



SIFAT JOURNAL

SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN PRACTICAL WAYS

FALL 2022

Why is GivingTuesday Important?

Marie Lanier Narváez
Promotions and Marketing Coordinator

Since 2013, SIFAT has been part of the global GivingTuesday movement, which was created to get everyone to join together to give to charities — whether that is a donation of volunteer hours, needed items or financial resources. When we unite together, we can do great things. That first year, we raised \$108,080, and we were astounded. We were not sure what to expect or how to explain this new holiday idea. Our momentum has grown each year, and this one day has become an integral part of our financial stability. Last year, we were overwhelmed with the outpouring of generosity from our SIFAT family when we raised a record breaking \$251,000.

Yes, we raise vital funding for SIFAT on GivingTuesday, but this day is about more than just money! Many of you share the opportunity to double your donations with your circles of influence: extended family members, Bible study groups and coworkers. By doing this, you help **spread the word about SIFAT**, our ministry and our current projects. People who did not know about SIFAT now do!

When you give to SIFAT, you **encourage our staff and international project leaders**. Knowing we have the SIFAT family cheering us on and being part of what we are doing inspires us to keep going when we face obstacles or become discouraged. Your prayers and contributions give life to our programs and projects. Without your support, SIFAT would not be successful.



Nov. 29, 2022

[www.sifat.org/
givingtuesday2022](http://www.sifat.org/givingtuesday2022)

Finally, when you participate in GivingTuesday, you **become part of something bigger** than yourself. Our SIFAT family stretches throughout the United States and around the world. We come from different denominations, socioeconomic backgrounds and cultures. But when we come together on Nov. 29, your small part becomes something great!

Please make plans now on how you will be part of GivingTuesday 2022! A group of generous donors has created a \$65,000 matching fund that will double donations designated *GivingTuesday*. You can donate

online or by mailing a check to SIFAT. Visit www.sifat.org/givingtuesday2022 for all of the details on how to give.

Thank you for supporting SIFAT! Together, we can continue *Sharing God's Love in Practical Ways*.

Support SIFAT While You Shop Online!

With Black Friday and Cyber Monday deals coming up, many of us will be shopping online for Christmas gifts. Did you know that thousands of retailers donate percentages of purchases to charity? Use Goodshop or iGive, search your favorite store and follow the provided website link to shop for SIFAT. Coupons are linked to help you save.

www.goodshop.com/nonprofit/servants-in-faith-and-technology-sifat or www.igive.com/sifat

AmazonSmile donates .5% of your purchase to SIFAT.

www.smile.amazon.com/ch/63-0776048

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

Dream Becomes Reality in Costa Rica

Kathy Bryson
International Training Director



At long last! The dream comes true—we officially opened the community library! What a joy it was to look around the room of 20 children with a few of their mothers and grandmothers and see each person engaged with books!

The kids spread out on the tiled floor with cushions. First, we read two entertaining stories as a group to the children and asked questions about the stories. Then, everyone chose a book to read. We talked about how we can travel the world or learn about our backyard through books and reading—from the birds and insects we see to even how the inside of our heart looks! We have cookbooks, sewing books and traditional Costa Rican songs for the mothers to enjoy.

It amazed me how this seemed to be such a novel idea for everyone. In our local elementary school with three teachers—preschool to 6th grade—there is no library and no books in the classroom. The high school does not have a library, either. Besides a Bible, I have yet to see a book in any of my neighbor's homes. As someone who grew up with bedtime stories and books as constant companions, it is hard to fathom childhood without any books!

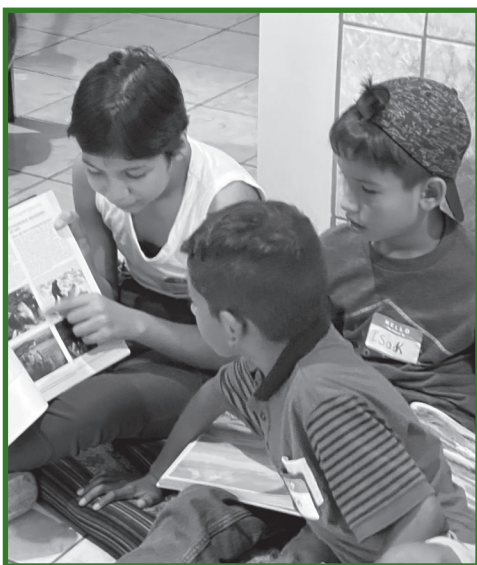
I began to read a story during the afterschool children's program, which I saw immediately was a very unusual thing for them to sit and listen to someone read. Finally, I incorporated some of the older ones in the process. Little by little, even the youngest ones are getting used to our storytime. But now, we have opened our community library and invited our neighbors.

