

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007** 

## Cottonwood Foundation

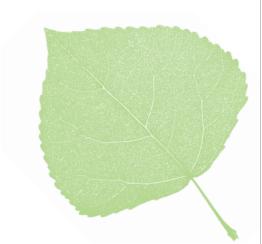
### **Our Mission**

### From the Executive Director

Cottonwood Foundation, a charitable, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization, is dedicated to promoting empowerment of people, protection of the environment, and respect for cultural diversity.

The foundation will focus its funding on committed, grassroots organizations that rely strongly on volunteer efforts, and where foundation support will make a significant difference.

At least 90 percent of Cottonwood Foundation's expenditures will be for grants to other organizations.



- ▶ Design donated by Scott Andre
- Annual report printing donated by The Toro Company

### Contact information

Cottonwood Foundation Box 10803 White Bear Lake, MN 55110 USA

Phone: (651) 426-8797 Fax: (651) 294-1012

e-mail: info@cottonwoodfdn.org

2007 was a special year for Cottonwood Foundation, our 15th anniversary! As of December 2007, Cottonwood has awarded 450 grants totaling more than \$417,000, supporting projects in over 50 countries. This work is supported by contributors and volunteers like yourself, and has had an impact literally throughout the planet in helping to create a more sustainable future. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Cottonwood Foundation is also grateful for the continuing active involvement of our wonderful partner organizations. With some of these organizations supported by Cottonwood for over a decade, real trust and genuine partnership have evolved. We appreciate each of these 62 partners, new and longstanding, for their remarkable work and their ability to stretch limited funds to have a real impact.

Cottonwood had a strong year fin ancially, with total income of \$53,959. Over 94% of the foundation's expenditures were directly for grants to other organizations, with non-grant expenditures totaling \$2,574. As an all-volunteer organization with no paid staff, Cottonwood continues to work hard to see that each dollar contributed will make a difference. Donor-designated contributions to Cottonwood's endowment brought the fund's total to over \$40,000 in 2007, which generates investment income for Cottonwood's grants and other expenditures.

Whether supporting new water systems for low-income communities, tree planting in eroded areas, agricultural self-sufficiency, alternative energy, or other key projects identified as most needed by the Cottonwood partners, your gifts are finding their way throughout the world to strengthen efforts that will build a better future.

This report highlights the past year, including grants awarded, organizational financials, and reports from some of the 45 organizations receiving funding in 2007. We hope that you will find these words and photos inspiring, as they illustrate how your gifts are making a real difference.

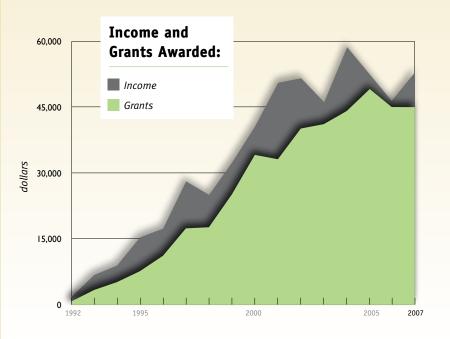
Thank you again for all of your support and ongoing involvement in Cottonwood's work!

Paul Moss, Executive Director

and Male

Cover photo: The newly-formed Musanka Youth Group, consisting of 17 Maasai youth, were provided with bicycle repair tools, tires and spare parts to start a bicycle repair cooperative business at Njipiship market in Kenya's Transmara District through a Cottonwood grant to Village Volunteers.

Income		
Grants and Corporate Giving	\$16,396.31	
Income from Investments	\$2,443.98	
Private Donations		
General and Land Fund Donations	\$33,628.02	
Designated for Endowment	\$1,490.70	
Total Income	\$53,959.01	
Non-Grant Expenses		
Bank Charges and Broker Fees	\$740.00	
Post Office Box	\$72.00	
Postage and Mailing Services	\$974.29	
Printing	\$357.45	
Internet Services and Telephone	\$360.72	
Miscellaneous	\$70.00	
Total Non-Grant Expenses	\$2,574.46	
Charitable Disbursements	\$45,000.00	
Percentage of expenses for grants	94.6%	
Assets — December 31, 2007		
General Fund	\$46,259.85	
Endowment Fund	\$40,200.00	
Land Fund	\$930.07	
Total Assets	\$87,389.92	



### FROM A GRANT RECIPIENT

Enclosed, please find the report on Trees, Water & People's activities generously funded by Cottonwood Foundation in 2007.

