



# SIFAT JOURNAL

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN PRACTICAL WAYS

FALL 2021



## GivingTuesday is Nov. 30, 2021!



Where has 2021 gone? That seems to be a frequent question, especially when we realize the holiday season is upon us. In stores, Halloween candy, Thanksgiving paper products and Christmas ornaments are competing for shelf space and the possibility of making it into your shopping cart!

At SIFAT, we hope that you will add another celebration into your holiday season — GivingTuesday! GivingTuesday began in 2012 when two organizations came together with the idea to set aside a day that was all about celebrating the generosity of giving, a great American tradition. Along with many other organizations, SIFAT joined with this idea in 2013. Your response has been overwhelming and humbling.

Now, instead of dreading the end of the year with worry about our finances, we are excited to experience your response to our needs and to feel the love and commitment our SIFAT Family has to the mission our staff carries out each day. After GivingTuesday, we are able to work on our budget and focus on setting goals to start the coming year off with hope and motivation, instead of putting all of our energy into simply surviving.

### Three Ways to Participate

1. **Share your SIFAT Experience.** Everyone needs a smile and encouragement these days. Share one of your favorite SIFAT memories (funny or serious) on social media. Use the hashtag #MySIFATMoment, so we can share them.
2. **Commit to Pray and/or Participate.** Pray for SIFAT staff, projects and programs. Your daily prayers are heard and are such an encouragement. Choose a way to get personally involved in SIFAT. Begin to volunteer, choose a Learn & Serve program to bring a group to experience our campus or join an international mission team!

3. **Donate to SIFAT.** Generous donors created a \$65,000 matching fund that doubles your donation! Our goal is to raise \$130,000. **You can donate by check or online.** Designate checks *GivingTuesday* and mail by Nov. 30.

### Three Online Giving Options ([www.sifat.org/donate](http://www.sifat.org/donate))

1. **Give directly to SIFAT.** You will be redirected to our PayPal page, where you can donate with your credit or debit card. A transaction fee will be deducted from your donation, or you can choose to supplement this fee.
2. **Give through the PayPal Giving Fund.** You will be redirected to the PayPal Giving Fund, which covers the transaction fee. Donations given through this method can take up to 45 days for us to receive. To designate your gift for GivingTuesday, please e-mail [accounting@sifat.org](mailto:accounting@sifat.org).
3. **Give through The Advance** (UMC Global Ministries). SIFAT receives 100% of each donation without any transaction fees being taken. Donors can choose to give credit to their local UMC congregation, as well. There is a delay for SIFAT to receive funds and donor information.

### GivingTuesday Success

2013	\$108,080	2018	\$140,050
2014	\$61,780	2019	\$186,200
2015	\$65,090	GTNow	\$90,670
2016	\$78,483	2020	\$163,287
2017	\$108,450	2021	???

# Promoting Sweet Potato Leaves to Eat

Kathy Bryson  
International Training Director

Hunger is more than a lack of food. While famine, drought and pictures of starving children may come to mind readily, hidden hunger from the lack of small amounts of vitamins or minerals found in nutrient dense foods is more common.

Almost one-third of people in our world suffer from a micronutrient deficiency, according to the World Health Organization. Two of the most common are lack of vitamin A, which impacts the immune system and a child's survival chance in the developing world, and iron, which affects energy level, learning and productivity.

Sweet potatoes are nutritious and are more tolerant of pests and high moisture than other leafy vegetables. Many people do not realize that the leaves of the plant are edible and full of vitamin A, iron and other nutrients. Some of the leaves can be harvested while the tuber continues to grow.

In San Carlos, Costa Rica, where SIFAT's Central American Training Center is located, many types of tubers are grown, including varieties of sweet potatoes—which supply an important source of carbohydrates in the local diet. However, the daily diet is often deficient in micronutrients, as leafy vegetables are not common, and fruit is seasonal.

We decided to experiment with three varieties of sweet potatoes grown in this region. Two of our interns from UNA (the national agricultural university in Honduras) cultivated

these varieties, comparing and contrasting them. We were amazed how well the leaves produced!