It was such a joy to see them engaged in learning together. The kids excitedly

showed each other what their book was about. "Look! This is what a zebra looks like in Africa!" "Look! We have this humming bird in our backyard!" "Look at how many bones are in our feet!" "Look at what people used to look like back a long time ago!" "Look at these plants!" "Look at these maps—where are we?" "What is that? A fly up close. Oh! a snake." "Where is our river on this map? Ah!!! Found it." All these exclamations of "aha" moments of discovery, learning and sharing were so delightful. There was such a beautiful spirit in the quite varied group.

There was the grandmother with her grandchildren that she is raising, aged 4 to 14 (she lost both her husband and her daughter during Covid). There was the group of rambunctious elementary-aged boys being more thoughtful and focused than ever, engaged in the nature books. There was the group of little kindergarten girls that were thrilled to see the brightly colored books with flowers and rainbows. There was the inquisitive 10-year-old, who was so engaged with the encyclopedia of famous people in history. There was the stocky, shy 3-year-old fellow who looked at me blankly when I placed a picture book in his hands. He finally figured out he was supposed to open it, but had it upside down. I doubt he ever had a book before, especially knowing his home and family situation. Before he left, he was getting the hang of what it meant to turn the pages. It was special to see his mom also warm up to the idea of having a book in her hands—the cookbook engaged her with all the pictures.

Afterward, we had cookies and fresh fruit. No one wanted to leave. I assured them the library would be open again next Saturday. Thank you for your support! It is really helping us to promote community.



Thank you so much to Lineville and Wedowee First United Methodist Churches for raising funds to help us purchase children's books! Soon, we are starting a tutoring program as part of the library outreach program to help the students who are struggling in school.



Irrigation System Nears Completion

Sarah Corson
SIFAT Co-founder

Huber Ramos and Benjo Paredes, leaders of CENATEC in Bolivia, recently met with the Quesimpuco community to discuss the projects that SIFAT and CENATEC are jointly sponsoring. A very successful plan to bring irrigation to the fields during the long dry season has already transformed three communities, thus allowing them to grow three crops a year. This actually means lives are being saved, because people in this area had suffered with hunger and died of starvation during the dry seasons. Auburn University's Engineers Without Borders (EWB) committed to a five-year plan to design and install microirrigation systems, which brought much greater food security to the people in these villages.

After five years, EWB approved to continue the project, which would answer the pleas of other villages for an

irrigation system. Once a year, an EWB team of faculty, students and alumni goes to the area for a week to survey, make a plan and start the water system. The engineers teach the people there how to continue the work when the team goes home. When the engineers return the next year, they check what has been done and help the village with the project. It is a lot of hard work digging miles of ditches by hand over rocky terrain at elevations close to 15,000 feet above sea level.

While Huber and Benjo were in Quesimpuco, they checked the status of the work that had been done toward finishing the irrigation system to Pararia. The people have come a long way! The water collection tank has been finished. A filter was installed 50 meters away, and 99% of the 3" pipes were laid and connected from the water collection tank to the water tank of Pararia. The community members have worked hard since the EWB team left in August and

lack very little to finish.

They still must dig the ditch the last 400 meters for the pipes. They plan to bury the whole system to protect it. This irrigation system is high in the Andes in very rugged terrain. The pipes have to span chasms in a number of places. They do this with narrow suspension bridges on which the pipes are attached. The bridges are being built with the pipes laid on them, but the pipes need to be connected to the bridges before the water is released into the system. The people are committed to finish this process. Huber and Benjo reported that the progress is on target for completion before the team returns, if not sooner. The people are excited to be so close to having water, so they can grow more food for their families. These communities send their deep thanks to EWB, SIFAT and CENATEC for this giant step in helping them be able to meet their own nutritional needs.



Benjo (pictured at left) and Huber (pictured at right) recently traveled to Quesimpuco to lead the community's work in finishing the irrigation system to Pararia. The community members worked together to stretch pipe across the mountains as they tied the pipe to bridges across ravines and valleys.



