



# Cottonwood Foundation Contributors' Update

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## Cottonwood grant awards pass the \$500,000 milestone!

This fall Cottonwood Foundation awarded twenty-two more grants of \$1,000 each to grassroots organizations worldwide. This year's grants totaled \$43,000, and pushed Cottonwood past the \$500,000 mark since the foundation's first grants in 1992.

We deeply appreciate all of the generous contributors and hard-working volunteers whose support has allowed Cottonwood to reach this milestone!

**African Blackwood Conservation Project, USA/Tanzania**—to dig a water well and line its walls with brick, purchase an electric underwater pump, and install piping to provide water to ABCP's Moshi mpingo tree nursery in Tanzania. The project will eliminate the hard labor of hauling water by hand from the nearby river, providing safe drinking water for the staff and nourishing the nursery's 10,000–20,000 seedlings.

**Association "Green Alternative," Republic of Georgia**—to support establishment of a new kindergarten for children with mental disabilities in Tbilisi. In addition to needed painting and repairs for the classroom, the project will fund improvements in energy efficiency (purchase and installation of thermal insulation, compact fluorescent bulbs, motion-activated lighting fixtures) and tree planting in the kindergarten's garden.

**AYAFE: Association of Young Azerbaijani Friends of Europe, Azerbaijan**—to organize a working camp in Baku, Azerbaijan, to help clean up pollution and plant trees around a local orphanage and shelter housing 140 children aged 4 to 16. Volunteers, both local and international, will educate local residents and raise awareness about waste, littering, and environmental pollution.

**Blue Veins, Pakistan**—for a three-month volunteer-led training on tailoring, embroidery, and sewing for 15 internally displaced women from the conflict-stricken Swat Valley of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province. Each woman that completes the training will receive a sewing machine, necessary accessories, and funds to start her own business and help make her and her children self-sufficient.

**Centro de Educacion Creativa, Costa Rica**—to be used for materials and machining to install a solar water heater at the school, providing over 200 students with hot water for the first time. Also funds materials and welding to construct a needed shelter for the school's recycling center.



**African Blackwood Conservation Project's nursery produces thousands of seedlings annually for tree-planting efforts in Tanzania.**

**Cultural Survival, USA/Guatemala**—to purchase a compact disk duplicating device for making copies of radio programs about environmental protection and other topics in four indigenous languages. Broadcasts on 168 community radio stations will reach more than one million listeners in rural Guatemala.

**Dos Pueblos: New York - Tipitapa Sister City Project, USA/Nicaragua**—to support a potable water project to serve 135 families in Ciudadela San Martin (near Tipitapa, Nicaragua), a low-income rural community with inadequate supplies of drinking water. Community involvement is centered on local volunteers who will provide the labor for installing the water system; this grant helps purchase pipes and other needed materials.

**Ecoclub Environmental Nongovernmental Youth Organization, Ukraine**—for the “Garbage is a resource!” campaign targeting local schools and the community of Rivne, Ukraine, to address the problem of accumulation of domestic waste through waste collection and alternative utilization of garbage, including purchase of containers for paper garbage and development of educational materials.

**Eco-garden, Kenya**—for training 15 Kenyan farmers on organic farming and natural resource management. Funds for tree planting, seeds for organic vegetables and beans, maintenance support for Eco-Garden’s demonstration farm, and other organizational costs.

**Fifty Lanterns International, USA/International**—to purchase and distribute 20 sturdy LED solar lanterns to low-income families without electricity in Honduras, Rwanda, or Afghanistan/Pakistan.



**One of the twenty “Cottonwood Scholars” receiving assistance to attend public school in Nicaragua through a Cottonwood grant.**

**Friends Service Council Nepal, Nepal**—to develop, print and distribute 1,000 copies of training handbooks on community-based disaster management and community-based health and sanitation management. The manuals will be distributed through community NGOs, network members, and social organizations to Nepalese communities that are subject to loss of life from disasters, epidemics, and poor sanitation.

**Fund for the Wild Flora and Fauna (FWFF), Bulgaria**—to promote small-scale organic farming to local people in Kotel Mountain, Bulgaria. Efforts include creating a one-hectare organic demonstration field, orchard and garden for native crops; collecting seeds of native crops; and mapping local gardens, orchards, and fields where native crops are currently used.

