



Cottonwood Foundation Contributors Update

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Cottonwood awards \$42,000 in grants in 2010

Cottonwood Foundation has awarded 14 grants this fall to grassroots organizations worldwide that are working for a sustainable future. All told, this year's grant awards total \$42,000. Thanks to support from the foundation's wonderful contributors and volunteers, Cottonwood has now awarded 582 grants totaling over \$550,000 since it was started in 1992. Read on for details about recent projects funded through your generous support.

Appropriate Infrastructure Development Group (AIDG), USA/Guatemala (\$1,000)—to support a community vermicomposting project in Guatemala, specifically to provide “red wiggler” worms to 91 women participants; remaining funds will go to provide handouts and refreshments for attendees of a training workshop.

Association “Green Alternative,” Republic of Georgia (\$1,000)—to repair the greenhouse at the Batumi boarding school for homeless children in Batumi, Adjara, Republic of Georgia, which hosts 60 children of different ages, which will be used to grow green salad with sustainable methods, thereby helping to provide skills for the students and income for the school, with the grant used to purchase materials, tools, and equipment.

Blue Veins, Pakistan (\$1,000)—to provide three months of vocational training on domestic electrical skills and mobile-phone repair to 20 minority members in Khyber Pukhtoonkhwa, Pakistan, who are currently living in poverty and subject to severe discrimination, with tools to be provided to the participants after the training, which will help them to support themselves and their families as well as contribute to their social integration.

Centre for Indian Knowledge Systems, India (\$1,000)—to provide support and technical assistance for a community vermiculture project in Vederanyam Taluk, Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu, India. A team of 15-20 women will work to produce the compost and sell it to nearby farmers as a source of additional income. The grant funds go to purchase construction materials (sand, bricks, cement, bamboo sticks, iron rod, and rope), an initial culture of earthworms, packing material, and jute bags for storage.

Dos Pueblos: New York – Tipitapa Sister City Project, USA/Nicaragua (\$1,000)—to repair, clean, and upgrade the dilapidated community water well in the village of *15 de septiembre* in rural Nicaragua to improve

living conditions while creating education and economic opportunities, which will benefit over 150 families for a total of over 800 inhabitants, with the grant funds used for cement, stone, wood, PVC tubes, and other expenditures.

Fifty Lanterns International, USA/Haiti (\$1,000)—to purchase and distribute 20 sturdy LED solar lanterns to low-income families without electricity in Haiti.

International Association for Transformation (IAT), Canada/Philippines (\$1,000)—to support the Summer Literacy and Theatre Arts Program in 3 remote villages in the Philippines in which 15 senior students will provide needed tutoring and educational upgrading for younger students for one month, as well as use drama and skits to address community problems in open forums, with Cottonwood's grant providing food for the student teams, preparation, educational supplies, transportation, monitoring and evaluation.



Participants in IAT's Summer Literacy Program in Philippines from Spring 2010 as supported by a previous grant from Cottonwood.

Cottonwood Foundation's final year – 2011

As you know, Cottonwood Foundation will be awarding its final grants next year. One grant round has been scheduled, with grants awarded in August 2011. Thanks to the generous final gifts received this year from our many loyal contributors, we expect this to be a relatively large grant round, making it possible for most of the 57 Cottonwood Partners to receive a grant award in 2011.

As always, we will inform you about the selected projects and show how your funds make a difference. We also plan to prepare a final annual report for 2010, to be sent out next fall.

Cottonwood Foundation's Board of Directors continues to discuss the foundation's endowment fund and how it will be disbursed. A number of options are being considered for the endowment and how these funds can make a difference after Cottonwood ceases operations.

If you have any questions about the process through which Cottonwood Foundation will be ending its work by December 2011, please feel free to contact Paul Moss, Executive Director.

Thank you again for all of your wonderful support for Cottonwood Foundation over these past years and for your continued generosity.