Workshop in Costa Rica



These women enjoyed learning to make tasty, nutritious pasta. They returned home to try it and spread the word to others in the community.

Kathy Bryson
International Training Director

SIFAT intern Javier led a community workshop in how to fortify homemade pasta with dried spinach leaf powder, which is full of iron and vitamin A. Globally, more than half of preschool children are micronutrient deficient, which impacts their chances of survival and future learning potential. The best solutions for hunger are found close to home and sustainable: empowering people, especially mothers, to use what they have available (green leaves) to meet the needs of their family.

Javier, a student at the National Agricultural University in Honduras, is a 2022 SIFAT intern in Costa Rica.

International Graduates' Projects

Visit our website to see current projects and fully funded graduates' projects.

www.sifat.org/international-missions/international-projects

We have graduates with approved projects that are ready to start fundraising but need a project champion! To become a project champion to raise funds or for more information, contact GPC chairman Art Stephenson, stephensona@sifat.org.

Teaching Kitchen Gardens and Composts



Isaac could not wait for the gardening class for our neighborhood children's program. He insisted on following us around to see why we were digging holes by the kitchen. We took this teachable moment and enlisted him to take out the kitchen organic waste and incorporate it into our kitchen compost holes. Fascinated by the process, he ran home to convince his mother to start one.

Kathy Bryson
International Training Director

SIFAT focuses on practical solutions for families and communities. We cannot control wars, climate issues or inflation, but we can teach people simple ways of feeding their families. Research shows that having a small kitchen garden full of highly nutritious foods can have a major impact on child nutrition, especially by combating critical micronutrient deficiencies. Vitamin A and iron are essential for a child's immune system, helping them fight off top killers, such as pneumonia and diarrheal disease, and promoting healthy growth and development in critical early formative years.

Choosing foods that are easy to cultivate and incorporate into traditional diets is important. Here in Costa Rica, Brazilian

spinach and sweet potatoes grow well and are very nutritious. We promote raised beds in small places near the kitchen, coupled with simple kitchen composting. Then, we demonstrate delicious recipes with local ingredients that use the spinach and sweet potato leaves. We invite our neighbors to the SIFAT community kitchen and serve samples during the traditional afternoon coffee time. We also serve the kids tasty nutritious treats (green leaf fortified cookies!) in the children's program and during the community library time. Small changes make a difference! Thank you for your support in promoting practical solutions for malnutrition.

Angel Trains in Costa Rica

Angel Roman
SIFAT Graduate in Bolivia

God is great and wonderful! After a wonderful summer in Alabama, I thank God for giving me the opportunity to travel to SIFAT's campus in Costa Rica for training in the production of bio inputs adapted to the condition of the Bolivian highlands' soils. SIFAT/CENATEC are supporting irrigation system projects in villages around Quesimpuco, where I serve. Now, many families have water to irrigate their crops and are growing more food than ever before because of these systems, but they could grow even more if they had fertilizers. Not all people have animals for the production of fertilizers. Many of our people do not have resources to buy the needed nutrients for their soil.

God gave us nature, and SIFAT's method is always first to use the resources at hand. But, we have to know what those resources are and how to use them. I attended classes in Costa Rica on how to produce one's own natural fertilizer from the resources at hand.



Angel spent a month at our Central American Training Center in Costa Rica to receive training in the production of bio inputs that will work with the soil found in the highlands of Bolivia. Fertilizer is the next step to aid local farmers in producing more food, since SIFAT teams have installed microirrigation systems.

The training was based on four subjects:

1. Theoretical and practical concepts of organic farming (agroecology)
2. Appropriate Technologies
3. Concepts of family farming, self-consumption farming and communal farming with a small-scale commercial projection
4. Bio-inputs made with resources in nature around us to help us become self-sufficient

I am now teaching these to our communities around Quesimpuco. I have shared with the people here about these mountain microbes and other agro-technologies I learned at SIFAT in Alabama and Costa Rica. The people in the Quesimpuco area are very thankful for this knowledge.

It is a blessing to be part of the SIFAT family. When I became sick with gallstones, they cared for me as they would their own family. Again, thank you, SIFAT, for these appropriate technologies I learned with you and for your care and compassion for me.



Take a SHARE in SIFAT!

Be part of SIFAT all year! Monthly commitments — our SHARE program — help us budget effectively. Sign up at www.sifat.org/donate or contact Marie Lanier, lanierm@sifat.org.

