SeedChange
Formerly USC Canada

Jottings

2020

Generosity in a year unlike any other



"Jottings" is the name our founder, Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova, gave to the stories she captured in her leather-bound notebook while visiting programs around the world. Sharing these jottings with supporters has been a tradition since 1945.

TEODORA ARANCIBIA, *Bolivia*



Farmer Teodora Arancibia and Federico Montaño, the PRODII technical advisor who worked with her, thanks to your support.

THE POWER OF SOLIDARITY

Thanks to you, water flows in Bolivia

Last year, we asked for your help with a critical project in Bolivia: bringing water to farms high in the Andes.

You responded generously, making it possible for 554 Indigenous families in northern Potosí to build Earth-friendly irrigation systems on their farms.

For Teodora Arancibia Apaza, her husband and five small children, this access to water changed everything.

Previously, Teodora struggled to feed her family with the food she grew on her small, rugged plot 3,500 metres above sea level. With dry seasons getting longer, it wasn't always possible to set aside enough potatoes, corn and beans to eat after the growing season ended. Many times, food ran short.

With your support, Teodora worked with our Bolivian partner organization, PRODII, to build a simple system to collect water from rain and mountain runoff. Using this water sparingly on her crops, Teodora can now grow food all year. Her family enjoys a bounty of new vegetables, like tomatoes, chard, beets, carrots, spinach, broad beans and onions. She even grows strawberries, peaches, lemons, figs, and Bolivian favourites like prickly pear fruit, pacay and tumbo.

> "I am happy because we can feed ourselves in a healthy way. We no longer suffer from the lack of food because we have enough to eat all year round."

But that's not all. Teodora's farm now produces such an abundance of healthy food that she's able to sell the surplus, earning enough money to buy necessities for her children.

Thank you for the profound impact you've made in Teodora's life.



PANDEMIC UPDATE

You're helping farmers fight a food crisis in Central America

The COVID-19 pandemic is putting millions of people at risk of hunger.

As soon as the crisis hit, our partners in Central America told us how they saw it impacting farming communities. Food prices rose. Many farmers couldn't access seeds. In a region already dealing with multiple years of drought and ongoing political instability, the damage could have been dire.

Thankfully, you were quick to act.

Your generous response to our appeal in May helped 100 Nicaraguan farming families get the seeds and seedlings they urgently needed. Over the following weeks, you helped us extend

A LEGACY IN THE MAKING

With your support, a new farmer grows in Honduras

Five years ago, Adonis Nolasco did not consider himself a farmer. He worked small jobs in rural Honduras, uncertain of how he would support his family. When he came across an opportunity to join a farmer-led research project with our partner organization, FIPAH, Adonis decided to try his hand at farming.

He started with five bean varieties from FIPAH's plant breeding program. His favourite: an abundant producer called *El Campechano*. The next season, he began growing other grains and vegetables and learned to produce his own high-quality vegetable seeds.

"Here, most people depended on bought seeds. Very few had their own seeds." Adonis is changing that. Today, he grows and sells seeds, giving his neighbours access to affordable, well-adapted seeds—and giving himself a new source of revenue.

Adonis's story is part of the legacy of resilience you are creating in Honduras.

His small plot now teems with life: 10 species of fruit trees and 21 varieties of other crops. With additional money from his crop and seed sales, Adonis built a house. He continues to improve his soil so that he'll be able to grow nutritious food for years to come.

He is giving back, too. Adonis now serves on FIPAH's board of directors, and is working on making his farm a model to train other farmers. But the greatest sense of satisfaction he gets is from watching his young son pick healthy, organic food from the garden.



"When I wake up, the first thing I do is go to see the plants. Thank you for these projects. They are of great use to our communities."