Now, we had to do some social marketing. We had a group of 25 coming for a home garden workshop. People do not normally eat green leafy vegetables here. Yet, we need to promote them, as they grow well and could greatly impact the nutrition of our local community!

During the coffee time, besides the usual sweet breads served, we decided to add some stir fry with cabbage and sweet potato leaves seasoned lightly. The group, which included women and children, were amazed to see us serve this strange food. But, not wanting to offend their hosts, they reluctantly took small portions to sample on their plates.

Imagine their surprise when they actually enjoyed the taste! In no time, the entire pot was emptied after the children came back for more—the same children whose parents assured us would never eat anything green.

It was so exciting for us to be able to encourage these families in starting their own gardens, as well as to share this nutrition cooking demonstration. This is where promoting good nutrition and healthy children starts—empowering families in the home! It also warmed my heart when I overheard talk in the community as the workshop participants eagerly shared with their neighbors about how to

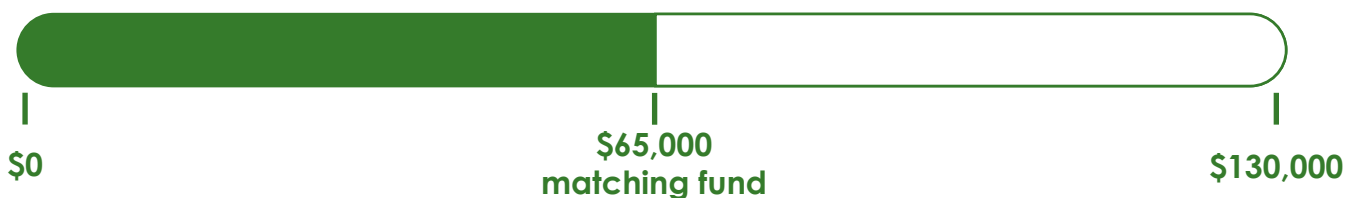
prepare delicious sweet potato leaves for dinner!

At SIFAT, we like to *Think Globally and Act Locally*. Sweet potato leaves have much potential to help combat malnutrition globally, as well as in our small rural Costa Rican community.



*SIFAT Honduran intern Keren measures production of sweet potato leaves in her demonstration project.*

## Help us Reach our GivingTuesday2021 Goal - \$130,000



## Did you know?

A recent e-mail from the IRS included the following update about deductions for individuals who do not itemize on their tax returns. Contact your tax adviser to see about this and other changes that may benefit you from your donations to SIFAT this year!

*Usually, taxpayers who take the standard deduction cannot deduct their charitable contributions. The law now permits taxpayers to claim a limited deduction on their 2021 federal*

*income tax returns for cash contributions they made to certain qualifying charitable organizations.*

*These taxpayers, including married individuals filing separate returns, can claim a deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions to qualifying charities during 2021. The maximum deduction is \$600 for married individuals filing joint returns.*

## Family Gardens for Food Security

Kathy Bryson  
International Training Director

A local church pastor in Costa Rica asked SIFAT to help promote family gardens with his church. He was concerned about his congregation. He knows the struggles they face trying to feed their families because of lost employment and situations brought on by the pandemic. He wanted to set an example to the larger community with what can be done to produce food on a small plot of land next to a family's kitchen.

"After we get these families started producing food, their neighbors will be inspired to do the same. We can impact our whole community to provide more food for the children," said Pastor Melvin.

We went to his church in El Futuro, the rural community across the river from us, to give the first workshop with the goal to raise awareness and to see the feasibility of starting a family garden.

SIFAT's Honduran volunteers Andrea and Nahin led parts of the workshop on economic and ecological benefits of a garden. I led the part on the nutritional impact of fresh produce for our family's health. We split into small groups, and each group designed its family garden on poster board and how they would divide the tasks among family members—the compost, soil preparation, planting, harvest and food preparation. Each group presented its ideas to the class. It was neat to witness them all getting excited and full of ideas! Afterward, they wanted to keep their garden designs to hang all around the church. They mentioned how they thought this would be a great activity to get the grandparents working with the children and how it would bring the family together to work and harvest healthy food to eat.