Leave a Legacy

Did you know that you can donate stocks or leave provisions for SIFAT in your will? Contact Tom Corson, corson@sifat.org, for more information.

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.

Matching Funds

Does your employer match your donation to SIFAT? Many companies do, and some even match donations of retirees or spouses of employees.

Questions or Need Help?

Contact Diana, accounting@sifat.org, if documentation is needed for your company's matching funds or for questions about getting your IRA donation sent directly to SIFAT.

Worth the Wait

Marie Lanier Narváez
Promotions & Marketing Coordinator

For 10 years, the church in Aida Leon, a neighborhood in the south of Quito, Ecuador, waited for SIFAT teams to come start an addition for their afterschool children's program. They had little space in which to welcome these at-risk students to get them off the streets and in school, to help them with their schoolwork and to feed them nutritious, hot meal lunches.

They never imagined it would take 10 years to break ground to start building. Who could have imagined a president wanting to build a bunker and use imminent domain to take the land? How could it take so long to receive permits and clearance to build? But finally, everything was in place and our teams arrived in 2018 to support SIFAT graduate Pastor Wilson and his church. Our teams worked diligently when plans changed, and a basement needed to be dug! For two years, we served the people of Aida Leon, while enjoying beautiful views of the mountains. As we all remember, the world stopped in 2020 and so did construction in Aida Leon. At that time, we thought it might be a delay of a few months, maybe a year at most. However, we soon realized we would be paused indefinitely. That's where you stepped in!

Our international mission team members, their sending churches and other SIFAT supporters answered our call for help! You donated funds, so that we could purchase materials and hire local workers who needed jobs to finish this project. We received pictures and updates from our SIFAT Ecuador staff and were excited to share these on

social media. When we saw the children exploring the building for the first time, our hearts were filled with joy, not only at seeing a completed facility and knowing how it will change the future for these students, but also at the culmination of this project, which at times seemed riddled with obstacles.

What we were not prepared for was our in-person visits in July. Emotions were high as we arrived, ready to see the building for ourselves. On this

about their daily activities. The team members with us that day — some of whom had helped in construction or led VBS classes for these children — were able to envision the lasting impact their short week in Ecuador makes on these communities for the long-term. Yes, we enjoyed the reciting of Bible verses and singing of songs. And of course, everyone ended up on the roof to take pictures and celebrate the completion of this construction project and the beginning of its use.



For me, I saw that this experience was not a show put on for pictures and videos. Cecelia and her staff pour their love and encouragement into the lives of the next generation. Not only are they safe and secure in a new building with room to accept more students, but these children and youth have a bright, cheerful place to learn and grow. They are learning the Bible and spiritual truths that they will carry with them into adulthood. Many live in situations we cannot understand, though we try to imagine what their daily lives

visit, our SIFAT staff members from the USA were greeted by Cecelia, the leader of the afterschool program, who knew we were coming. She led the children in welcoming us, then gave us a complete tour of the building. We were overwhelmed to be there again after two and a half years of waiting and to be wrapped in hugs from the church staff and children whom we know so well.

However, we stopped by unexpectedly with a SIFAT team a few weeks later. We received the same welcome as before! What a sight to see! The rooms were full of students — from young elementary kids to older youth. They were working on art projects, singing and going

are like when we go on home visits. But for a few hours each day, they have a church family that cares for them and for their future.

During my trips to Ecuador this year, I also got to see some of the success stories of our work in Ecuador — young adults who are now translating for our medical teams and serving in leadership roles in Villaflora with Pastor Rafael and Anita. We expect the children in Aida Leon to become a new generation in their church and community, much like our friends in Villaflora have. What a blessing for us to be a part of their stories and success in *Sharing God's Love in Practical Ways*!

An Invitation to Serve

Peggy Walker
International Team Coordinator

Returning to Ecuador this year was like coming home to an old friend. We knew there would be challenges as we started construction on a new project site, but the people in Machachi were as loving, welcoming and grateful for our teams to be there as all our previous projects. COVID has left deep scars on Ecuador's economy, their family structure and their need for medical care. SIFAT construction, medical and VBS teams came from the USA to work alongside these wonderful people in Machachi, and they truly provided the hope this community of faith needed.

