

# Sharing, Inc.

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Dear Sharing Friend,

**The text below is taken from our August 2010 letter, reason being these organizations will be receiving funds from our 2021 Walk.**

"This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...  
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...  
Deep inside my heart, I'm gonna let it shine..  
All around the world, I'm gonna let it shine...  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine."

Each of us undoubtedly at times feels that our light is indeed "little", and doesn't matter much in the scheme of things. Yet, as I reflect on my trip south, I see evidence of the power and the growth of "one little light" in the organizations that Sharing's Walk money supports.

**The Kemetic Institute in Mound Bayou, Mississippi** was born in 1991 out of the concerns Attorney Alma "Chris" Campbell had about the need to provide more opportunities for the "healthy mental growth and physical development of the children and youth in Mound Bayou and neighboring communities.

Through its programs, services and special projects, including field trips, the Institute has touched the lives of hundreds of children and youth. It promotes the connection between self-esteem and cultural awareness as a means of achieving positive outcomes. Additionally the Institute advocates, connects and strengthens youth ties to their communities. It encourages community service projects, involvement in community revitalization, and historic preservation.

The seed of the **21st Century Youth Leadership Movement/Project** was planted in 1985 during the planning of the 20th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act and the Selma to Montgomery Commemorative March. A small group of Veteran Civil and Human rights workers recognized the need for providing a training ground for young community-focused leaders. The increasing youth-on-youth violence, drug abuse, and crime, as well as the continuation of racism, sexism, and economic poverty in communities demand this.

There are currently chapters in several states as well as in Mali, West Africa. In the intervening years over 5,000 young people have been directly impacted by the organization.

## **The Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund\***

In the nineteen sixties as the Civil rights Movement exploded onto the national stage, the political and economic pressures on low-income Blacks in the rural south were particularly relentless. In the small isolated towns and counties the white mayors and judges and sheriffs could still make life intolerable for anyone with a black skin who acquired a reputation for trouble-making, such as registering to vote. Jobs were hard to come by, easy to lose. Land was also.

In 1966 small groups of Black farmers quietly began getting together to talk about saving their land, if they still owned any, or about buying some, if they were sharecroppers. At a meeting in February, 1967, representatives of 22 co-ops decided to put together an umbrella organization as a means of supporting and coordinating their efforts. Charles Prejean, a Louisiana native who had been teaching adult literacy and John Zippert, a New Yorker who had gone south to work in the Civil Rights Movement, were chosen as its leaders.

The Federation has been fighting for economic and social justice, at times in the face of intense harassment, for African American families and low income people ever since. Sharing is proud to have been able to lend some assistance to this fine organization ever since the mid-seventies.

At the beginning of this letter the lyric says I'm gonna LET it shine. It doesn't say I'm gonna I make it shine. I believe "this little light" is God and as we grow in openness to simply receive it and to share the blessing of Love then our individual life's glow approaches glory.

\* Excerpted from Sumter County Blues  
by Thomas N. Bethell, published by  
the Center for Community Change.

Shalom