The \$1,000 provided by Cottonwood Foundation was used to purchase stove materials for 20 fuel-efficient Justa stoves in the Tiquisate area on the South Coast of Guatemala. The materials include: metal griddles, chimneys, ceramic tiles, cement blocks, cement, rebar, and bricks. Two local women were trained to become additional stove builders/ promoters. This has empowered them to make a living (quite a challenge in rural communities like Tiquisate) sharing this beneficial technology with other women.

Twenty families, including both Latinos and Mayans, received Justa stoves and the following associated benefits:

- Training on proper use and maintenance of stove
- Technical support during follow-up visit
- 50-70% reduction in firewood needed, saving families on time and/or money spent obtaining firewood
- Approximately 80% cleaner air to breathe

Local forests benefit from the 50-70% reduction demand for firewood resulting from our Justa stove project. The South Coast of Guatemala is almost entirely deforested except for some surviving mangrove swamps, so our work to reduce deforestation is crucial.

Trees, Water & People appreciates the support of Cottonwood Foundation. Through our partnership, we hope to continue our trajectory towards a better future for Guatemala."

### - Trees, Water & People, USA/Guatemala



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### Volunteers

### **Board of Directors**

December 2007

Karissa Huntington, Chair Craig Miller, Vice Chair Prabhakar Karri, Treasurer Jamie Ford, Secretary Paul Moss, Executive Director Laura Bray Kathy Kinzig Tom Meersman Erik Nelson Patrick Waletzko Caleb Werth

### Other Volunteers 2007

Paul Andre Scott Andre Laurie Gustafson Glenn Krocheski-Meyer Miriam Moss Sidney Moss Joel Peterson



### Donors



Individual Donors: \$35,11	8.72	•••••	•••••	
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Harvest of Hope Self-Help

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### **Corporate and Foundation Donors**

CA, Inc. - Matching Gifts Program Clorox Company Foundation Community Shares of Minnesota (donor designated funds) Greater Twin Cities United Way (donor designated funds) JustGive.org Kopp Family Foundation PajWell Foundation Premier Banks Rising Moon Natural Health St. Martin's Table Star Tribune Foundation Thomson West U.S. Bancorp Foundation Vivian Simkins Lasko Foundation H.E. and Helen R. Warren Foundation Whole Systems Foundation

### **In-Kind Donors**

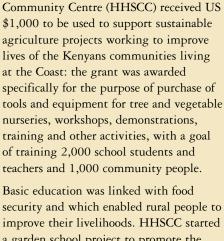
Edward Jones — Chuck Edson, Investment Representative Premier Banks The Toro Company

Other in-kind donations of services, supplies, and materials by board members and volunteers.

### **Memorials**

Gifts were donated in memory of the following individuals in 2007:

Sigmond Bear Alexander Buck Mabel Edgerton Louis Oswald Alice Rogers



security and which enabled rural people to improve their livelihoods. HHSCC started a garden school project to promote the integration of sustainable natural resource management into basic education, strengthen the links between school, homes and communities and enhance the effectiveness of formal and non-formal education through experimental learning.

HHSCC selected Coral Junior and High School to work in the program. Children of Coral Junior and High School, parents and staff worked together to build self esteem and confidence which were essential ingredients, encouraged children to become motivated and active learners. Pupils were introduced to bio intensive farming, self help food production based on organic agriculture. Food was placed at the core of activities. From the garden, kitchen and the table, children were taught compassion, patience and self

discipline. Gardening, composting, cooking, serving and eating.... these were the basic things."

 Harvest of Hope Self-Help Community Centre, Kenya



## Summaries of 2007 Grants

African Blackwood Conservation
Project, USA/Tanzania — to support
the Environmental Greenishing Group,
a recently formed organization of youth
in the Meru District of Kenya, for
establishing tree nurseries for reforestation,
conducting training for the community
on environmental conservation, providing
basic environmental education, facilitating
the planting of trees from the nursery to
identified areas, and other activities.

Association "Green Alternative," Republic of Georgia — to support a project to integrate children with mental disabilities into society, including teaching the children to work with Teka (a Georgian variety of thick felt) which can help them to acquire working skills, providing the children with environmental lessons and excursions, holding a trade exhibition of drawings and Teka toys created by the children at the Children's Art Galley of Tbilisi, and tree planting.