Pastor Rafael and his wife, SIFAT graduate Anita, have accomplished remarkable things since they began their ministry in Villaflora to provide a facility and programs to rescue 150 at-risk children in an urban area of Quito. SIFAT teams built their church and multi-purpose building in Villaflora more than 10 years ago and have continued to work with them as they have extended their ministry to seven other outreach projects throughout Quito. This addition to the church in Machachi is the latest need in their growing outreach ministries that now offer safe and nurturing places to be for almost 1,500 children.

In October, we were excited to have three teams, which totaled 49 team members, wanting to serve in the same week. On paper, this was logistically a nightmare. But in reality, everyone worked together to accomplish more than was expected in just one week. This is what miraculously seems to happen on SIFAT mission teams.

In the smallest of construction sites, 26 team members were able to efficiently complete a job in five days that should have taken two weeks. Seven doctors and nurse practitioners, a physical therapist and two pharmacists were able to thoroughly examine and provide care and medicine for almost 700 patients of all ages. These healthcare providers worked tirelessly and always with great compassion for each patient. VBS workers had no idea what to expect, since the number of children attending the lessons increased daily. The team members lovingly accepted the challenge and, somehow, had enough supplies and stamina for the children to leave with smiles on their faces and something tangible that they had made themselves to keep as a remembrance of their short time with these strangers who had loved them.



We need more mission teams in 2023! Visit www.sifat.org/international-missions or email internationalteams@sifat.org to learn more.

We need more mission teams in 2023, especially medical teams. Medical care was almost nonexistent for the children and elderly during the pandemic, except for the limited amount we could offer through *Doctor in Your House*.

All construction projects had to wait during the pandemic, even as the need for those facilities grew. Usually, our projects receive about 10 construction teams each year. This year, we only had three. Without teams providing labor and construction materials, the building in Machachi cannot be completed.

We thank each of you who contributed during COVID to help us meet the basic needs of food and medicine for our projects and their community outreach. Now, we need your help! Please prayerfully consider talking to your church, your family and friends, your schools and organizations. God has given you talents you might not even have guessed. I promise that none are too old or too young that we cannot find a place for you to serve. Come, join us in 2023 to experience firsthand how wonderfully a SIFAT mission team comes together to do His work for so many in Ecuador, Bolivia and, in late 2023, Costa Rica!



My Week Visiting Costa Rica

Angie Goldberg
Garden Manager, HEART Village

Hello everyone, this is Angie Goldberg again, a master's student of international community development. In June, I was able to visit the beautiful SIFAT campus in Alabama, and I shared about my experience in the Summer 2022 issue of *The SIFAT Journal*. At the end of July, I took a trip to SIFAT's Central American Training Center in Costa Rica. The campus is nestled into the mountainside near El Tigre de San Carlos. Part of the campus is a small guanabana (soursop) farm with mature trees, while the other part is being developed into a model and learning farm for sustainable tropical agriculture. The grounds are covered with both productive and ornamental plants, making it stunningly beautiful. Costa Rica is a natural wonder!



Heart Village garden manager Angie Goldberg (center) recently visited our campus in Costa Rica, where she spent time learning alongside SIFAT farm manager David Rojas (far left) and our 2022 interns from UNA in Honduras.

I was only there for one week, but we made the best of the time. SIFAT has built a long-lasting relationship with the National Agricultural University (UNA) in Honduras. Those studying sustainable agriculture can come to the SIFAT campus in Costa Rica to spend a semester doing hands-on learning with Oswaldo Pérez, a university-trained agronomist well versed in sustainable agriculture practices. While I was there, we learned how to build a banana circle connected to grey water coming from a dormitory kitchen, build a hot compost pile and had a lesson in how to start building and using a micro-biotic system.

Since 2020, Costa Rica has been cautious with rules of people gathering because of the potential spread of the coronavirus. They have only recently begun opening up to allow people to gather in groups again. During the time that groups could not gather, SIFAT's international training director Kathy Bryson spent much time building relationships and connections with local Costa Ricans, establishing the SIFAT campus as a trusted place in the community. With the country opening up again and people being able to gather, SIFAT can now begin hosting larger learning and connection times with community members. One goal is to build connections and relationships of mutual learning and exchange between students and local community members. I saw evidence of that already while I was there, and it is a beautiful thing.