At the next workshop, the group of 10 families came to SIFAT's training center to learn more about organic fertilizer and gardening ideas. I was thankful for the previous eight Honduran interns' hard work that gave us gardening demonstration areas. We shared two varieties of spinach (Okinawa and Brasilena), which have done exceptionally well here, to take home and plant. Additionally, each family took home a fruit tree to plant in their home garden. We encouraged them to start small and add on. We will continue to reach out. Pastor Melvin and his wife were overjoyed, since they had long wanted to do something practical for the food needs of their community besides temporary care packages. The culture of family gardening has been lost. People think only big farmers produce food here: pineapples, bananas, yucca. But, families can garden for their own needs, too! The pandemic has made it painfully clear how fragile food security is when people are totally dependent on grocery store purchases.



*Costa Rican women participate in an activity to explore how to include a rainbow of colors in their family meals for good nutrition.*



# National Children's Day in Costa Rica

Kathy Bryson  
International Training Director

We co-hosted a special day for neighborhood children on National Children's Day with a local community church at SIFAT's Central American Training Center. About 35 children and some of their parents came for a day of fun activities, Bible stories, music, outdoor activities and food.

Our Honduran volunteer, Andrea, taught a special class on Creation Care for the children. She shared how important it is to take care of God's creation. Then, she taught the parts of plants, how to care for them and led special games emphasizing being sustainable. Church members shared Bible stories, and a 10-year-old even preached a sermon on "Obeying Your Parents." We played games on the soccer field, and church members dressed up as clowns to give out prizes. The day ended with a piñata!

When the world seems upside down and parents stress about making ends meet, it is good just to have a space for some good, old-fashioned, healthy fun in the fresh air. I am thankful that SIFAT has a venue to create a safe place for children in our local community. Our open-air classroom and the field are conducive to promoting mental health—a vital part of community development.

We would love to have more educational toys and children's books for the small community library we have started. It is heartwarming to see how interested the children are in looking at books! If you would like to contribute to SIFAT's Central American Training Center in Costa Rica, please designate your gift *Costa Rica*.



*Kathy visits with two Nicaraguan immigrant children who visit SIFAT's Central American Training Center in Costa Rica.*

## Stay Connected with SIFAT

Visit our blog ([sifat.org/blog](http://sifat.org/blog)) and find us on Facebook ([facebook.com/sifatbook](https://facebook.com/sifatbook)) or Twitter (@sifattweets) for updates between newsletters! Sign up for our e-newsletter at [www.sifat.org](http://www.sifat.org).

**Are you moving?** Don't forget to send us your updated contact information. E-mail [info@sifat.org](mailto:info@sifat.org) with your new mailing address, phone number and e-mail address.

## Community Workshops



SIFAT interns completed eight projects at the Costa Rican demonstration campus and gave three community demonstration workshops. We kept the groups small, limiting participation and remaining outdoors or in our open-air classroom. It was rewarding to see how interested the locals were in learning what the interns had done. They were especially keen on the sustainable system of food production in small spaces for small animals. Vermiculture and making organic fertilizers and pesticides also garnered much interest.

# Doctor in your House / The Golden Bread

Peggy Walker  
International Team Coordinator

There is no way we at SIFAT can express our gratitude for the many supporters who have given for this program since May of last year. You truly listened to the cries of the hard-hit communities in which we serve in Ecuador, especially the children and the elderly. They had no food, but you provided something to eat; they had no one to care if they were sick, but you provided medicines and a doctor to help; they had given up, but you provided hope! You truly cared, even when COVID was causing chaos in all our lives here at home. Thank you!

The vaccination rate in Ecuador now is more than 85 percent, but it will take years for their economy to fully recover. There are few jobs available, and the influx of refugees from Venezuela ready to work for almost nothing means that even the most menial jobs are not open for Ecuadorians. For this reason, we are committed to continue Doctor in your House on a smaller scale through the end of the year, at least.