### Association of Young Azerbaijani Friends of Europe (AYAFE), Azerbaijan

— to organize a working camp in the Guba city of Azerbaijan with participation of international and local volunteers to help clean up pollution and plant trees around the Guba city orphanage housing 220 children aged 5 to 15, as well as to promote public awareness and to educate local residents about environmental pollution.

**Benton Furniture Share, USA** — to supply approximately 40 items of needed used furniture and household goods at no cost to low-income elderly individuals and households, primarily in Benton County, Oregon.

Tenth graders at the Centro de Education Creativa in Costa Rica making a test batch of biodiesel with supervision from their instructor, to be used to help fuel their school's buses.



Blue Veins, Pakistan — to establish a computer literacy center in Dagai Village, Swabi District, Pakistan in cooperation with a local women's group, which will empower approximately 100 girls and women of this remote village with new skills, with funding for purchase of a computer, printer, internet connection, and salary for a computer teacher.

Center for People's Agricultural Plan for the 21st Century, Philippines — to provide training on agro-forestry for 25 family-based organic farmers that will incorporate the preservation and protection of the local forest, including providing seeds of fruit and forest trees for community reforestation as well as purchasing equipment and materials needed for tree and vegetable seed storage using non-chemical pest control methods.

### Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems,

India — to help restore lands in the Nagapattinam District of Tamil Nadu, India that had been made saline through seawater intrusion in the December 2004 tsunami, by supporting training, seeds, and organic inputs to 100 farmer trainers who will in turn train several thousand local farmers and NGOs in organic cultivation of salt-tolerant indigenous varieties of rice, vegetables and other crops.

### Centro de Educación Creativa, Costa

**Rica** — to purchase equipment, tools and safety materials to improve CEC's recently developed Biodiesel Project, which will help the students create recycled energy that not only fuels the school buses in Monteverde but also helps to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, including purchase of a plastic cone processor, heating pump, tubing and containers, tools, safety equipment, and other expenditures.

Common Ground Program, Kenya — to initiate a poultry keeping project to provide a sustainable source of foods rich in protein and as well as income for the 104 orphan children at Pathfinder Academy, including









training the school's children in poultry management, building a poultry house, purchasing 150 birds, preparing feeding troughs, and poultry feeds.

Cultural Survival, USA/Mongolia — to purchase a laptop computer for the Totem Peoples Project's Mongolian veterinary specialist, Ms. Nansalmaa Myagmar, that will be used to document reindeer and traditional livestock health, treatment history, disease incidence, ownership patterns, and other data relevant to the management and protection of the herds of the indigenous Dukha nomads of northern Mongolia.

Dos Pueblos, USA/Nicaragua — to support the creation of a potable water project serving the community of Río Panamá, Nicaragua with a population of 120 people, of whom 40 are children are under 16 years of age, with strong community volunteer involvement including the necessary excavation for the water system.

Ecoclub Nongovernmental Youth Organization, Ukraine — for the project "The Green Spot in the Grey City" conducted in Rivne, Ukraine to create a

### 2007 Cottonwood Foundation grants: \$45,000

green area in the city for the benefit of city residents and the urban ecosystem with the involvement of volunteers and the local community, including purchase of saplings, soil mix, shovels, delivery of planting materials and stones, and other expenditures.

**Eco-garden, Kenya** — for improving the water supply for Eco-garden's tree nursery which grows a wide variety of indigenous trees, shrubs, and fruit trees (with a capacity of 30,000 and 40,000 tree seedlings at a time), including constructing a series of pipes to a water pump that collects water from a local spring, purchasing an electric water pump, and constructing a water holding tank in the nursery.

Entebbe District Wildlife Association, Uganda — to purchase a variety of vegetable seeds, farm tools, and organic pest control items for vegetable gardening in ten homesteads among the Nubian community (each with three or four families) and four primary schools in Entebbe, Uganda, including providing training.

### Environment and Community Development Organization (ECDO),

**Nepal** — to install a drinking water system for Shree Janta Primary School in Ghurkauli village, benefiting 550 students and 6 teachers, including installation of a tube-well, and also conducting a one-

day child rights training workshop for 50 community members, and a two-day conservation workshop on Improved Cook Stoves Installation for 20 local women, with stoves to be installed in the homes of the participants.