Before I left for Costa Rica, Leaf for Life, a longtime SIFAT training partner, gifted a dehydrator to SIFAT's new campus. I was able to take it with me and deliver it. The interns were so excited to have it; they began using it the evening I arrived. They had been working successfully with a solar dehydrator, which was basically a small, plastic covered greenhouse. Having this dehydrator cut the dry time for their leaves from four days to four hours. They were also experimenting with recipes to use the leaf powder they made and even got to share their recipes with the neighborhood children.

I look forward to seeing how SIFAT's Central American Training Center develops over the next months and years. Being there was an incredible experience. They are doing great work and creating a beautiful place of refuge and learning. As the Costa Ricans say, "Pura Vida."

Stay Connected with SIFAT

Sign up for our e-newsletter at www.sifat.org. Visit our blog or follow us on social media (facebook.com/sifatbook, @sifattweets or Learn & Serve's Instagram @sifatlands) for updates between issues of *The SIFAT Journal*!

Are you moving? E-mail your new mailing address, phone number or e-mail address to info@sifat.org.

Would your church like copies of *The SIFAT Journal* or brochures? Let us know how many you need.

Donate in Honor/Memory of Loved Ones

Not sure what to get for the person on your Christmas list who has everything? Are you looking for a gift with meaning and longevity?

Donate to SIFAT in honor/memory of someone special!

Include a note with the name and mailing address of the honoree, and we will send an acknowledgement card. Contributions must be received by Dec. 15. for cards to be mailed prior to Christmas.

Buy a Brick in Sarah's Garden

Honor friends or family in a special way: buy a commemorative brick in for Sarah's Garden! Order online at www.bricksrus.com/order/sifat or email info@sifat.org.

Intern Road Trip to HEART Village and ECHO

Tyler Collins
Learn & Serve Intern

Editor's Note: Tyler is one of our campus program interns and will be at SIFAT for nine months.

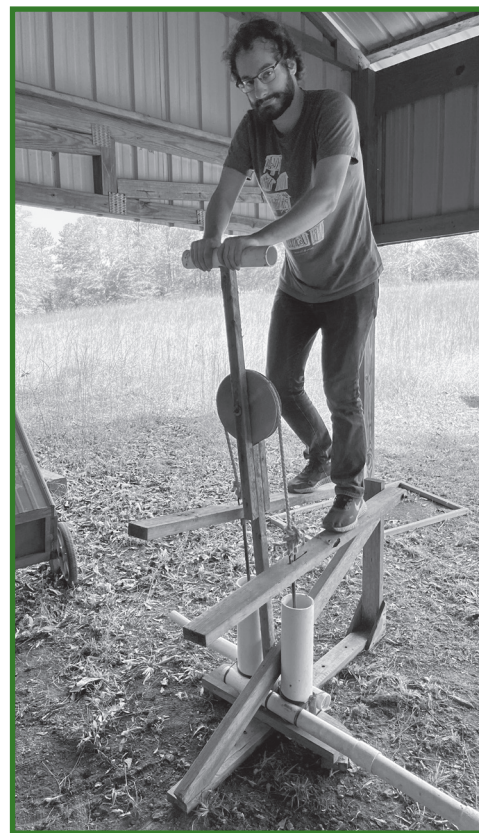
I am a graduate of Taylor University in Upland, Ind., with a degree in sustainable development. Part of my coursework included going to HEART Village in January 2022 for a three-week class. While in Florida at HEART, I met Josiah and Caroline Corson, who introduced me to SIFAT. I needed to complete a practicum to finish my degree this past summer, so I decided to come to SIFAT, since my major deals with agriculture, poverty alleviation and community development.

A few of the campus staff, our other intern Madison and I traveled to HEART and ECHO in early September to learn more about their ministries. I was glad to return to visit the people there that I had developed friendships with in January. While at HEART, we learned about different ways to do small-scale agriculture. For example, we explored raised garden beds, soil amendment, woodlots and how to combine those systems with animals to get the most out of limited areas of land. We learned how many plants that are good for soil microbes are also good food for goats, how various animal manures can be composted and used to

grow other plants and how to extend the growing season and encourage eating often overlooked leaves that are highly nutritious.

While talking about culture, one idea that impacted me was that how we view something as absolute may not be the case elsewhere. Theft is something that most would say is obvious to define, while another culture may say that theft only occurs past a certain threshold. For instance, if I had 10 pencils and someone took one or two it would be ok, but if they took more than five, it would be considered theft. We also {went over} how our basic, subconscious beliefs influence our actions and thoughts. Beliefs that are formed from the culture around us, stressing the need to take culture into our minds in overseas work when we are trying to apply things we know that can help others. It is important to remember that if culture is ignored, harm is likely to occur from our good intentions.

