

Sharing, Inc.

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Dear Sharing Friend,

July 2006

" There is an energy in us
which makes things happen
when the paths of other persons
touch ours, and we have to be there
to let it happen..."

From *Wherever You Go* by Gregory Norbert

It is with gratitude to God, the Source of life and the Essence of love, that I look back over the years and my many trips to the south.

On my second visit to Mississippi in 1973 I met Ronald Thornton for the first time. Ron had recently become the farm manager for the North Bolivar Farm Cooperative in Mound Bayou. At that time Bolivar County was the second poorest county in the entire country. It still remains high on the list of "non-metro counties with persistent economic poverty rates.

Ron was the first person to open my eyes to the harsh realities of economic poverty. He had a special feeling for those most vulnerable to its ravages — the elderly and the children. He worked 24/7 often going out of his way to bring vegetables to them.

Wendell Paris, whom I met during my third trip in 1974, was responsible for opening my eyes to the horrendous brutalities of racism. I recall one of our early conversations:

W: Kay, where did you grow up?

K: In New Jersey.

W: When you were young did you go to the movies?

K: Yes.

W: Where did you sit?

K: I don't remember really. Probably between the front and the middle.

W: Were there any Black people at the movies?

K: Yes.

W: Where did they sit?

K: Up in the balcony.

W: Well?

K: Well what?

W: Well didn't you think that was strange?

K: No, I didn't.

I guess that since I had chosen my seat I assumed they had done the same.

This conversation illustrates the pervasive segregation and unequal treatment Black people have had to endure. Those of us who are white **never** have had to consider how we might be treated in any public situation because of the color of our skin. Dr. Peggy McIntosh names this "white privilege," which automatically and subconsciously gives those of us who are white a sense of ease and entitlement that lasts for a lifetime.

When **the path of my life** touched Ron's and Wendy's **something happened**. To use an analogy, whenever we give and/or receive a hug, we open our arms and receive the other into our physical space. Ron and I and Wendy and I opened ourselves allowing the other into our soul-space. Those encounters were **life-changing** for me.

The timing of my trip south this year was such that I could be at Mound Bayou's high school graduation where Sharing's newest scholar, Corey Harris, was valedictorian. Corey will be attending Toogaloo College, then medical school, hoping to become a pediatrician.

Sharing's scholarship program was begun in 1996 as a fitting way to mark our twenty-fifth Good Friday Walk. Since its inception we have awarded **\$110,300** to **53 individual students** for college and for graduate school. **Education is key** to breaking out of poverty.

I'll close with this lyric by Jesse Manibusan, which is often my sung prayer.

"Open my eyes Lord. Help me to see your face. Open my eyes Lord. Help me to see.
Open my ears Lord. Help me to hear your voice. Open my ears Lord. Help me to hear.
Open my heart Lord. Help me to love like you. Open my heart Lord. Help me to love."

*Shalom,
Kay Doherty*

2006 Walk Financial Statement

As of July 31, 2006

Income

Harvard Walk	8,967	
Hingham Walk	54,309	
Rockville Walk	11,935	
Wakefield Walk	6,481	
Other Walks	12,552	
Total		\$94,244

Expenses

Awards	758	
Food & supplies	228	
Insurance	1,000	
Kay's trip south	1,756	
Miscellaneous	148	
Police protection	1,549	
Postage	307	
Printing	558	
Total		\$6,334

Balance remaining **\$87,910**

Distributed as of 7-31-2006

Ecumenical Food Pantry (Wakefield Walk)	1,080	
Faith Church Food Pantry (Wakefield Walk)	1,080	
Federation of Southern Co-ops	2,800	
House of Joy	750	
Kemetic Institute	2,900	
Scholarships	8,000	
Tri-Town Shelter (Rockville Walk)	1,326	
Total		\$17,936

Balance available for distribution **\$69,974**

Pledged for 2007 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 st Century Youth Leadership	Marion AL	10,000
Total		\$70,000