Fundación Ecológica Tercer Mundo, Ecuador — to help school children and their parents in Chindul, Ecuador to construct tree and vegetable nurseries to provide food and wood to meet their basic needs, including conducting workshops, hands-on demonstration sessions, and community and one-on-one family outreach meetings, resulting in 34 small-scale family tree nurseries, one large school nursery and approximately 6,000 agroforestry trees planted within the Mache-Chindul Ecological Reserve.

Global Children, USA/Cambodia — to help support the latrine clean-up and hygiene education program at the Kampong Cham Orphanage in Cambodia, home to about 100 orphans, including providing cleaning supplies, setting up hand washing stations, wages for a cleaning person, providing hygiene education training to children and caregivers, and other activities.

Goriber Asroy, Bangladesh — to support a community project in Masdia village, eastern Kaligonj, to address arsenic contamination of drinking water, including

Continued on next page

One of the local participants in the project for organic cultivation of sunflowers coordinated by the Indian National Trust for the Welfare of Tribals, in Kalahandi District, Orissa, India.



community mobilization and awareness meetings, formation of an arsenic prevention committee, constructing 6 arsenic removal devices (with each device providing arsenic free water to 12 families), and conducting training on operation and maintenance of the devices.

Haiti Outreach, USA/Haiti — to help support a well drilling project to provide clean water in Cheven, Haiti, in the community of Mombin Kwochi 1, which has about 600 homes with an estimated population of 3,600 people, and where people currently need to descend a steep ravine to a small mountain stream that is thought to be contaminated in order to obtain water.

Harvest of Hope Self-Help Community Centre, Kenya — to fund a project in which Coral Junior and Senior High School students and community members are taught about sustainable agriculture and food production through hands-on experience, as well as providing vocational training, community sensitization workshops for 600 students and 400 community members, setting up 50 nurseries of cabbage, onion, kale, carrots, and tomatoes in 15 villages, transportation to and from the fields, tools, and tree and vegetable nursery equipment.

Health Education Adoption Rehabilitation Development Society (HEARDS), India — to support a community bore well program at C.B. Road in Chittoor Mandal, Andhra Pradesh, which will provide safe and potable water for drinking for about 3,000 low-income, primarily minority people, to include drilling the well, purchasing of casing pipe and hand pumps.

Indian National Trust for the Welfare of Tribals (INTWOT), India — for a project involving organic cultivation of sunflowers intercropped with green leafy vegetables on 10 acres of land owned by low-income villagers in Kalahandi District, Orissa state, as well as installing 5 bee-boxes for income generation, development of micro-credit groups, and training.

Interaccion para el Desarrollo
Sostenible, Bolivia — to improve
the life of children in the small, rural
community of Chijmuni, Bolivia through
purchase of building supplies to construct



A community well providing needed drinking water was supported by a Cottonwood grant at C.B. Road in Chittoor Mandal, Andhra Pradesh, India, as coordinated by Health Education Adoption Rehabilitation Development Society.

a needed sanitary facility for a primary school benefiting 60 children, planting 500 trees near the school, and conducting approximately six training courses on the environment for primary and secondary students as well as for teachers and parents.

### International Association for Transformation, Canada/Philippines

— to support the Summer Literacy and Tutoring Program in 5 remote villages in the Philippines in which approximately 30 senior students provide needed tutoring and educational upgrading for younger students for four to five weeks, with the Cottonwood grant providing food and accommodation for the student teachers, preparation, educational materials, supplies, transportation, monitoring and evaluation.

Jeevan Rekha Parishad, India — to purchase honey processing equipment and 15 bee hives for 15 very low income Santala tribal women in Chandaka village, Orissa state, who will also be provided with materials for vegetable and medicinal plant cultivation, training, and assistance in forming a Women's Beekeeping Association.

MADRE, USA/Nicaragua — to provide organic food crop seeds to 20 indigenous Miskito women and their families in Nicaragua in partnership with local partner

organization Mangki Tangni, as well as facilitating the participation of several indigenous farmers in a farmers' market (including purchase of tables, transportation for farmers, and salary for coordinator).

Maka Foundation, USA (Land Fund) — to help purchase the 780 acre Medicine Butte Ranch within the Lower Brule Sioux Reservation that once was Indian-owned land but which had passed to non-Indian ownership, with future use of the land intended to exclude cattle grazing and for the land to be managed with the goal of increasing native prairie wildlife.