Fall 2010 grants, continued

Land Empowerment Animals People (LEAP), USA/Malaysia (\$1,000)—to fund the creation of five organic vegetable gardens for Project Women Empowerment Trees, a local indigenous community empowerment project in Sabah, Borneo, Malaysia, designed and managed by women of the Pitas indigenous community, which will improve community nutrition and increase household incomes, with Cottonwood's grant supporting the purchase of tools, equipment and materials for the gardens, training workshops, and other activities.

MADRE, USA/Nicaragua (\$1,000)—to provide 18 bags of organic food-crop seeds for 100 indigenous Miskito women and their families in Nicaragua in partnership with a local group, Wangki Tangni, for planting in family or community gardens.

Nabichakha Women Group, Kenya (\$1,000)—to establish a resource center and library at St. Kizito Primary School in Bungoma district, Kenya, which will be a learning facility for 200 young students from low-income families on the benefits of environmental conservation and sustainable development, with the grant to help support construction, furniture, and purchase of educational materials.

Norwalk/Nagarote Sister City Project, USA/Nicaragua (\$1,000)—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.

People's Agricultural Plan for the 21st Century, Inc. (PAP 21), Philippines (\$1,000)—to help protect the Ma-ao River Basin in the Philippines by assisting agrarian reform beneficiaries and residents in the village of



The 2010 grant to LEAP to help create greater food security in Borneo through organic community gardens will build on the success of the tree nurseries supported by Cottonwood's grant last year.

California to undertake reforestation activity along the river banks. Grant funds will go primarily toward organic agriculture and agroforestry, purchase of important commodities (seeds, organic fertilizer, farm tools, fruit- and forest-tree seedlings), and support for the group's micro-credit project.

Village Volunteers, USA/Kenya (\$1,000)—on behalf of Namunyak Maasai Welfare to provide Sirua Aulo Academy in Oronkai, Kenya, with a school garden, fencing, seeds, tools, and training for students in biointensive farming methods. The food grown at the school will help feed the students, with the surplus distributed among local families.

White Earth Land Recovery Project, USA (\$2,000, Land Fund)—to help pay for acquisition of land on Minnesota's White Earth Reservation, on which is sited a wind turbine and a community garden that will assist with restoring indigenous corn, beans, and squash. These crops, "the three sisters," will help create food security and resilience for the reservation.

In their own words...

Your contributions to Cottonwood Foundation are making a difference. Here are some excerpts from final grant reports received by Cottonwood for grants awarded in Spring 2010.

Project TEMBO, Canada/Tanzania

“I want you to know that the grant you gave to the Mazingira Group in Longido, Tanzania, has meant so much to a small group of men and women trying to help their neighbors deal with severe drought. As I mentioned in my application information, this group began in 2000, then mostly disbanded due to lack of funding. A small group of 10 people remained committed and they are the ones who are using the Cottonwood grant money to restart activities in the village.



Bag gardens for vegetable production were planted for families in Kimokouwa, a traditional Maasai village.

The group spoke to the village elders who agreed to give them 2 acres of land to begin a seedling nursery. Then they purchased some posts and wire to protect the area from grazing goats, cattle, and wild animals. They also purchased bags to create the gardens, seeds, shovels, watering cans, gravel, and a cart for transporting manure to the site.

These gardens are making a difference to the people of Longido and Kimokouwa. Saving a few dollars by growing small bags of vegetables year round might not make any difference in a family budget in North America, but it is so significant in these poor villages where most people live on a dollar a day or less. Some people have used the “saved” money to purchase chickens so they are now able to add some protein from eggs to their diet. It’s also contributing to better health by providing affordable healthy organic vegetables in an otherwise subsistence diet of rice and ugali. Most of all these bag gardens are showing people that there are small actions they can take to improve their lives.

The members of the Longido Mazingira Group are deeply grateful to the Cottonwood Foundation and asked me to express their gratitude to you.”

Community Development Centre, India

“Community Development Centre [CDC] is happy to submit progress report of Cottonwood Foundation Supported project.

All the beneficiaries from the “GOND” tribal community. Their livelihood depends on rainfed agriculture. They are taking Maize, Paddy and mustard crop, if rain is good and moisture remain in the farm then they taking Wheat, Gram and Pea. But the second crop is very less. The agriculture production is not sufficient for their survival. Most of time they migrating to big cities or town for earning.