**Haiti Outreach, USA/Haiti**—to support a well-drilling project that will provide clean water for 410 people in Kajou Won, Haiti, located in the commune of San Raphael. Currently, the community must take its water from a contaminated stream about 3 miles away—more than an hour’s walk in each direction.

**Interaccion Para el Desarrollo Sostenible, Bolivia**—to improve the life of children and community members in the small, rural community of Chijmuni, Bolivia, through construction of a forest nursery where community members will produce 1,000 plants annually of native species such as the Keñua and the Quiswara to reforest common areas, with the grant used for purchase of seeds,

construction of the nursery, training courses, educational materials, and other activities.

**International Association for Transformation, Canada/Philippines**—to support the Summer Literacy and Theatre Arts Program in 5 remote villages in the Philippines. Thirty senior students provide needed tutoring and educational upgrading for younger students for one month, and use drama and skits to address community problems in open forum. Through the Cottonwood grant, the student teams will be provided with food, preparation, educational supplies, transportation, monitoring and evaluation.

**MADRE, USA/Nicaragua**—to provide seeds for organic food crops to 100 indigenous Miskito women and their families in Nicaragua in partnership with Mangki Tangni through the Harvesting Hope project.

**Nabichakha Women Group, Kenya**—to build a water borehole and install a pump to provide clean and safe water for 200 needy children at a primary school in Wacheka Village, Kenya, reducing time and work in fetching water from the river. Funds will also pay for an environmental education project in the school.

**Norwalk/Nagarote Sister City Project, USA/Nicaragua**—to provide scholarships to twenty public-school students from low-income families in Nagarote, Nicaragua. Financial assistance for these “Cottonwood Scholars” covers their uniforms, shoes, books, school supplies, and tutoring for one year.

**People’s Agricultural Plan for the 21st Century, PAP 21, Philippines**—to help nine families of farmer partners of PAP 21 in Hacienda Carmen, Barangay Granada, Bacolod City, who were evicted from their homes, to address the problems of hunger and poverty while rebuilding their lives in a new location through providing them with farm tools and seeds, training in organic agriculture, and other assistance.

**Sulaxmi Lok Sansthan, India**—to assist people in drought-stricken Behror Block, Alwar District, Rajasthan, India, with water management and local food production, by constructing 5 cement tanks for harvesting rainwater, developing 5 kitchen gardens, creating 5 low-cost vermicomposting beds, and providing training.

**Village Volunteers, USA/Kenya**—to support Namunyak Maasai Welfare in forming an Environmental Youth Action Corps in Oronkai, Kenya, including conducting a three-day workshop that will train a total of 50 youth from Transmara in activism and advocacy for their natural environment, implementing a community cleanup project, and providing solar flashlights and certificates to youth participants upon completion.

**White Earth Land Recovery Project, USA (Land Fund)**—to help pay off the project’s Callaway property on the White Earth Reservation. There, a community garden focuses on restoring indigenous corn, beans, and squash—“the three sisters”—which will improve food security and resilience for the reservation.

## In their own words...

Your contributions to Cottonwood Foundation are making a difference. Grantees share their successes in their final reports.

### Common Ground Program, Kenya

“Cottonwood Foundation support is what fuels our drive to make a difference in lives of hundreds of orphan and most vulnerable children every day in Kenya, who will treasure it, more than gold. With your help, we are changing lives in many communities around the country who access our services.

Working with Cottonwood Foundation, we realize that it does not just offer financial support. It also cares about how they do what they do. That level of caring has contributed to the healthy development of our organization. This is greatly appreciated.

In May, CGP received \$1000 from Cottonwood Foundation for the establishment a Feed Villages Farm Project in Kiminini, Kenya. CGP used \$1000 on project activities between May and August 31st 2009.

The farm is flourishing in the midst of dry spell, enabling us to give hope to many families struggling to survive in the region. We are happy to report that two acres of land near the river has been put to production. The farm was fenced and 221 beds were double dug and planted with different crops, such as maize, millet, sorghum, amaranths, green grams, tomatoes, potatoes, and onions, among others.