### Mangrove Action Project, USA/Indonesia

— to support construction of a Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Education Center in Pakem District, Java, Indonesia, including purchase of a biogas converter, water pump, municipal electrical hookup, vetiver grass nursery seed stock for revegetation, and seedlings for an herbal medicine garden.

### Nabichakha Women Group, Kenya

— to help address waterborne diseases in Bungoma District, Kenya by rebuilding a public toilet facility that had been destroyed during recent heavy rainfall and flooding, as well as to initiate a water and sanitation project that will involve training and community outreach through mass campaigns, brochures and pamphlets.

New Forests Project, USA/Honduras & El Salvador — to purchase 10 chlorine drinking water disinfecting devices for small communities in rural Honduras and El Salvador, having the potential to improve the public health of thousands of rural citizens.

Norwalk/Nagarote Sister City Project, USA/Nicaragua — to provide scholarships in Nagarote, Nicaragua for 20 "Cottonwood Scholar" students from low-income families who are attending public schools, including covering their uniforms, shoes, books, school supplies and tutoring for one year.

### Outreach Asia, USA/Philippines

— to build a water system for Timba Primary School in South Leyte, Philippines, which will benefit 99 pupils in Grades 1 through 6 as well as teachers and community members.

### Planet Drum Foundation, USA/Ecuador

— to continue a six kilometer revegetation project near Bahia de Caraquez, Ecuador, including wages for tree planters, water transport, fencing, and bioregional educational materials.

**Project Mercy, USA/Mexico** — to construct a sturdy house from used garage doors as well as partially recycled and donated materials that will be used by a family in need of emergency housing in Mexico.

Rainforest Information Centre, Australia/Uganda — to be passed though to Ntunda Women Development Association in Uganda for their work to preserve rainforest and promote tree planting in Ntunda sub county of Mukono district, including establishing a fruit tree nursery, community education and training, building energy saving stoves, and other activities.

Rural 21, Moldova — to establish an Annual Winter School for Bike Mechanics using volunteer experts to train 30 bike owners in week-long courses as bicycle mechanics, and then to assist 10 of these mechanics to start their own bike shop businesses in their communities, including purchase of 5 bike mechanic stands, 5 bike wrench kits, and an electric compressor for inflating and painting.

Sanchuan Development Association, China — to purchase 450 books and transport them by wagon to each of two remote mountain village schools in Minhe County, Qinghai Province, which will allow the schools to have their own libraries, and will encourage education of ethnic minority children by allowing them access to books in addition to their textbooks.

**Seacology, USA/Cook Islands** — to help construct a community geriatric housing ward providing food, shelter, and medical attention for elderly villagers on Atiu Island, Cook Islands, in exchange for the establishment of a 297-acre wildlife sanctuary on Takutea Island, and a restricted fishing zone extending five miles from the island's shores, both for a duration of 20 years.

Sustainable Harvest International, USA/Panama — to provide materials and training for workshops in Panama to establish greater use of composting latrines and construction of fuel efficient Justa stoves in that country, which will lead to better sanitation as well as energy efficiency, with the stoves helping to save forests and expenses for local households by burning significantly less wood than common stoves used throughout Central America.

Trees for the Future, USA/Cameroon — to support the Volunteer Group for Agro-Silvo-Pastoral Development (VOGASPAD) in Bamenda, Cameroon in providing training for farmers in tree nursery management, agroforestry and seedling transplantation, including purchasing wheel barrows, watering pipes, spades, pitchforks and over 30,000 tree seeds, with the goal of reestablishing vegetation that has been destroyed by logging and slash-and-burn farming techniques.

### Trees, Water and People, USA/Guatemala

— to help expand the fuel-efficient stove program by building an additional 20 stoves for families in Pueblo Nuevo Tiquisate, Guatemala that are currently using inefficient and unhealthy open-fire stoves for cooking.

### Umoja Wa Kienjero Self Help Group, Kenya — to establish an eco-seed bank multiplication project that will propagate and package certified seed spice and herbs, and also fruit orchard seedlings, including

purchase of seeds, equipment, training, and

materials.

Village Volunteers, USA/Kenya — to help the newly-formed Musanka Youth Group, consisting of 17 Maasai youth, start an income generating bicycle repair cooperative at Njipiship market in Kenya's Transmara District, including providing 20 bike repair tool sets, 100 tires, 100 tubes, 100 seats, and

### White Earth Land Recovery Project, USA

rent for the repair stall for 10 months.