Although the pastors in our projects are trying to find another way to feed their people, they have asked us to please help a little longer. They are giving



the children a hot meal three times a week in their churches and identifying those families most in need to continue providing bags of rice. Dr. Roberto will make sure the children get another month of vitamins, as they have become malnourished from lack of protein this last year.

As we restart our busy lives, we hope you will still support this program for a while longer to allow time for the churches to find other resources. We can pray that the parents will find some work soon, and the children will safely return to school. This is more than we

dare to expect after your generosity during this pandemic, but we know those who love the people with whom we work in Ecuador have always been there to answer the needs of the children.

Every child deserves to dream, and every elderly person in those barrios deserves to live with dignity. Because of your kindness, this has become a possibility for those who had little to believe in. Thank you!

SIFAT teams will return to Ecuador in 2022. I hope you will consider joining one of our teams. I would love for you all to see how your generosity has made a difference in the lives of so many and to receive a hug from those children you have helped survive the uncertain circumstances in which they live. That hug will say more than my words can express!

The holiday season is approaching. We pray that you all will continue to stay safe and be able to enjoy this wonderful time with your families this year. Thank you again. SIFAT would not exist to continue sharing God's love in practical ways around the world without the caring and kindness of friends like you.





# Final Phase of Construction in Aida Leon

Peggy Walker  
International Team Coordinator

The long-awaited dream of having a safe place for the children of Aida Leon is about to become a reality. When SIFAT could no longer travel to Ecuador in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID pandemic, Esperanza Eterna's Pastor Wilson realized that the church community center our SIFAT teams had been building for two years would be put on hold and not completed when the children of Aida Leon needed it the most. SIFAT donors did not allow that to happen!

In the best of times, Aida Leon is one of the poorest communities in Quito. As in most marginalized barrios, the children suffer the most when the parents have no work, the schools are closed and even two meals a day is often a luxury.

During this time of shutdown, many have been displaced from their homes, and child abuse increases drastically. The promise of a day care center for children, where they could be safe and have a hot meal, seemed a long way in the future.

When we found out we could complete the building for \$45,000, a SIFAT team leader jumped in to start the effort by creating a \$10,000 matching fund, and our SIFAT supporters gave what they could to help. Not only would this fund finish the center, but it would also provide employment to local people and give the church members in Aida Leon a sense of ownership, knowing they had helped to provide a safe shelter for their children. When funds were low, they held a minga, a workday where the entire church came out to do whatever they could to make sure work on the project did not stall. It brought people together who had almost lost hope. Because our SIFAT donors gave, a community came together, when just a few weeks before, they had been thinking only of trying to provide for themselves. There could be no doubt that God touched Aida Leon in a profound way because you cared.

The money was raised, and the building is almost finished! Because Edwin Contreras, our SIFAT engineer, knew funds were hard to come by, he tightened his budget to have enough left after construction for windows and doors and to furnish the much-needed kitchen, so the hard-working ladies of the church could prepare meals for the children.

As you see in these photographs, after more than 10 years of the church praying for this center, it should be completed by the end of the year. This would not have happened without your love and concern for others—whom many of you do not even know. SIFAT thanks you, and the children in Aida Leon thank you. This was a blessing the people there could not imagine actually happening, especially during this pandemic.



We hope some of you will join one of our SIFAT teams to Ecuador in 2022. Although teams will be working in another part of Quito, we will visit Aida Leon to see how hope was given to so many.

We appreciate and thank you for supporting our work in Ecuador!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these. — Matthew 19:14 (NIV)

Together  
we give.

SAVE THE DATE

Nov. 30, 2021



GIVING  
TUESDAY

## Shop for a Cause!

Whenever you shop online, you  
can support SIFAT!

Thousands of retailers donate a  
percentage of your purchases to  
SIFAT. Use Goodshop or iGive,  
search for your favorite store and  
follow the link to its website to  
shop with purpose. Coupons are  
linked to help you save.

[www.goodshop.com/nonprofit/  
servants-in-faith-and-  
technology-sifat](http://www.goodshop.com/nonprofit/servants-in-faith-and-technology-sifat)

[www.igive.com/sifat](http://www.igive.com/sifat)

AmazonSmile donates .5% of  
each purchase to SIFAT.