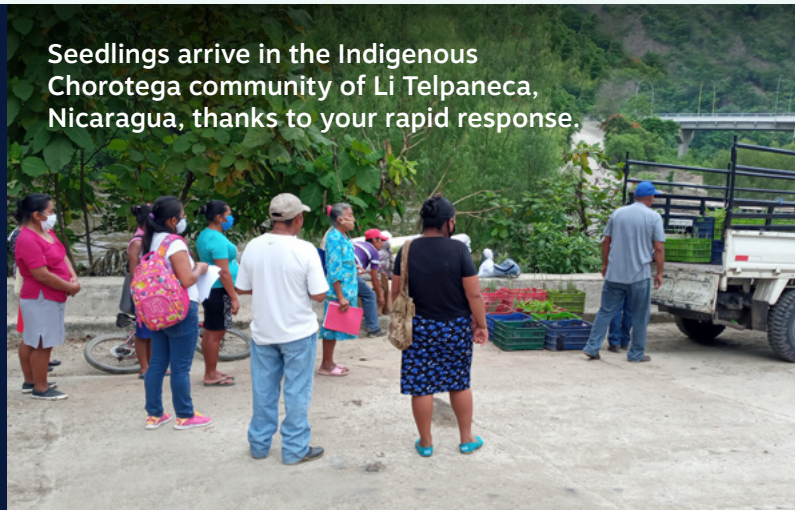
Thanks to his hard work and your ongoing support, Adonis now feels better prepared to keep his family healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I don't worry that there are no vegetables in the market because I produce what I need, thanks to the support of SeedChange and FIPAH."

emergency relief to many more families in Honduras, raising $75,000 in total.

The Government of Canada built on your support with an additional $2.6 million for a one-year emergency program. This will help reach over 25,000 people in Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras

Thank you for your steadfast support for farmers, through SeedChange, especially during these difficult times.



Seedlings arrive in the Indigenous Chorotega community of Li Telpaneca, Nicaragua, thanks to your rapid response.

"The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."
– Nelson Henderson



Farmer and local women's group leader Victoria Aguirre with her youngest child in Honduras.

"I have been donating to SeedChange for many years now. A few years ago I made the decision to leave a legacy gift to ensure this life-giving work can continue long into the future."

–Dr. Sally Humphries

You can seed change for generations to come

A bequest to SeedChange is a meaningful way to leave a legacy of hope and dedication to growing a better world. It is also financially advantageous: a charitable tax receipt will lower or even eliminate estate taxes.

To set up your legacy gift, contact your lawyer and ask them to draft, revise, or add a codicil to your will. You can either determine your gift as a percentage of your estate, or as a specific amount, by using this sample wording:

"I give to SeedChange (Charitable Registration Number 11927-6129-RR-0001), currently located at 56 Sparks Street, Suite 600, Ottawa, Ontario, ____ (%) of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate to be used for its general charitable purposes."

"I give to SeedChange (Charitable Registration Number 11927-6129-RR-0001), currently located at 56 Sparks Street, Suite 600, Ottawa, Ontario, the sum of $ ____ to be used in support of its general charitable purposes."

There's no need to worry about our recent name change

If you've already made provisions for a bequest, you do not need to update your will. We retain the legal ability to receive legacy gifts made in all our prior names, including USC Canada, USC Foundation, the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada, the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada Foundation, and the Lotta Hitschmanova Legacy Fund.

We'd love to hear more from you

If you are considering leaving a legacy gift, or already plan to, we would love to hear why this is meaningful to you. To share your story, or if you have any questions, please contact Katie Breen at katie@weseedchange.org or call 1-800-565-6872 extension 234.

You make this life-changing work happen.

Donate online. It's easy, fast, safe and secure.
weseedchange.org/donate

Call our toll-free number: **1-800-565-6872** and **press 1**

Please mail your cheque to SeedChange
56 Sparks Street, Suite 600, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5B1

SeedChange

We are a registered Canadian charity: 11927-6129-RR-0001

SeedChange was founded by Dr. Lotta Hitschmanova in 1945 as the Unitarian Service Committee of Canada (USC Canada).

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