

Sharing, Inc.

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**"Poverty is the pronounced deprivation of well being,
the inability to satisfy one's basic needs"**

Dear Sharing Friend,

Over the past forty years I've probably visited with close to one hundred African American families in the rural south, mainly Mississippi and Alabama. My life has been richly blessed by these encounters, my perspective broadened, my understanding deepened. I've witnessed the painful toll that economic poverty takes on individuals and on families and also the equally painful choices that parents have to make daily in trying to stretch meager resources.

32.5 percent of Mississippi's children live below the poverty line, of those 15.5 percent live in "extreme poverty."

27.7 percent of Alabama's children live below the poverty line, of those 12.9 percent live in "extreme poverty."

In 2012 the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, (DHHS), set the poverty line for a family of four at \$23,050, and "extreme poverty" at \$11,525.

These are sobering numbers but remember those numbers represent real people; people just like you and me, people who hope that their children's lives will be better than theirs. Many of them realize that education is the best way out of poverty.

Students in the public schools of Alabama and Mississippi are over ninety percent African American and the majority of them come from economically poor families. On my recent trip south I visited two elementary schools in Dallas County Alabama which includes Selma. **Fifty-three percent of the children in Dallas County live in poverty.**

As many of you realize, for the past eight years Sharing has been sending beautiful new books, by and about African Americans, to the ninety-three schools in Senator Hank Sanders District which includes Dallas County. All of these have been placed in the schools' libraries. In an attempt to get attractive, eye-catching books into the hands of more students, this year we will be sending three or four books to every single classroom in Dallas County from kindergarten through sixth grade.

You are Sharing. Your support makes this project possible. **Thank you.**

Shalom,

2012 Walk Financial Statement

As of July 31, 2012

Income

Hingham Walk	63,523
Rockville Walk	14,252
Wakefield Walk	7,702
Other Walks	12,658

Total	\$98,135
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Expenses

Awards	450
Food & supplies	1,132
Insurance	418
Kay's trip south	1,523
Miscellaneous	686
Police protection	943
Printing	729
School use	421

Total	\$6,302
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Balance remaining	\$91,833
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Distributed as of 7-31-2012

Federation of Southern Co-ops	1,762
House of Joy	895
Kemetic Institute	2,243
Two Food Pantries (Wakefield Walk)	2,700
Tri-Town Shelter (Rockville Walk)	4,800

Total	\$12,400
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Balance available for distribution	\$79,433
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Pledged for 2013 distribution	\$79,400
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Federation of Southern Co-ops	Epes AL/Atlanta GA	5,000
House of Joy Day Care	Okolona MS	24,000
Kemetic Institute	Mound Bayou MS	16,000
21st Century Youth Leadership	Selma AL	12,000
Sharing's Scholarship Program		12,000
Books for Dallas County		up to 10,400