[www.smile.amazon.com/ch/63-  
0776048](http://www.smile.amazon.com/ch/63-0776048)

Android and iPhone users can  
turn on AmazonSmile in the  
updated app's settings.

# Ecuador 2022 — Let's Go!

Peggy Walker  
International Team Coordinator

We are excited to announce that Ecuador is open for SIFAT teams in 2022! Dr. Roberto Contreras, SIFAT Ecuador director, says he feels it is now safe to receive teams, since almost 90 percent of those in Quito are fully vaccinated. The government has announced that it will begin giving the vaccine to children from 5 to 12 years of age in late October, making it possible for all teams to host VBS. The Ecuadorian newspapers even say that the Quito area has reached herd immunity!

SIFAT teams will once again serve with Pastor Rafael and his wife, Anita, from Villaflores, on their outreach project in Machachi. Our construction teams will break ground on a small three-floor addition to the existing church that will provide needed cafeteria and classroom space for their fast-growing after-school program, *Sweet Refuge, Beautiful Valley*. Medical teams will be needed to serve so many who have been without medical care for two years in Machachi and our other projects.

Below is a list of scheduled teams for 2022. Please prayerfully consider joining one of these or reserving dates for a team of your own. Ecuador is a wonderful place for all ages to serve, and we welcome families, as well as individuals, on all of our teams. All ages and skills are needed. We have a place for everybody! Please call or e-mail me if you would consider serving the people of Ecuador on a SIFAT mission team. It is a wonderful experience to see the smiles of these beautiful people as we work alongside them in Machachi, while you experience the joy of truly spreading the love of Christ to those in need.

### Current 2022 Ecuador Mission Teams

March 5-12, 2022	Auburn University McWhorter School of Building Science (no additional members)
May 13 – 21, 2022	Women's Health Team (medical)
June 4 – 11, 2022	Duncan Memorial UMC
June 10 – 18, 2022	Guntersville FUMC (medical)
June 11-18, 2022	Clear Lake UMC
June 18 – 25, 2022	St. Luke's Episcopal Church
June 25 – July 2, 2022	Alexander City FBC
June 25 – July 2, 2022	Alexander City Methodist Church
July 2 – 9, 2022	Eufaula FUMC
July 9 – 16, 2022	Clanton FUMC
July 16 – 23, 2022	open - Team Needed!
July 23 – 30, 2022	Trussville FUMC
Fall – Dates TBD	South Carolina UMWIM
September TBD	AU McWhorter School of Building Science (no additions)
October TBD	Centerpointe Church (medical)

For more information on pricing or to download a 2022 project brochure, visit [www.sifat.org/international-missions/ecuador](http://www.sifat.org/international-missions/ecuador) or e-mail [internationalteams@sifat.org](mailto:internationalteams@sifat.org).

## Take a SHARE in SIFAT!

Be part of SIFAT all year! Our monthly commitments — the SHARE program — help us budget effectively. Sign up at [www.sifat.org/donate](http://www.sifat.org/donate) or contact Marie Lanier, [lanierm@sifat.org](mailto:lanierm@sifat.org).

## Matching Funds

Have you checked to see if your employer will match your donation to SIFAT? Many companies do, and some even match donations of retirees or spouses of employees.

## IRA Contributions

If you are required to take a disbursement from your IRA, you can donate a percentage or all of it directly to SIFAT. By donating to a nonprofit without receiving the disbursement, you do not pay taxes on the disbursement.

## Plan for SIFAT's Future

Did you know that you can donate stocks or leave provisions for SIFAT in your will? Contact executive director Tom Corson, [corson@sifat.org](mailto:corson@sifat.org), for more information.

## Questions or Need Help?

Contact Diana, [accounting@sifat.org](mailto:accounting@sifat.org), if documentation is needed for your company's matching funds or if you have questions about getting your IRA donation sent directly to SIFAT.