— to install a solar hot air heating panel on the home of a low-income tribal elder on Minnesota's White Earth Reservation, as well as to train four young people on the panel's installation.

## Wild Flora and Fauna Fund / FWFF, Bulgaria — to rehabilitate and protect three small spring-fed sources of water in the Yurushki Skali protected area in Kotel Mountain that had been created in the 1950s but have subsequently silted in, for use by people, wildlife, livestock, and aquatic vegetation, with work done by local volunteers.



Cottonwood's
grant to Sanchuan
Development
Association
provided two remote
mountain village
schools in China's
Qinghai Province
with 450 books
each for libraries for
their students, as
transported here by
wagon.

# their own words

Cottonwood Foundation grant recipients are requested to submit final reports about how funding received has made a difference. Following are sample excerpts in their own words from Cottonwood Foundation's 2007 grant recipients.



A drinking water system was constructed for the 120 inhabitants of the community of Río Panamá, Nicaragua, in cooperation with Dos Pueblos and a Nicaraguan partner organization, as supported by a Cottonwood grant.

The community of Río Panamá [small community in Tipitapa, Nicaragua] has long recognized the dire need for clean water delivery to its population. It has a population comprising of 18 families for a total of about 120 inhabitants that has existed for 40 years without potable water. Previously, water had been carried in plastic containers from a contaminated water source that was over 2km away. It is mostly village women and children who performed this time-consuming daily work of getting water which left them with much less time to devote to other important tasks, including education, and childcare. Substantial effort was required to haul available water to homes for drinking, food preparation and bathing.

The objective of this potable water project was to improve the health and hygiene of the residents in this community by eliminating contaminated water sources and provide reliable, consistent water delivery to their homes. This project began July 2007 with a very organized and dedicated community desperate for access to potable water. Although the community along with COMPALCIHT [Nicaraguan partner organization of Dos Pueblos] were fully ready and had all the

resources necessary for the project, the hard work of digging the soil for the PVC tubing proved to be the only delay. This big delay was due to the very limited access to the heavy equipment that was generously donated by Tipitapa's mayor's office. During the excavation stage, the machinery was only available once a week, meaning the approximately 1000 meters of dirt that had to be dug up had to be spread out of over a period of several months delaying the completion date to January 26, 2008. With so much need for water, the residents insisted on continuous dialogue with the mayor's office during this serious delay. The insistence paid off and now the community has water!

At the inauguration [of the new water system], the mayor complemented the community in their tenacity not to be forgotten. In the mayor's attempt to pronounce Cottonwood, he proclaimed the importance of international organizations in helping poor countries like his that do not get much media play, especially in the age of terrorism and war. He was deeply touched and said, "caring people like Cottonwood do not even know what we look like and are not looking for anything in return except a better life for us where we can flourish and support each other. The selflessness of these Americans will stay with me, past my term."

Because of the success of previous Cottonwood Foundation projects, ENACAL (the government agency that must agree to allow the tubes to be connected to the mother tube and turned on) certification was completed easily and quickly.

With much appreciation from and for the people of this community in Río Panamá, Tipitapa, Nicaragua."

### - Dos Pueblos, USA/Nicaragua

On behalf of Fundación Ecológica Tercer Mundo, I thank you for accepting our 2007 project report and for future consideration of conservation projects. This was a great project with demonstratable results.

For 11 years, Fundación Ecológica Tercer Mundo (hereafter, Tercer Mundo) has collaborated with the Cottonwood Foundation to help rural families in Ecuador improve their own quality of life through volunteer engagement and environmental improvement. In 2007, Tercer Mundo executed a project that prepared youth and adult community members from Chindul to construct tree and vegetable nurseries which provided wood and food to meet their basic needs. Forty-four children and their parents have demonstrated the knowledge and skills needed to successfully cultivate their own vegetables and trees by seed in small-scale nurseries, constructed with locally available materials.

The project had two phases. The first was to teach the school children, their teacher, and their parents about effectively building tree and vegetable nurseries, and growing and nurturing the plants. Tercer Mundo volunteers guided the youth and adults through four workshops and hands-on demonstration sessions, then participated with the monitoring and harvesting of the vegetables and tree

seedlings. The vegetables – mainly peppers and tomatoes – were used for school lunch foods. The trees, a valuable agroforestry tree called Spanish cedar (Cedrela odorate) were planted around the school yard and sold.

