**PWRDF**

**JANUARY STORY**

**Growing Projects**

**Connect Farmers and Churches**

**to Feed People in Need**

Bells Corners is a suburban community just west of Ottawa. Christ Church, Bells Corners is a bustling suburban church with a big commitment to mission and outreach. Each year the parish donates $2000 to a Growing Project initiated by local farmers Gary and Ron Weir. The nearby parishes of St. Georges, West Carleton and St. Thomas, Woodlawn donate $1000 each. This money along with donations from local businesses provide the Weirs with seeds, weed control products and fertilizer. The brothers plant and tend crops of corn and soy through the growing season. Sometimes they pay for custom work such as help with the harvest and special tilling techniques to prevent soil erosion.

By late fall the crops are harvested and sold and the profit is given to PWRDF for its Foodgrains Bank account. The $4000 given by the three churches has now become $9000.

Earnings from this project helps feed people around the world. PWRDF withdraws funds from this account to participate in food distribution programs in places such as South Sudan, Bangladesh, and Haiti where the Foodgrains Bank is working. It allows PWRDF to get relief to desperate parts of the world quickly and efficiently. And even better, Foodgrains Banks programs receive a 4:1 match from the Canadian government so the Growing Project's $9000 is effectively $45000. The $2000 gift from Christ Church Bells Corners has become $10000! Christ Church's incumbent, the Reverend Kathryn Otley says that the project is very

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empowering for the parish and parishioners get involved in hands on ways such as making a sign for the project. She also believes it creates more understanding and respect between city and rural churches and provides an opportunity for local churches to work together.

This story illustrates perfectly the great value of PWRDF working with partners such as the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. The cost of actually shipping tons of food to faraway countries is avoided. When food is obtained closer to the location where it is needed it is more likely to arrive in good condition and to be more suitable to the cultural eating habits of the recipients.

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