# Celebrating Five Years

Marie Lanier  
Promotions and Marketing  
Coordinator

Five years ago, Art Stephenson, who serves on SIFAT's board of directors, led the creation of our Graduate Projects' Committee (GPC). This group completely restructured our application, acceptance and fund raising processes for SIFAT graduates seeking support for their projects. Now, we are able to help more of our graduates and also get more SIFAT supporters involved in doing so.

Each project approved by the GPC is assigned a champion whose task is to reach out to people in their circles of influence to find donors for the project. New people are introduced to SIFAT and see the process in action of how SIFAT training makes a difference in communities throughout the world.

Reflecting back on five years of projects, we began to wonder how successful these projects have been long-term, which is always a goal for being sustainable. How were our graduates, their ministries and their communities?

So, the GPC reached out to many of them. We received pictures and reports, and we realized that follow up is such a vital part of the process. We can

celebrate success, encourage through obstacles and learn from failure.

In his August report to the board of directors, Art shared that nearly every project has found success. Since October 2016, 47 projects have been approved and 46 have been fully funded. This year, we added a category for small projects (see page 9) and provided nine grants. As of October 2021, \$357,754 has been raised for our approved international graduates' large projects!



*In Nigeria, Pastor Obi fills everyone's cup with safe drinking water during the celebration to commission a third drilled well. About 2,000 people will benefit and escape the effects of contaminated water.*

*Pastor Obi submitted project proposals after he realized his ministry kept treating symptoms instead of addressing the root cause of the problem. His report included future plans to train community members in maintenance and to form an association to manage the facility.*

Art narrowed down these 47 projects into four categories: Clean, Safe Water; Food Security and Farms; School; and Economic Empowerment. On our website, each project has a profile, if you want to dive deeper.

For example, five SIFAT graduates have successfully implemented eight projects to provide clean, safe, potable water for eight communities. The importance of having access to safe, potable

water cannot be overstated. Prior to completing these projects, women in these poor communities often walked miles to obtain unsafe, contaminated water, which caused illness and life-threatening diseases.

Thank you for supporting our graduates in their missions throughout the world!



# Family Seed Banks in Honduras

Sarah Corson  
SIFAT Co-founder

*Editor's Note: This year, our Graduates' Project Committee began offering small project grants twice a year. Each project must meet specific criteria and be no more than \$200. In March, nine grants were awarded for the inaugural round.*

Sometimes, a little thing can make a big difference in one's life. A village may invite a SIFAT graduate to come give them a workshop on some needed technology, but they may not be able to pay the graduates' bus ticket and some graduates may not have enough for the ticket either, so they cannot give the workshop that could have helped many people live healthier lives. For that reason, SIFAT started a fund for Small Graduate Projects, which are no more than \$200 each.

In India, graduate Awon bought \$200 worth of materials so that a group of differently-abled students could start their own microenterprises by making crafts to sell. In Honduras, Hector built a solar dehydrator to preserve food. In Haiti, Samuel started a \$200 project to restore degraded soil, so the community could grow more food. And there are others. During the last six months, SIFAT has partnered with nine graduates in five countries on different projects for basic human needs. We have been blessed to partner with these students in small projects that we believe will have a big impact, and we have learned many things from our graduates and their projects.

In Honduras, Noelia Tomasa Larios is a professor at the National Agricultural University (UNA). Several years ago, she brought a group of her students

to SIFAT in Alabama to be part of the May Field Study. Noelia had an important small project in mind—a project that could be done with \$200, but would have far-reaching results. As more and more hybrid seeds find their way into other countries, heritage varieties are being lost. Noelia felt that if each family had its own small seed bank, the heritage seeds would be safer than if these families tried to save them all in one large seed bank. She wanted to teach community leaders how to plant, harvest and preserve seeds of the best varieties of corn and beans for their area.

**"Sometimes, a little thing can make a big difference in one's life."**

Representing UNA, Noelia invited the Red Cross and CODEL (the local emergency committee) to send a group of leaders to learn these principles. Then, they could teach these principles to the people and encourage them to save the special seeds that had adapted to their area through the centuries. There was a lot of interest in the seed-saving classes.