Our time at ECHO was shorter, but we found many appropriate technologies and more agriculture ideas that we want to integrate into our demonstrations at SIFAT, including a wick garden that waters a large area from just putting water in one spot and treating bamboo to be more weather resistant after cutting it. We saw many trees and plants at ECHO we would like to plant



Tyler, our intern, demonstrates an appropriate technology water pump. Our interns recently visited HEART Village and ECHO as part of their initial training for SIFAT.

on campus, but unfortunately, it gets too cold in this part of Alabama for some of them to grow.

I am glad that my internship started with a visit to HEART and ECHO, as they laid a solid foundation to build off of for the rest of my time at SIFAT.

Daily Life of a SIFAT Intern

Shelby Dickey
Learn & Serve Coordinator

Our SIFAT campus is busy throughout the year with many different kinds of programming. One of the programs we are very passionate about is our nine-month internship, which is geared to high school graduates taking a gap year or college graduates preparing for future ministry. We love to sow into the next generation, so that they can make an impact in their own neighborhoods and communities globally. But unless you are on our campus weekly, you will not get to see the many things our interns do or what they are learning. We wanted to give you a little taste of what a SIFAT internship looks like.

Training

Each week, our interns focus on a different appropriate technology. Besides learning how each technology works, they learn how to build it from scratch using local resources, how to maintain it and how to teach it to others. They also practice this as they help lead tours on campus. During the past two months, our interns have learned about water pumps, Leaf for Life, rocket stoves and water purification. Each of these comes with other training, such as the best way to build a fire and what kind of kindling you should use or how to use your nutritious leaves after you have built a leaf dryer. We do not want to just teach the technology, but also explain its application. Soon, they will learn solar technology, cricket farming and other community building techniques.

Agriculture

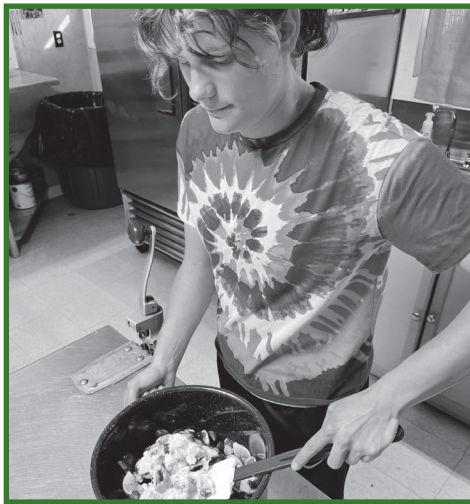
Our interns learn how to build and maintain a farm, often from scratch. Our interns have visited several farm demonstrations, such as HEART Village and ECHO and have worked on local farms, too. They have built raised beds and urban gardens from the beginning to the end and will continue to work in our SIFAT gardens. They are also in charge of the compost and maintaining dirt nutrition. When SIFAT adds animals back to our campus, they will learn how having animals can best benefit a community, not only for the

milk and protein, but how animals are an important part of keeping our gardens healthy. We can understand how to make everything work together for good and supply everything a community might need.

Ministry

Working with groups can be scary at first, especially if you have never had to lead anything. Our interns are growing as they teach appropriate technology to groups on campus and help facilitate overnight retreats in our Global Village. This gives them experience in servant leader roles and new ideas about how they can best minister to those around them in the future.

All of these things help our interns as they prepare for the next role in their lives, whether it be serving near their hometown or internationally. We hope their time at SIFAT will always be a valuable memory and a source of knowledge they can share with those around them.



Intern Madison Gnoose, a recent graduate from Mississippi State University, makes jam from figs grown on our SIFAT campus in Alabama.



Support our Interns

Program assistant Kaitlyn Glenn, campus coordinator Caroline Corson and program coordinator Shelby Dickey love our new SIFAT sweatshirts! Profits from the sales of these sweatshirts will help our campus staff and interns travel to SIFAT's Central American Training Center in Costa Rica in early 2023 for training and to volunteer. Support their trip and represent SIFAT with a cozy sweatshirt! Email learnandserve@sifat.org to order today!

More Than a Summer Camp

Learn & Serve Summer 2023 Register Today!

