

Seeds of Hope

Annual Report 2014-15

A Letter from the President

Dear Friends of Seeds,

It's that time of year again, when the Seeds Council of Stewards and staff pause to tell you what's happened in the past year, what's happening now, and, hopefully, what's going to happen at Seeds in the near future.

Seeds' fundraising got a huge boost in April 2014 with the first ever "Chili Challenge and Cupcake Throwdown," a combined chili cook-off and cupcake bake-off, as well as a silent auction. Judges for the event were JoAnn Miller of Waco's Gourmet Gallery, Mike Beheler of The Egg and I, and Mary Duty of Poppa Rollo's Pizza.

Winners in each of three categories took home a Chili Challenge apron and framed art by Council member Sally Lynn Askins. Especially designed Seeds T-shirts and coffee mugs were also sold (and some are still available!).

Speaking of fundraising, we just completed the major 2015 fundraising event, our "No-Show Gala and Holy Smoke Take-out." Erin Conaway, pastor of Seventh & James Baptist Church, where the Seeds ministry is housed, barbecued enough brisket for 100 people.

Both fundraisers were quite successful and the fruits of those events will help keep Seeds solvent through the summer of 2015, and allow our ministry to continue to publish hunger news and create worship materials, in keeping with our mission.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to these events with your participation, your talents and your monetary gifts. (By the way, it's not too late to participate in the No-Show Shindig! For information, email seedseditor@clearwire.net.)

The most significant events of 2014 and 2015 for the folks at Seeds were the passing of two dear friends and supporters. Dan McGee, a Seeds of Hope founder and Council president for 15 years, died a little over a year ago. Kathy Gardner, who served as business manager through a difficult financial period from 2012 to 2014, died last July. (See our tributes to Dan and Kathy on page 3.)

Last March, Seeds welcomed the sage advice and financial expertise offered by John Segrest, who stepped in as a new "Acting Business Manager," as he calls himself. The Council, however, is ready to promote John to "Ensign."

The Council of Stewards also welcomed two new members: Derek Dodson and Guilherme Almeida. (Read about these two on page 2.) The Council is looking forward to the contributions our new team members will make.

We are also delighted that, during the past two years, our newsletter, *Hunger News & Hope* (HNH), has received several "Best of the Christian Press" awards from Associated Church Press. In 2014 and again this year, HNH was given a

"Best in Class" award. In addition, our special issue on Poverty and US Prisons (Vol. 14 No 3, Summer 2014) received the Award of Merit for a theme issue.

With your help, we hope to continue this important work. Thank you!

Respectfully yours,
Michael Long, President
Seeds Council of Stewards

What you'll find inside:

- Page 2: More about Seeds Council members & interns
- Page 3: Tributes to two friends
- Page 4: The 2014-15 Seeds budget
- Page 4: A form that will help you become a sustaining Seeds partner



Art (above) by Sally Lynn Askins;
Seeds logo (above left)
by Erin Kennedy Mayer

Meet the New Council Members & Interns



The newest Seeds of Hope Council member is **Guilherme Feitosa de Almeida** (left), a lecturer in Musical Theater at Baylor University. An ordained Baptist minister, Guilherme earned his Bachelor of Church Music from the North Brazil Baptist Theological Seminary, and his Master of Music from Baylor University.

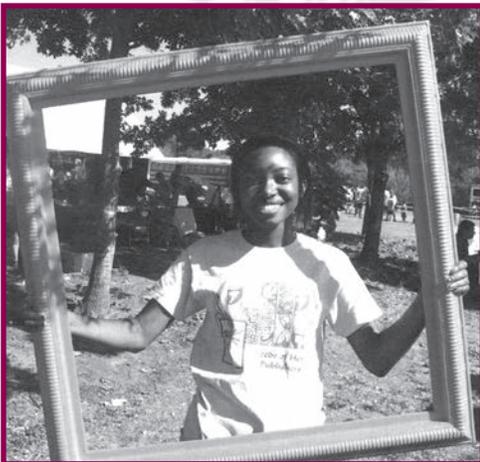
He served in Christian base communities (inspired by themes of Latin American liberation theology) in the Northeast of his native Brazil as pastoral musician and liturgist. He is immersed in music coaching and storytelling, liturgy and arts, the pastoral practice of liberation theology, artists' spiritual formation, ecumenical dialogue, and music and missions. He has written much of the past year's liturgy for *Sacred Seasons*, the Seeds worship resource periodical. He lives in Waco, TX, with his wife, Carla.

Another new Council member, **Derek Dodson** (right), teaches in the Religion Department at Baylor University. He grew up in Alabama, and lived in Kentucky before coming

to Baylor to do his graduate work. He is an ordained minister and has served on church staffs, including as pastor, in Alabama, Kentucky and Texas.

