

Sharing, Inc.

P.O. Box 850153
Braintree, MA 02185-0153
781-843-1676
kaydoherty@beld.net
www.WalkingOnGoodFriday.org



August 2018

Dear Sharing Friend,

"There is no them. There is only us"
-- Luis Alberto Urrea

For the past three years, family circumstances precluded my traditional annual trip South. My husband, Ron DuBois, suffered a stroke in January of 2015. We have been very fortunate to receive excellent medical care at Tufts Medical Center, for which we are most grateful! Ron is doing very well and his condition has been stable for a good while.

As I considered what to share in this newsletter, I originally thought of taking paragraphs from previous August letters, which were always reports of my trips south. In the process of reviewing those I discovered that the one from August 2011 was perfect for today, and therefore, it follows.

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.
Well I know it's dark this part of life
Oh it finds us all, and 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 to 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 closely to an individual's plight. This illustration of "standing by someone" is something that I have observed countless times during my thirty-nine trips to the south.

In addition to John, and beginning in 1973 with Ron Thornton, manager of the North Bolivar County 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, Evelyn 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.

May we live each day grounded by faith, working for justice and walking in Joy.

Shalom,



** I Won't Let Go by Rascal Flatts

A special thank you to everyone who responded to our "BOOST" appeal.

2018 Walk Financial Statement As of July 31, 2018

Income		
Hingham Walk	62,500	
Rockville Walk	11,056	
Other Walks	16,585	
		\$90,141
 Expenses		
Awards	1,168	
Food & supplies	1,267	
Insurance	176	
Miscellaneous	165	
Police protection	1,307	
Printing	1,308	
	\$5,391	
 Balance remaining		 \$84,750
Distributed as of 7-31-2018		
Federation of Southern Co-ops	850	
Cornerstone Foundation (Rockville Walk)	3,600	
	\$8,265	
 Balance available for distribution		 \$80,300
Pledged for 2019 Distribution		
Federation of Southern Co-ops	Epes, AL/Atlanta, GA	24,000
Kemetic Institute,	Mound Bayou, MS	12,000
21st Century Youth Leadership	Selma, AL	24,000
Sharing's Scholarship Program		20,000