Varieties of well-adapted corn and bean seed, which also were favorites of the local people, were chosen. Two plots of 1,500 square meters each were prepared. From soil preparation through cultivation and the harvest, and then to post-harvest management, Noelia taught these community leaders how each family could make its own seed bank. The people were made aware of the importance of taking care of seeds to achieve the assurance of future food in quantity and quality.

As we follow the work of our graduates in their projects in countries across the world, we, too, have the joy of learning many new things.



*SIFAT graduate David from Guatemala received a small project grant to build an appropriate technology pyrolyzer to make charcoal for a coffee growers' cooperative.*

## Learn More About SIFAT Graduates' Projects

New graduates' projects needing funded will soon be approved and added to our website. You can also review previous projects that have been completed because of the support of SIFAT donors.

[www.sifat.org/international-missions/international-projects](http://www.sifat.org/international-missions/international-projects)

For more information about becoming a project champion to raise funds for one of our graduates' projects, contact GPC chairman Art Stephenson, [stephensona@sifat.org](mailto:stephensona@sifat.org).

# Calling all Work Teams

Marie Lanier  
Promotions and Marketing  
Coordinator

SIFAT needs work teams of all skill levels and all ages to help us maintain the property that God has given us! The SIFAT campus offers multiple ways for your group to get involved through service and to be a part of God's ministry at SIFAT! If you are interested in giving to SIFAT through service, this could be a great opportunity for you!

Here is a list of some of our current campus needs. Both skilled and unskilled volunteers can help!

## Global Village

- Repair the Nigeria House
- Clean village paths
- Help with erosion control
- Replace bamboo on the huts
- Mulch pathways
- Remove old garden fencing
- Clean Old Aldea

## Grounds

- Blaze new hiking trails
- Clean up landscape
- Thin bamboo
- Prune and weed
- Perform maintenance on both Sarah and John's Gardens
- Organize maintenance shed
- Make a new challenge course

## Construction Projects

- Rebuild buildings in the Urban Slum
- Paint the fences on campus
- Fix the Guest House bathroom
- Renovate the Education Building classroom
- Clean the Education Building
- Enclose the area behind the maintenance shed
- Paint Quonset Hut floor
- Build and organize a new garden shed

## Women's Groups

- Organize the storage trailer beside the cafeteria
- Shred documents
- Deep clean our facilities
- Makeover the High Rise (staff housing)
- Prepare merchandise for sale in the SIFAT Village Store

Work teams can come for a day or stay on campus for several days. Some even choose to add Learn & Serve programming to their experience. Our staff enjoys getting to serve alongside our work teams to get to know our supporters better and share what is happening at SIFAT. If you are interested in bringing a work team to SIFAT, please contact Caroline at [learnandserve@sifat.org](mailto:learnandserve@sifat.org) for the latest list of projects and to plan your trip.

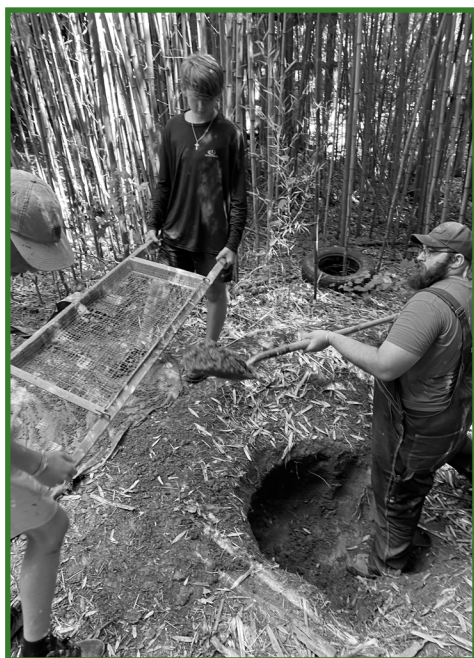


## Volunteers Needed for L&S Retreats

We need volunteers for upcoming retreats! Do you love SIFAT and want to help teach others about our mission? Come volunteer with our Learn & Serve staff on an upcoming retreat. Contact Caroline at [learnandserve@sifat.org](mailto:learnandserve@sifat.org) for specific dates and more information.