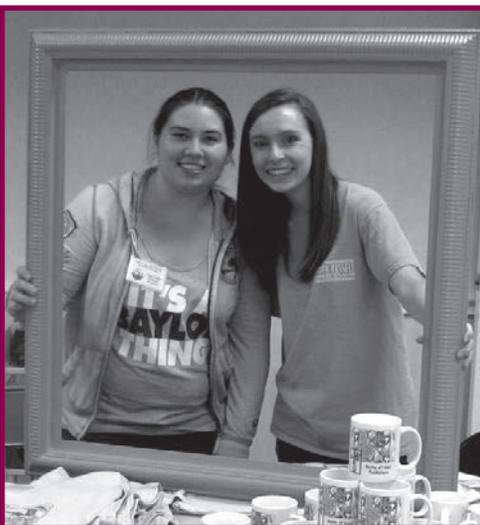
Derek says he feels that academics and ministry provide a kind of "warp and woof" to his life: teaching Religion at a Christian university, interacting with students

about issues of faith, researching in the area of New Testament studies and early Christian literature, and teaching college Sunday school at Seventh & James Baptist Church. Derek and his wife Sherrie have two daughters, Kelsey and Emily.

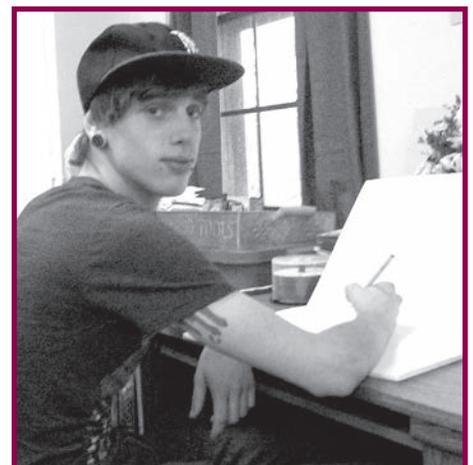


Seeds was fortunate have the opportunity to work with another group of incredible interns during 2014. **Kristin Waites**, a Baylor University Professional Writing major from the Dallas, TX, area, served in the fall of 2014. Kristin received an Associated Church Press award for her work on a special *Hunger News & Hope* issue on poverty and US prisons (Vol 14 No 3, Summer 2014). She is pictured above, left representing Seeds at World Hunger Relief's Fall Farm Day in Elm Mott, TX.

Alyssa Miller and **Elizabeth Arnold** (left) were interns during the Spring 2014 semester. Alyssa (far left) came to us from the Baylor University Professional Writing department and Elizabeth came from the Department of Journalism, Public Relations and New Media. Both are from the Dallas, TX, area. In this photo, they are hard at work at the Seeds 2014 Chili Challenge & Cupcake Throwdown.

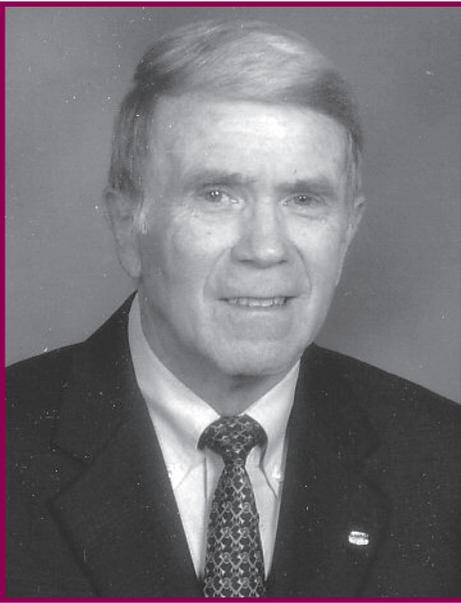


To the right you will see **Jesse Manning**, our budding young artist. Jesse is a high-school student currently living in Louisiana. He has created a number of stunning art pieces for *Sacred Seasons* and *Hunger News & Hope* and is currently working on more art for this year's Hunger Emphasis packet.



Grateful Memories

Remembering Dan McGee



Daniel B. McGee, who served as president of the Seeds Council of Stewards for 15 years, died just over a year ago. He is sorely missed, and his ideas and dreams continue to exert a profound influence on the Seeds ministry.

Dan, a Christian Ethics professor in the Religion department at Baylor University, was instrumental in bringing Seeds to Waco. Between 1990 and 1991, Dan and several other people began to meet and discuss the possibility of continuing the Seeds ministry, which was then based at Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, GA. In 1991, the local group formed as Seeds of Hope, Inc., and bought *Seeds Magazine* and a considerable hunger-studies library from the Decatur nonprofit Christians Concerned about Hunger.

Over the years, Dan played a crucial role in our long, joyful and often challenging journey, through a few metamorphoses and over many seemingly impossible hurdles. His leadership in the formation of the Seeds organization is still evident. From the beginning, the governing body has been called a “Council of Stewards” rather than a board of directors, to emphasize our egalitarian leadership style and to remind Council members of the serious responsibility we all had embraced.

Dan began presiding over that Council in 1991. He stepped down in 2006 because of health issues, but he continued to support the ministry in many ways. He also served as a mentor to this editor beginning in 1972. His teaching continues (and will continue) to guide my decisions and behavior, as well as the work of Seeds, even after his death.

