

# Sharing, Inc.

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August 1, 2007

Dear Sharing Friend,

"On a summer morning  
I sat down  
on a hillside  
to think about God -

a worthy pastime.  
Near me, I saw  
a single cricket;  
it was moving the grains of a hillside

this way and that way.  
How great was its energy,  
how humble its effort.  
Let us hope

it will always be like this,  
each of us going on  
in our inexplicable ways  
building the universe." \*\*

Perhaps it is the confluence of narrowly missing being broadsided by a truck speeding through a red light in Cleveland, Mississippi — accompanying two friends who are facing the end of their physical lives — and the recent death of one of Sharing's earliest directors and long time friend, Lucile Craig, that brings me in this moment to look squarely at my own life's journey.

As I write I am filled with gratitude for having been given 25,883 days of life!  
I am reminded of Joan Chittister's admonition, "Today is the whole of life, don't miss it."  
I can picture the wooden sign in my kitchen that reminds me to, "Do what makes your heart sing."

One of the things that always makes my heart sing is my annual trip south when I have the opportunity to visit the friends and the projects that Sharing supports.

Between May 20<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup> I made my thirty-eighth trip. Beginning in Mound Bayou, MS, I spent time with the Campbell family and visited the Kemetic Institute. "Kemetic" is the ancient name for the Nile region. Their motto is, "**Building self-esteem through cultural awareness**".

My next stop was at the House of Joy Child Care and Learning Center in Okolona, MS, where Rubbie Jenkins directs students and staff with love and wisdom. We can indeed say that in these two places the universe is being built one child at a time.

These children in Mound Bayou and Okolona are precisely the children identified in the enclosed Mission statement - children living in the rural south who suffer the effects of economic poverty exacerbated by racism.

Other unique "Builders of the universe" in Sharing's orbit are:

- Ralph Paige and John Zippert of the Federation of Southern Co-ops/Land Assistance Fund
- Carol Zippert, a poet and one of the founders of the 21st century Youth Leadership Development Project
- Alabama State Senator Hank Sanders who leads the legislative fight to bring justice and equity by speaking on behalf of those whose voices are muted

In addition Carol and John Zippert are co-publishers of the Greene County Democrat, a weekly newspaper published in Eutaw, Alabama.

For **another example of what makes my heart sing** just look at the photo on the enclosed insert. Don't you LOVE it? Look at the exuberant joy on this young boy's face! He's loving the experience of a book in his hands. He is, in my heart and mind, the quintessential example representing the thousands of children in the rural south who have seen themselves pictured and/or written about in any one of the thousands of books that your generosity has enabled Sharing to send.

These books are written by and about African Americans. Most of them are spectacularly illustrated! Whenever I visit a place that has received some of the wonderful books that Sharing has sent, I catch glimpses of what they have meant to both children and adults there. Please take my word that **every single book** has a ripple effect - the impact of which is immeasurable

Those of us who are white have always seen ourselves reflected in our textbooks, magazines and newspapers so we can't even imagine how different and disconcerting it has been for African Americans who until recently never had that opportunity.

Please consider making a substantial contribution to our Christmas appeal this year - perhaps to honor a special teacher in your families' life

*Shalom,  
Kay Doherty*

\*\* "Song of the Builders" by Mary Oliver published in Why I Wake Early by Beacon Press

**2007 Walk Financial Statement**

As of July 31, 2007

**Income**

Harvard Walk	9,300
Hingham Walk	65,673
Rockville Walk	12,408
Wakefield Walk	5,671
Other Walks	7,975
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$101,027</b>

**Expenses**

Awards	597
Food & supplies	566
Insurance	1,000
Kay's trip south	2,030
Miscellaneous	501
Police protection	1,569
Postage	330
Printing	592
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,185</b>

**Balance remaining**

**\$93,842**

**Distributed as of 7-31-2006**

Ecumenical Food Pantry (Wakefield Walk)	1,000
Faith Church Food Pantry (Wakefield Walk)	1,000
Federation of Southern Co-ops	2,322
House of Joy	8,065
Kemetic Institute	2,660
Scholarships	8,000
Tri-Town Shelter (Rockville Walk)	4,136
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$27,183</b>

**Balance available for distribution**

**\$66,659**

Pledged for 2008 distribution

Federation of Southern Co-ops	Epes AL/Atlanta GA	2,000
House of Joy Day Care	Okolona MS	30,000
Kemetic Institute	Mound Bayou MS	18,000
Sharing's Scholar Fund		10,000
21 <sup>st</sup> Century Youth Leadership	Marion AL	9,600
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$69,600</b>

**\* there is \$2,080 still owed by 41 walkers**