi and Megan visit Wilmington College in Ohio. Pictured are some of Wilmington College's Quaker Leader Scholars and members of Campus Meeting.



Nathan Kleban at the annual Alternatives to Violence Project USA National Gathering in 2019. Laughing to his left is Lydia McCloskey.

Since its founding in 1967, RSWR has been a vehicle for Friends from around the world to share concerns about environment, population, and resources. RSWR's Right Relationship work is to provide opportunities for those blessed with material resources to explore the burdens of materialism, the power of enough, and global responsibility; and to promote balanced sustainable lifestyles and sharing rightly from abundance.

Just this past year, RSWR team member Nathan Kleban has taken on the role of expanding the Right Relationship opportunities offered to Quaker Meetings and others. With a firm foundation in programs such as "The Power of Enough" and Simple Meals, we are looking forward to co-creating more spaces

for deep discernment and Spirit-led action. We invite you to join us as we explore how we can live more fully into the calling to build equity and to live balanced, sustainable lives. For more information on how to host a Right Relationship program for your Meeting, please contact us at rswr@rswr.org.

Become a Sustainer

Many Friends commit to partnerships with women's groups around the world through monthly giving. Regular giving from a bank account or by credit card is a great way to support RSWR all year long! Join RSWR in building a more equitable world rooted in a spirit of abundance.



SIGN UP AT:
www.rswr.org/recurring/



SEEKING GENERAL SECRETARY

WHO WILL:

- JOYFULLY EMBRACE RIGHT SHARING'S WORK AND MISSION
- PROVIDE SPIRIT-GROUNDED SERVANT LEADERSHIP
- EFFECTIVELY MANAGE THE ORGANIZATION



FOR MORE INFORMATION WWW.RSWR.ORG/CAREERS



RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES

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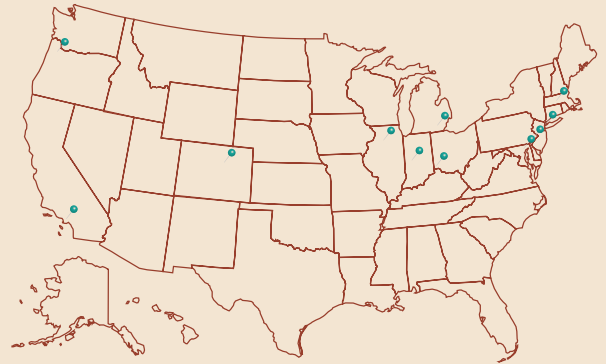
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next **General
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Find more
details inside.

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our address has
CHANGED.
We want to
keep in touch!

CONNECT WITH RSWR THIS SUMMER!

RSWR staff will be visiting with Quaker communities around the world to facilitate workshops, hear your concerns and leadings, and hold your gathering in the Light. We'd love to connect with you!



MAY

- Northern Yearly Meeting:
May 25-27 (Megan and Nathan)

JUNE

- Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting:
June 7-9 (Jackie)
- Intermountain Yearly Meeting:
June 12-16 (Jackie)
- Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting:
June 12-16 (Megan)
- Lake Erie Yearly Meeting:
June 13-16 (Nathan)

- Illinois Yearly Meeting:
June 19-23 (Megan)
- Friends General Conference:
June 30-July 6 (Nathan and Megan)

JULY

- Philadelphia Yearly Meeting:
July 6 (Jackie)
- North Pacific Yearly Meeting:
July 10-14 (Nathan)
- Western Yearly Meeting:
July 11-14 (Megan)
- Pacific Yearly Meeting:
July 19-24 (Nathan)

- Iowa Conservative Yearly Meeting:
July 24-28 (Nathan)
- Wilmington Yearly Meeting:
July 25-28 (Megan)
- New York Yearly Meeting:
July 26-31 (Jackie)
- Baltimore Yearly Meeting:
July 28-Aug 4 (Nathan)

AUGUST

- New England Yearly Meeting:
August 2-7 (Jackie)
- Friends World Committee for Consultation
World Plenary: August 5-12 (Megan)

RIGHT SHARING OF WORLD RESOURCES
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