In the month of June we have constructed compost pit with a size of 5 feet width 10 feet length and 2 feet height, there is a partition in the middle of the pit. The pits completed by mid July. At the end of July these pits has been filled by cow dung and other bio waste. Earth worm purchased and put in the pit. The beneficiaries made shed from their own contribution. After 45 days they take first manure from there pit.

As per our plan we have mapped the species of vegetable which people normally growing, and what is demand in market. After discussion with farmers we decided to provide seeds of LADY FINGER, CHILLY, PUMPKIN, Some local vegetables called KARELA, and BEANS. The seeds has been provided in the month of July and by the end of September each family has earned Rs. 1000 to 2000 by selling of some vegetable and still to earn because plants giving continue vegetable.

In the month of Aug we have provided fruit plants to our all beneficiaries, with the technical support of local horticulture department we gives Mango, Papaya, Amla and Bamboo plants to each families.



A mango tree planted by a farmer through Cottonwood’s grant to support organic agriculture in a tribal community.

As per our project we have purchase a water pump for this group. In this season all these five family will be able to get crop of wheat, Gram and Vegetables in winter and summer also.

The immediate impact of the project is initiation of the organic farming with 5 farmers. They all nicely preparing compost, each family will be able to save Rs. 3000 to 4000 annually by [instead of] purchasing of chemical fertilizers. Cash earning by selling of vegetable and food supplement to family, All families consuming also the vegetables which they grow. In long term organic farming will be replicated with other farmers also, fruit trees will provide good income to all people.

We the members of Community Development Centre are thankful to Cottonwood Foundations for effective partnership, and giving us resources for project implementation towards empowerment of poor families and environment protection.”

Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture (USA), as supported by a Cottonwood grant to Rainforest Information Centre (Australia)

“Funding from the Cottonwood Foundation has supported the establishment of a community-based Fruit Tree Nursery in the Village of Kykotsmovi located on the Hopi Indian Reservation.

Support from the Cottonwood Foundation was utilized for the following initiative: to create a viable community-based ecological fruit tree nursery with the establishment of a hoop house and shade structures that will house fruit tree graftings/seedlings, which will be utilized as a way to increase and support local economy. The goal of this project is to create a viable Hopi-owned Community Fruit Tree Nursery that will offer natural organic heirloom fruit

trees, grown by Hopi orchard-keepers and produced on the Hopi Indian Reservation. The nursery will increase income for orchard-keepers and local farmers while providing high-quality organic fruit trees to the Hopi community.

As we began construction of our Hopi Community Fruit Tree Nursery we are filled with hope as well as a tremendous sense of responsibility. The trees that we have planted over the past few years will one day provide fresh fruit for countless generations, even after my generation has passed. Therefore this work spans generations and will require support from dedicated community members as well as allies in the funding world. We are constantly overwhelmed by all of the support we have received for this project and it is my pleasure to share our humble and fulfilling work on behalf of our Hopi community as well as the global community!”



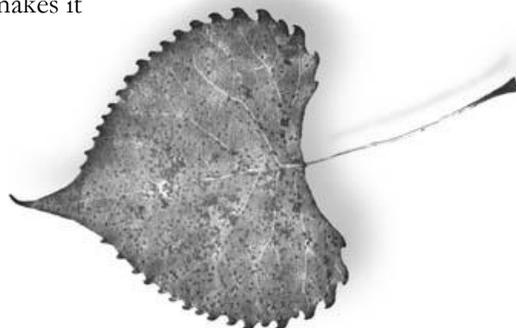
A Cottonwood grant is helping support establishment of a community-based fruit tree nursery located in the Hopi Nation in Arizona.

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 nearly 600 grants totaling over \$550,000.

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.



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Cottonwood Foundation
PO Box 10803
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Phone: (651) 426-8797
Fax: (651) 294-1012
info@cottonwoodfdn.org
www.cottonwoodfdn.org