In April 2015, Seeds received a gift in memory of Dan and in honor of his wife, Merolyn, from Dorothy Green. —Katie Cook



Goodbye, Kathy

Kathy Susan (Stokes) Gardner came to volunteer at Seeds in the summer of 2012. It seemed to us that she had fallen from heaven. She took on the daunting responsibility of Business Manager, keeping track of the modest amount of money we had, and working hard to make our ends meet. It was a most difficult time for nonprofits, with the US economy still trying to recover, and Kathy took her job very seriously.

In spite of that, she was a bright light in the darkness we often encounter in the world of hunger issues. She taught us much about how to care deeply, and how to pour ourselves into our work, without losing our sense of joy.

Kathy died in July 2014, after a shockingly brief but courageous struggle with pancreatic cancer. Her concern for the welfare of Seeds never went away; she named our ministry as a recipient for memorial gifts. We received gifts in Kathy’s honor from these people:

- Judy & Rich Riley
- Alexis Weaver
- Nancy S. Perryman
- Bruce & Dorothy Neatherlin
- Skip & Sandy Londos
- Richard Battistoni & Betsy Ritz
- Robert & Mary Lynn Long
- Robert & Mary Darden
- The Baylor University Department of Economics
- John & Meg Cullar
- Don & Kristi SoRelle
- Laurel Zeiss & Daniel Maresh

We are grateful to these people and to Kathy and her family for remembering us. Her ready laughter will always enrich our spirits. —Katie Cook



Seeds of Hope Publishers

Staff

Editor: L. Katherine Cook
Acting Business Manager John Segrest

Council of Stewards

Guilherme Almeida
Sally Lynn Askins, V. Pres.
Meg Cullar
Derek Dodson
Deborah E. Harris, Corresp. Secretary
Sandy Londos, Recording Secretary
B. Michael Long, President

Board of Advisors

Dale A. Barron
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Jon Singletary

Statement of Purpose

Seeds of Hope is a private, independent group of believers responding to a common burden for the poor and hungry of God's world, and acting on the strong belief that biblical mandates to feed the poor were not intended to be optional. The group intends to seek out people of faith who feel called to care for the poor; and to affirm, enable and empower a variety of responses to the problems of poverty.

Editorial Address

Seeds of Hope is housed by the community of faith at Seventh & James Baptist Church. The mailing address is 602 James Avenue, Waco, TX 76706;
Phone: 254/ 755-7745; Fax: 254/753-1909;
Email: seedseditor1@gmail.com;
Web: www.seedspublishers.org.
Seeds of Hope, Inc., holds the 501(c)3 nonprofit tax status.

art by Erin Kennedy Mayer



Seeds of Hope Budget 2014-2015

	Budget FY 2014	Actual FY 2014	Budget FY 2015
Income			
Hunger News & Hope Grants	12,000.00	5,197.00	6,000.00
Sacred Seasons Subscribers	2,300.00	1,197.50	2,000.00
Monthly Partners	2,600.00	2,215.00	2,600.00
Memorials	0.00	1,350.00	0.00
Grants	11,000.00	2,138.70	6,200.00
Fundraisers	0.00	2,783.00	5,000.00
Income NOC	0.00	4,681.42	18.00
	27,900.00	19,562.62	21,818.00
Expenses			
Telephone	465.00	369.64	250.00
Internet	450.00	467.35	480.00
Web Host	50.00	37.99	50.00
Office Supplies & Technology	1,200.00	826.84	1,000.00
Travel	1,000.00	0.00	500.00
Bank Charges	0.00	164.00	228.00
Fundraising Expenses	0.00	98.31	1,400.00
Hunger News & Hope Production	500.00	0.00	0.00
Sacred Seasons Production	1,400.00	0.00	0.00
Handling, Postage & Shipping	0.00	409.52	600.00
Printing	0.00	1,853.17	2,000.00
IRS Payroll Taxes	6,500.00	1,200.00	150.00
Editor Salary	8,400.00	7,317.10	10,000.00
Editor Health Insurance	2,940.00	3,419.41	2,850.00
Editor Life Insurance	300.00	300.00	300.00
Editor IRA (Deferred Compensation)	1,200.00	0.00	1,200.00
Seeds FICA			510.00
Seeds IRA Match (3.0%)			300.00
	24,405.00	16,463.33	21,818.00

If you would like to support us monthly, please check the level that's best for you and return this form with a check made out to Seeds of Hope, Inc., to 602 James Ave., Waco, TX 76706. You can also pay online at www.seedspublishers.org.

Just hit the "donate" button and send an email to seedseditor1@gmail.com saying you're signing up to be a sustaining partner. We are profoundly grateful for all that you do to help us continue our work.

Yes, I want to support the Seeds of Hope ministry!

_____ Mustard Seed Partner
\$10 monthly

_____ Sprouts Partner
\$25 monthly

_____ Harvest Partner
\$50 monthly

_____ Other

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____