

# Sharing, Inc.

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Dear Sharing Friend,

" It is in the shelter of each other that the people live." \*

During my May trip south, as on most of my trips, I visited the rural headquarters of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund in Epes, Alabama. For forty-five years the Federation has been a catalyst for developing self-supporting communities through cooperative initiatives and land retention efforts primarily in the rural south. Currently over a ten state area member cooperatives include groups of farmers, fishers, ranchers, seamstresses and credit union members. The dedication and the expertise of the staff and board of directors are impressive. That is why Sharing's Good Friday Walk money has supported the Federation for thirty-five years. Their work continues to enable hundreds to experience the power and the joy of sheltering each other.

## Justice?

My heart is heavy. The Supreme Court's ruling that gutted the historic Voting Rights Act and the Florida Court's acquittal of Trayvon Martin's killer are travesties of justice. Historically and presently African-Americans do not receive equal justice.

## The Voting Rights Act

One picture is worth a thousand words.

For me one of those pictures was on the front page of the Boston Globe, Monday, March 7, 1965.\*\* It had been taken the day before, the day that would become known as "Bloody Sunday". That photograph captured the moment when Alabama State Troopers, some on horseback, wearing gas masks, carrying billy-clubs and electric cattle prods ruthlessly attacked the orderly two-by-two line of citizens who had begun a peaceful march to the State Capital in Montgomery to protest the disenfranchisement of African-Americans.

The previous evening I had returned from being cloistered with a group of women experiencing an intense four-day, life-changing retreat called a Cursillo. I was filled with God's love and a "knowing" that each and every one of us is so loved. The contrast couldn't have been more striking.

Bloody Sunday provided the spark, a catalyst that propelled the struggle of African-Americans to gain their long-denied, basic, constitutional right to vote. It seared it into the hearts and consciousness of thousands of Americans all over the country including President Lyndon Baines Johnson who in speaking of the attack said "... The blows that were received, the blood that was shed... must strengthen the determination of each of us to bring full and equal and exact justice to all of our people..." \*\*\*

President Johnson announced that a new Voting Rights Bill would be sent to Congress in March of that year. This law would strike down all restrictions used to deny the people the right to vote. For almost fifty years it did just that: equal access to the voting booth was guaranteed. Now the Supreme Court has nullified the section that required certain jurisdictions (those that had regulations overtly denying the right to vote to minorities) to pre-clear any changes with the Justice Department.

Already some states are enacting laws that had been or would have been denied clearance by the Justice Department!

## Trayvon Martin

"What does it say about a justice system that precludes prosecutors from focusing on race as a factor in the fatal shooting of an African-American teenager armed only with a soft drink and a bag of Skittles? ... Prosecutors, she (Judge Deborah Nelson) ruled...could not argue that Zimmerman 'racially profiled' Martin...Do we really think Martin's race had no influence on Zimmerman's characterization of a young man walking along at an early hour in the evening as 'a punk?' " \*\*\*\*

"Justice failed Trayvon the night he was killed. We should be appalled and outraged, but perhaps not surprised, that it failed him again Saturday night, with a verdict setting his killer free.

Our society considers young black men to be dangerous, interchangeable, expendable, and guilty until proven innocent. This is the conversation about race that we desperately need to have, but probably, as in the past, will try our best to avoid.

To me, and to many who watched the trial, the fact that Zimmerman recklessly initiated the tragic encounter was enough to establish, at a minimum, guilt of manslaughter. The six women on the jury disagreed." \*\*\*\*\*

What will you do to help assure "full and equal and exact justice to all of our people"?

Shalom,



- \* Joan Chittister
- \*\* Denver Post 2013/03/07
- \*\*\* Gary May Bending Toward Justice:  
The Voting Rights Act and the Transformation of American
- \*\*\*\* Eileen McNamara Cognoscenti 7-15-13
- \*\*\*\*\* Eugene Robinson Washington Post columnist Patriot Ledger 7-18-13

**2013 Walk Financial Statement  
As of July 31, 2013**

Income		
Hingham Walk	59,730	
Rockville Walk	13,349	
Wakefield Walk	6,878	
Other Walks	12,409	
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,366</b>	<b>\$92,366</b>
Expenses		
Awards	698	
Food & supplies	1,415	
Kay's trip south	3,022	
Miscellaneous	409	
Police protection	962	
Printing	516	
School use	387	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,409</b>	
<b>Balance remaining</b>		<b>\$84,987</b>
<b>Distributed as of 7-31-2013</b>		
Federation of Southern Co-ops	2,000	
House of Joy	621	
Kemetic Institute	1,336	
Two Food Pantries (Wakefield Walk)	2,300	
Tri-Town Shelter (Rockville Walk)	4,333	
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,590</b>	
<b>Balance available for distribution</b>		<b>\$74,367</b>
Pledged for 2014 distribution		
Federation of Southern Co-ops	Epes AL/Atlanta GA	20,000
House of Joy Day Care	Okolona MS	6,000?
Kemetic Institute	Mound Bayou MS	12,000
21st Century Youth Leadership	Selma AL	18,000
Sharing's Scholarship Program		17,000