*During Learn & Serve retreats, participants get the chance to experience appropriate technologies firsthand. They see how these tools can improve daily life for those living in the Two-thirds World and in other places, too.*

Book your spring Learn & Serve retreat now! You can choose one of our retreat packages or customize your own experience. Retreats can be adapted for any age group.

For more information, visit [www.sifat.org/learn-serve](http://www.sifat.org/learn-serve) or e-mail [learnandserve@sifat.org](mailto:learnandserve@sifat.org) to schedule your next visit to SIFAT!



*Team building challenges bring groups closer together and teach leadership skills. Not part of a youth group? Bring your church staff or civic organization to SIFAT for a leadership retreat! L&S retreats are for all ages!*

## Global Health Days at SIFAT

Shelby Dickey  
Learn & Serve Coordinator

SIFAT wears many hats, but our goal is always the same: to empower and equip leaders of the world to use local resources to bring change and to improve the lives of communities, locally and globally. One of the ways we do this is by educating nurses and healthcare professionals through our Global Health Days (GHDs).

University classes from throughout the south come to SIFAT for a day of training and to experience the realities of people around the world. We do this through problem-solving case studies, where students must assess the community situation and use critical thinking to decide what the problem and solution might be.

This has been effective in many ways.

First, we are educating students on global poverty and helping them to understand the difficult circumstances that most of our world faces daily. They begin understanding that sometimes taking time to notice what is happening in the background is just as important as the words a person in need might relay. We must see the whole picture before we can truly diagnose the whole problem. It is easy to treat a person's symptoms, but often we miss the deeper issues. Our GHD is a great way for students to begin their journey in the medical field.

Do we take time to notice people? That is at the core of SIFAT and our heart for our SIFAT graduates. We hope you will bring your students to experience this day of learning to notice.







**Southern Institute For  
Appropriate Technology**

**Servants in Faith  
and Technology**

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**SIFAT's VISION:** *Bridging the First and Two-thirds Worlds to alleviate spiritual and physical poverty, encouraging people to develop their God-given potential.*

**SIFAT's MISSION:** *To share God's love through service, education and personal involvement with a needy world.*

## FROM THE DESK OF TOM CORSON

**G**ivingTuesday is coming up fast. This day of giving has become vital to the health of SIFAT. I am so grateful to many of you who have participated in supporting us, especially in these difficult years. GivingTuesday has helped us not only to keep our doors open, but to make an impact for Christ in the world.

**M**ichael, from Uganda, sent us a picture of people in a neighboring community in trees, picking leaves to cook because they had no food. SIFAT had sent him seed money to grow food for hungry people in his village. Now, he has sent us pictures of the large community gardens they are growing. Soon, his community will have food security because of this project.

**T**he news reported that missionaries have been kidnapped in Haiti. The government has lost control, and everyone has to struggle for survival. There is chaos throughout the country. But, there are small pockets of light where people are doing all in their power to help their communities survive. Haitian graduate Sam has partnered with SIFAT for seed money to teach 90 abandoned women with children to grow food to eat and to sell. Although their crops were damaged by the hurricane, enough survived for these 90 families to have food. With SIFAT's help, Sam

used Sawyer filters to get clean water for 160 families.

**O**ur graduates continue to work with their projects and are succeeding in helping their hungry communities both with relief for the moment and training for the long term. But, SIFAT graduates are working in many countries where corruption, crime, gangs and terrorists are widespread and threaten the success of any community project. As I watched the news about conditions in Haiti, I saw this as a call to prayer—for them and for all people working in similar conditions. I heard it as a call for me to give, which helps SIFAT teach more people the integrated Gospel, so leaders can return home to change their part of the world. In these hard times, we must give to help “the least of these”, for as Jesus said, that means giving to Him.

**G**ivingTuesday will soon be here! Once again, what you give to SIFAT on Giving Tuesday will be doubled by several generous donors! Think how much SIFAT can do with your donations to train more people dedicated to multiplying what they learned at SIFAT in their communities and empowered to share God's love in practical ways with this world of suffering people! Thank you for what you have given in past years. Again, we need your help now on Giving Tuesday!