Thorse You! SIFAT'S 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



Despite a difficult year at SIFAT, we experienced an outpouring of blessings through your generosity and commitment. For every obstacle and challenge faced, we received an unexpected note of encouragement or a much needed donation. You, our SIFAT family, kept our ministry Sharing God's Love in Practical Ways. Thank you for your faithful prayers, financial contributions and unwavering support! In 2024, we will celebrate 45 years of SIFAT, which we would not have accomplished without your gifts and participation. Thank you!

International Teams & Projects

In Bolivia, the Auburn University Engineers Without Borders continued their project to supply water to remote villages in the Chayanta Valley in Bolivia. Their grueling, but successful trip included erecting towers to support the pipeline carrying water over ravines from a wellhead in the mountains to these villages. They hiked above the tree line to measure water flow rates and map locations for the expansion of this project.

In Ecuador, a medical team hosted a women's health clinic in Aida Leon, while six teams continued the construction project in Machachi. VBS classes were overflowing with children excited to create crafts, listen to Bible stories and play games. In March, we unexpectedly said goodbye to Edwin Contreras, our beloved engineer, who passed away after a hard-fought battle with Parkinson's disease.

Support poured in for our international graduates' projects, which are led by our Graduate Projects' Committee. In 2023, eight projects received \$40,438 for agricultural projects in Cameroon, Haiti, Kenya, Nigeria and Venezuela; to drill water wells in Nigeria; and to purchase a cement mixer to provide job skill training in the Democratic Republic of Congo.



International Training



At our Central American Training Center in Costa Rica, we held workshops on sustainable agriculture, appropriate technologies, livelihood options and spiritual formation throughout the year.

Seven interns from Honduras invested three intense months helping SIFAT and taking our classes. Former Learn & Serve intern Madison Gnoose arrived in June to volunteer for a year, while volunteer Bill Trimble used his expertise in fisheries to serve this summer. In September, a two-week training was held for SIFAT alumni and participants from four countries. In November, we held an agricultural fair for about 240 people with workshops, educational tours, a community seed exchange and local booths to promote community microenterprise.

The May Field Study at our Alabama Campus brought 48 participants from 14 countries together for the intensive two-week training, "World Hunger and Poverty: Practical Skills to Make a Difference."

Campus and Learn & Serve

This year, more than 1,400 people from 14 countries and six colleges visited SIFAT's campus in Alabama. Besides churches, we also worked with civic organizations including Girl Scout troops and student government associations. Our campus staff traveled and spoke with more than 400 students in Florida, Georgia and Mississippi.

In January, the campus staff and interns served on SIFAT's campus in Costa Rica. In October, our fall worship night in the Quonset Hut was a huge encouragement for our staff. Almost 80 people, mostly youth from local churches, worshiped together. In December, our campus staff created a float to promote SIFAT in local Christmas parades in Lineville and Wedowee.

Six Learn & Serve interns each spent a semester of 2023 pouring themselves into our campus, as we continued to improve our facilities and programming.



Investing Resources

48% – International Training, Projects and Teams 28% – Galilee Campus / Learn & Serve

2023 Extras

In September, *Glimpses: A SIFAT Podcast* returned for season two! Learn more by going to About Us > Our Podcast at <u>www.sifat.org</u>.

SIFAT led another successful summer of Worship on the Water on Lake Wedowee each Sunday.

We broke our GivingTuesday fundraising record with total donations of \$256,339, including our \$75,000 matching fund. We are grateful for your overwhelming support!