Caroline Corson
Campus Coordinator



Week One: June 18-22 | **Week Two:** June 25-29 |
Week Three: July 9-13 | **Week Four:** July 16-20 |
Week Five: July 23-27

Youth groups and individuals are welcome. Register before March 1 to save \$30! Visit www.sifat.org/learn-serve or email learnandserve@sifat.org for more information or to sign up.

We welcome youth and their leaders to our campus for our Summer Experience. While here, participants explore three Christ-like principles. Make plans to join us next summer!

Servant Leadership: Our Summer Experience gives youth a holistic view of the world and challenges them to share God's love in practical ways. They learn through our interactive programming, simulations and training.

Community Service: SIFAT strives to build a bridge between the different people and cultures of our world. By serving in communities near SIFAT, youth are equipped and challenged to return to their local communities to serve.

Christian Fellowship: Participants are divided into small groups led by college-age counselors, who guide students throughout the week. Students learn to think critically and respond to the teaching they receive. When combined with worship, students biblically connect their faith with everything they encounter during their time at SIFAT.

Glimpses: A SIFAT Podcast

Marie Lanier Narváez
Promotions and Marketing Coordinator

Because misconceptions exist about poverty and why people live in poverty, our Glimpses podcast takes a look into the individual lives and stories of those with whom we work to help us understand the realities surrounding those living in these conditions. Host Josiah Corson, grandson of SIFAT co-founders Ken and Sarah Corson and SIFAT's campus program manager, is passionate about storytelling and is using each episode as a space for learning, growth and understanding.

Our first few episodes have been released! In our first episode, Josiah interviews Angel Roman, a SIFAT graduate from Bolivia. During this chat, Angel shares his testimony and his connections to SIFAT. You may know Angel if you have been on teams to Quesimpuco or were part of Learn & Serve 2022, when he was here volunteering. Angel grew up in extreme poverty and overcame immense struggles; his story is one that you do not want to miss!

In our second episode, SIFAT co-founder Sarah Corson tells a story from when she and her family were serving in



Costa Rica. They met a family with 13 children, who lived in difficult circumstances. Through her time ministering to this family, she learned a lifelong lesson that impacts us all today.

Soon, you will be able to listen to Glimpses on your favorite podcast app. Until then, you can learn more, see available apps or listen online at glimpses.podbean.com. New episodes are scheduled to drop biweekly on Fridays at 5 p.m. central time.



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Return Service Requested

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

GivingTuesday, a global day of giving following Black Friday and Cyber Monday, encourages the simple ideas of motivating people to do good and celebrating generosity to work toward a better world. For SIFAT, it has become the biggest fundraising day of the year. Last year with the overwhelming support of our SIFAT family, we exceeded our goal of \$130,000, keeping us not only alive, but able to help and to provide hope to our neighbors: the hungry, those in need of medical care and clean water. But most of all, we could continue teaching people how to provide for themselves and give to their communities in the name of Jesus! Sometimes we are the light for others, but someday, we will need a light from others to have hope and carry on. GivingTuesday is a day to share your generosity!

A group of donors have created a matching fund for gifts to SIFAT on or before Nov. 29 that are designated for *GivingTuesday*. Think how much SIFAT can do with your donation DOUBLED to give life and purpose, health and education, God's love in practical ways to people suffering physical and spiritual hunger!

You may have heard us tell Angel's story. "I was orphaned at age 4. I was abused, beaten and thinking

about committing suicide. One day, a SIFAT mission team member hugged me, and she told me she loved me and that Jesus loves me, too. I moved into SIFAT's children's home in Sapecho and finished school. Now, I serve as a missionary in Bolivia with SIFAT, helping to plant churches and direct projects to help the hungry. I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve with Learn & Serve this summer in Alabama. I thank God for those who support SIFAT and help them reach abandoned people ... those like I used to be." Angel shares his story on the first episode of *Glimpses*, SIFAT's new podcast. He is like many abandoned, suffering children, whom we are helping to become Christian leaders of today and tomorrow.

We have 2,500 needy children in our afterschool programs in Ecuador. SIFAT is giving classes in Costa Rica to train more young people dedicated to take what they learn back to transform their communities. We need startup funds for five graduates' projects in India, Haiti, Uganda, Venezuela and Nigeria. Your gift can change the world forever for a person, a family or a community in great need. Thank you for what you have given in the past! Thank you for giving the fruit of your labor to help others on their pathway to God!