

Sharing, Inc.

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August 2011

Dear Sharing Friend,

"It's like a storm that cuts a path
It breaks your will, it feels like that
You think you're lost but you're not lost
On your own you're not alone

I will stand by you, I will help you through
When you've done all you can do and you can't cope
I will dry your eyes, I will fight your fight
I will hold you tight and I won't let go

It hurts my heart to see you cry.
I know it's dark this part of life
Oh it finds us all, we're too small to stop the rain
Oh but when it rains..."

These words, sung by Rascal Flatts on the Oprah Winfrey Show finale in May impacted me greatly. I have been humming or singing them ever since and they framed my visits in the south. Who among us hasn't been there, hurting, feeling hopeless, needing. Then at other times filled with compassion, reaching out, giving the gift of one's presence.

On July 12th in my hotel room in Memphis I thought about the contrasts between the familiarity and comforts of HOME and of the relative "rigors" ahead of me on what would become my 1,000 mile journey visiting projects in Mississippi and Alabama. In that room nothing was familiar. I couldn't imagine how devastating it must be for those forced by circumstances to flee their home country to come to a completely unfamiliar place.

My first visits were to be in Alabama where they had recently passed new anti-immigrant legislation; legislation that the New York Times called, "the most extreme, draconian (measure)..." This law makes it a crime to drive an undocumented person to church or a hospital emergency room, and requires children to report on the immigration status of their parents.

Carol and John Zippert live in Eutaw, Alabama. Their entire adult lives have been about standing with others, building community in the process. Indeed they seem to think in terms of "we" rather than "I". In addition to co-publishing the weekly Greene County Democrat they have co-founded with others the following organizations: The Alabama New South Coalition, The Black Belt Community Foundation, The Federation of Southern Co-operatives/Land Assistance Fund, The Society of Folk Arts and Culture, and the 21st Century Youth Leadership Development Project. Many times, in spite of a "to do" list longer than his arm, I have witnessed John Zippert take the time to listen to an individual's plight. This illustration of "standing by someone" is something that I have observed countless times during my thirty-nine trips in the south.

In addition to John, and beginning in 1973 with Ron Thornton, manager of the North Bolivar Farm Co-op in Mound Bayou, MS, I am proud to call these southern community activists my friends, including the Campbell family, Pat Jackson, Rubbie Jenkins, Ralph Paige, Alice Paris, George Paris, Wendell Paris, Hank Sanders, Faya Rose Toure, Albert Turner, Billie Jean Young and Carol Zippert.

Sometimes ours is the broken heart. Sometimes ours is the holding heart. At all times we are held within the heart of God.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Doherty".

2011 Walk Financial Statement

As of July 31, 2011

Income

Hingham Walk	60,172.00
Rockville Walk	12,724.00
Wakefield Walk	7,852.00
Other Walks	10,515.00

Total **\$91,263.00**

Expenses

Awards	710.00
Food & supplies	404.00
Insurance	418.00
Kay's trip south	2,244.00
Miscellaneous	220.00
Police protection	925.00
Printing	529.00
School use	488.00

Total **5,938.00**

Balance remaining **\$85,325.00**

Distributed as of 7-31-2011

Federation of Southern Co-ops	3,750.00
House of Joy	1,132.00
Kemetic Institute	1,892.00
Scholarship	1,000.00
S.W. AL Assoc. Rural & Minority Women	1,000.00
Three Food Pantries (Wakefield Walk)	2,400.00
Tri-Town Shelter (Rockville Walk)	4,135.00

Total **15,309.00**

Balance available for distribution **\$70,016.00**

Pledged for 2012 distribution **\$70,600.00**

Federation of Southern Co-ops, Epes AL/Atlanta GA	4,000.00
House of Joy Day Care, Okolona MS	27,000.00
Kemetic Institute, Mound Bayou MS	16,800.00
21st Century Youth Leadership, Selma AL	10,800.00
Sharing's Scholarship Program	12,000.00

There is \$3,030.00 owed by 10 walkers who have made partial payments.

There is \$763.00 owed by 17 unpaid walkers.



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