The second phase consisted of children and parents transferring their horticulture skills to create their own nurseries at home. Carlos Robles led other Tercer Mundo volunteers with 36 community and one-on-one outreach meetings. Together, Tercer Mundo volunteers "coached" families to successfully grow their own family tree and vegetable nurseries.

- Forty-four youth learned how to collect and prepare soil, treat and plant seeds, and grow and harvest vegetables and multipurpose trees for agroforestry applications.
- One teacher has learned and adopted school gardening practices, improving youth education, nutrition, and the local school yard environment.
- Thirty-four families of the school children have learned the same nursery practices

- and have transferred the knowledge and skill to improve their own conditions at home.
- Forty-four youth and their parents constructed tree and vegetable nurseries, totaling 34 small-scale family tree nurseries and one large school nursery.
- Children and parents supplemented and improved their nutrition and the local forest environment
- Approximately 6,000 multi-purpose agroforestry trees were planted and have enhanced the tree cover within the Mache-Chindul Ecological Reserve, one of the most threatened ecosystems on Earth."

### - Fundación Ecológica Tercer Mundo, Ecuador

Aniin from the White Earth Land Recovery Project! We are pleased to submit our final report on activities funded by our \$1,000 grant received from the Cottonwood Foundation. This grant helped to further our Alternative Energy Program with a solar panel installation on a tribal elder's home.

The solar panel was purchased from Lakota Solar Enterprises on Pine Ridge Reservation for \$1,000. The installation requires additional hardware, such as ductwork, screws, foil tape, and brackets which we provide. The solar panel is installed at no cost to the homeowner. In addition, an average homeowner could save \$1600 each winter.

Continued on last page

Fundación Ecológica Tercer Mundo helped forty-four youth learned how to collect and prepare soil, plant seeds, and grow and harvest vegetables and multi-purpose trees for agroforestry applications.



### Continued from previous page

We are grateful to the Cottonwood Foundation for the grant that made this installation possible and look forward to furthering our collaboration to create a sustainable future for White Earth. Thank you for your support of our work on the White Earth Reservation."

- White Earth Land Recovery Project, USA



The \$1,000 we received from Cottonwood Foundation has been used to purchase the equipment and materials (cone processor, heating pads, tubing containers, etc.) needed to improve our biodiesel process and finish the construction of the new "bodega" that will house this production. Our goal is to produce 60 – 80 liters per week of the fuel, which will be more than sufficient to run our school's busses on a 20:80 biodiesel:petroleum diesel proportion (B20).

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Centro de

Education Creativa. You are making a difference in the lives of our students, parents, teachers, volunteers and community members!

Centro de

 Educacion
 Creativa, Costa



Namunyak Maasai Welfare, a partner program with Village Volunteers is thankful to the support provided by Cottonwood Foundation for the purchase of bicycle repair tools for the Maasai youth to start an income producing bicycle repair cooperative. The youth group's name is Musanka Bike Repair. Village Volunteers had provided bikes over the past few years and instead of buying more bikes, the youth group decided to start a bike repair business.

Because of this grant, Musanka Youth Group has become entirely positive on the possibilities of self-employment and they have continued to become one among many of our Namunyak's successful projects.

Because of the unique challenges of the most remote areas, bikes give people the ability to retrieve medicine, supplies and transport passengers. With the high incidence of malaria and other treatable diseases in these areas, bikes have become the means to get patients

to health care faster and thereby drastically reducing mortalities in the area. Bikes are also used as "boda boda's" a bicycle taxi service used by local people. Bicycles that need repair would end up abandoned on the side of the road without a service that provides repair services.

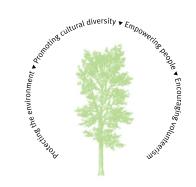
The group saw the need and decided to buy bike repair tools, tires, tubes, and seats, rent a stall and set up a business located at Njipiship market. The newly formed Musanka Youth Group has a membership of 17 youth.

Thanks for your support of Namunyak Maasai Welfare."

Village Volunteers, USA/Kenya



See cover photo



Cottonwood Foundation

www.cottonwoodfdn.org

Box 10803 White Bear Lake, MN 55110 USA

e-mail: info@cottonwoodfdn.org Phone: (651) 426-8797

Fax: (651) 294-1012