Feed the Village Farm is a model for healthy, economical and sustainable living, serving as an educational tool and economic aid, and providing food to orphans and vulnerable children at Pathfinder Academy.

The project was a great success. We extend our deepest appreciation to Cottonwood Foundation for its support in facilitating our efforts in establishing Feed Villages Farm. The project has been greatly appreciated by the local community, Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education.”



### Health Education Adoption Rehabilitation Development Society (HEARDS), India

“At the outset we extend our heart felt gratitude to Cottonwood Foundation for extending timely financial assistance and moral support towards the successful implementation of the Community Drinking Water Programme at Patnam Village, Thavanampalli Mandal, Chittoor District.

Access to water is a basic human need and foundation of all life. Scarce availability of water has strong social and economic effects on the poor. Women in this village have to spend about 6-7 hours on fetching water every day to ensure its minimum amount for domestic needs. In consequence, they are not able to spend this time for taking up a different economic or other activity.



For years the people of Patnam Village, Thavanampalli Mandal in Chittoor District suffered serious health problems such as diarrhoea, joint pains, typhoid and frequent bouts of fever. None of the available water in the village was potable. In order to provide rural people with water and thus help them improve quality of their life Health Education Adoption Rehabilitation Development Society launched its operation of providing safe and potable water through community bore well program with the support from Cottonwood Foundation, USA.

At present, there is a continuous flow of good drinking water available for the multipurpose utilisation of the villagers, who are in turn very happy with the facility extended to them. Since the water from the bore well is highly protected the villagers are determined to get rid-off the various water contaminating diseases and to maintain good health and hygienic conditions, especially of the women and children. A woman told that it is a heavenly blessing for them to have a safe drinking water for the people in that village.

Thanks to [your] kind heartedness and generosity, the people of Patnam village are enjoying the availability of plentiful supply of good drinking water for their daily use. The villagers will be ever remembered the Cottonwood Foundation for its timely help to fulfill one of the basic needs of their life.”

## Project Mercy, USA/Mexico

“I am pleased to send this report on expenditure of your 2009 \$1,000 grant to Project Mercy. It is said that pictures are worth 1,000 words and so I attach a selection of photographs for you to see what your donation accomplished.



As pointed out in my March 2009 grant request, many families purchasing land in the new colonia Sonora [near Tijuana, Mexico], were without means to build anything to live in. They had been making land payments for over a year without having been given the right to live there.

Finally when the right became available to them early in 2009, many families were paying rent elsewhere and did not have spare funds to build a shack to inhabit their land.

Your grant donation enabled Project Mercy to buy good used garage doors, exterior doors and a few windows, to build temporary but solid houses for five families.

A combination of new and used lumber completed the roofs. Once the families receive their new houses, the garage door homes are converted into kitchens, keeping cooking out of the sleeping quarters as a fire safety factor.

The Cottonwood Foundation “saved the day” for these five families who had no-where left to turn to live with their children. Thank you so much for your continuing support.”

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## About Cottonwood Foundation

Started in 1992, Cottonwood Foundation is a tax-exempt charitable organization, run entirely by volunteers and with no paid staff, that provides small grants to grassroots organizations worldwide that are working for a sustainable future. Since its inception, it has awarded 541 grants totaling over \$508,000.

**Giving criteria.** Cottonwood awards grants to partner organizations that combine all of the following: protecting the environment, promoting cultural diversity, empowering people to meet their basic needs, and relying on volunteers. Support of such groups makes it possible to really make a difference in creating a better world.

Cottonwood Foundation is proud that more than 90 percent of its expenditures go directly for grants. To minimize administrative costs, the foundation relies on donations of space, graphic design, computers, telephone, and hundreds of hours of volunteer labor to operate.

### Board of Directors.

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## Yes, I'll renew my support for Cottonwood Foundation!

Your much-appreciated contribution can be allocated to one or more funds:

- General Fund: Supports all aspects of the Foundation's charitable activities and administration
- Endowment Fund: A permanent fund providing the Foundation with investment income
- Land Fund: Supports grants to indigenous peoples' organizations for repurchasing their land base in order to preserve their culture and environment

Please send contributions made out to “Cottonwood Foundation” to:

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Thank you! Your contribution is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

