

# Seeds of Hope

Annual Report 2016

## Seeds Celebrates 25 Years in Waco

### A Note from the President

The last year has been eventful for the Seeds ministry in many ways—with new awards, new interns and volunteers, better financial footing, and an important anniversary. This year's report is dedicated to an overview of the past 25 years of Seeds in Waco (and its 17 years in Decatur, GA). We hope you will enjoy reading about the work that Seeds has done over the years.

The staff and Council of Stewards are dedicated to maintaining this ministry for the next 25 years and beyond. We hope you will continue to partner with us in our efforts to break the chains of poverty and hunger in our world.

Sincerely yours,  
B. Michael Long, President  
Seeds Council of Stewards

In 1991, an intrepid group of anti-hunger activists adopted a publishing ministry and opened for business in Waco, Texas. This summer, Seeds of Hope, Inc. celebrates 25 years of creating hunger resources in Waco, but the Seeds dream began 17 years before that.

George Sheridan, a member at Oakhurst Baptist Church in Decatur, GA, traveled to Honduras in 1974 to help with disaster-relief efforts. He returned to Decatur determined to do something to end hunger around the world.

Following George's lead, the church embraced hunger relief as a major missions effort. In January 1977, Gary Gunderson and Andy Loving sent out a mimeographed one-page newsletter to 600 Southern Baptists, and the Seeds ministry was born. The Seeds mission group, which soon included Tom Peterson and Ken Sehested, worked to push Southern Baptists to respond to hunger issues.

The next year, the group produced the first issue of *Seeds* in magazine format and a book of 30 "miss-a-meal" meditations called *Roots of Hope*. The magazine began a bimonthly format, alternating with the newsletter supplement *Sprouts*. In the next few years, the Seeds staff assisted in starting soup kitchens, night shelters,

food pantries and other poverty-related assistance programs across the United States.

By 1982, the ministry had expanded to include other Christian groups. That year, the *Seeds Reader* issue on Women and Hunger won the prestigious Hunger Media Award given by World Hunger Year. The next year, Seeds co-published, along with *Alternatives*, the curriculum *All Tied Up*, a weekend hunger-education retreat for youth.

In 1984, Ken Sehested and Andy Loving left, and Tom Peterson became the Seeds editor. Also that year, Seeds organized a strong effort to respond to the famine in Ethiopia and published *A Guide to World Hunger Organizations*, edited by Louis Knowles.

The next year, Seeds won another Hunger Media Award for "The Church and Hunger," a second *Seeds Reader*, and helped the city of Decatur form a sister-city relationship with two cities in Burkina Faso, West Africa.

Seeds representatives led a study tour to the Philippines in 1986, during the revolutionary "People Power" election of Corizon Aquino as president. Also that year, the Seeds group visited 22 US cities and towns to examine the "State of the Hunger Movement," and published a special issue with the Food First organization on *Hunger and Democracy*.

A special 10th anniversary issue with UNICEF on Child Survival took the staff to West Africa, Brazil and Indonesia

Please see '25 Years' on page 3.

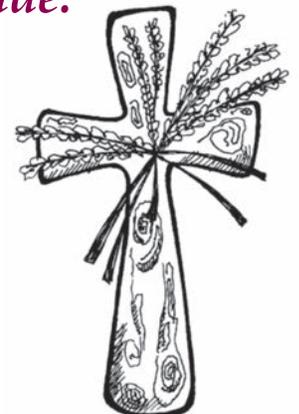
### What you'll find inside:

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Page 3: Seeds History, continued

Page 4: The 2016 Seeds budget

Page 4: A form that will help you become a sustaining Seeds partner



Art by Erin Kennedy Mayer

# Meet the New Council Member & Interns



**Sara Alexander** (left, pictured at the 2016 Seeds Hotcakes & Hymns supper) is the newest member of the Seeds Council of Stewards. She is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Baylor University. As a social anthropologist, she has worked in Central America, West and East Africa, and Appalachia. Her research focuses on developing countries in such matters as livelihood security and vulnerability, natural resource management, the human dimensions of climate change and the HIV / AIDS pandemic. She recently completed a two-year field study with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), in several coastal communities in the Meso-American Barrier Reef System, to examine resilience of vulnerable households to climate-related events and shocks. She has served as an advisor for CARE, Save the Children, World Vision and the World Food Programme.

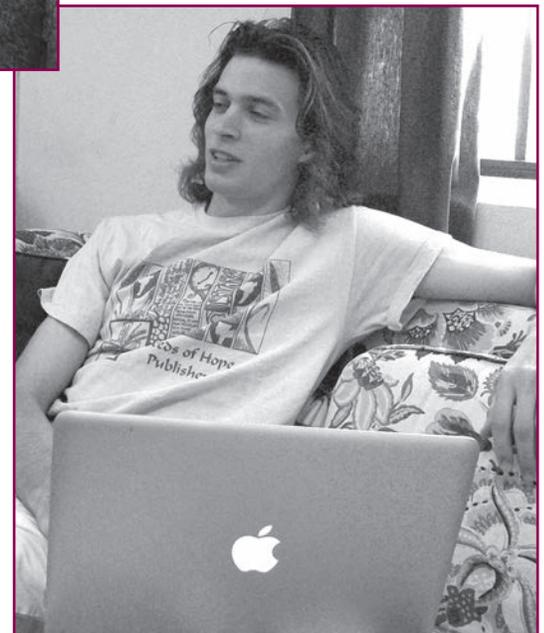
**LeAnne Kerr** (top, middle) hails from Shreveport, LA, and is a Professional Writing major at Baylor University. At press time, she had just completed her summer internship. She says that she has learned, through her work at Seeds, to write with empathy and clarity, as well as to manage multiple projects at a time. "Although researching about hunger and poverty can make for a heavy heart," she says, "writing about the positive impacts people are making to benefit the good of others makes the work worth it."



**Grayson Wolf** (below), a Waco native, was the Summer 2015 intern at Seeds. As a Religion and English major at Baylor, he was able to work as much on biblical and historical research for the *Sacred Seasons* worship packets as he did on news stories for *Hunger News & Hope*. He plans to continue writing for Seeds, as soon as he returns from a stint in New Mexico, guiding people on wilderness expeditions.



**Karoline DaVee** (left), a Professional Writing major at Baylor, was our Fall 2015 intern. From her recruiting position for a Houston firm, she wrote, "Interning at Seeds was a great writing experience, and it also opened my eyes to so many hunger and poverty issues in the world." Karoline was born in Tulsa, OK, but lived in Dallas, TX, most of her pre-college life.



## 25 Years *continued from page 1*

in 1987. Also that year, Seeds published the *Hunger Action Handbook*, by Leslie Withers and Tom Peterson, with 24 “how-to” chapters.

However, in the next couple of years, the sense of call and purpose began to wane. With the founding editors gone, the Oakhurst folks thought maybe it was time for the ministry to be laid to rest. But there was a group of people in Texas who didn’t want Seeds to die.

So, in 1991, Seeds of Hope, Inc. was formed in Texas, and the ministry moved to Seventh & James Baptist Church, with Katie Cook as editor. On July 25, Oakhurst hosted what amounted to an adoption ceremony, with the founding editors and congregation giving their blessing to the new incarnation.

On September 4, the Waco office was officially open for business in a former Sunday school classroom at Seventh & James. That first year, the new group published *Roots of Hope, Volume II*, a book of 40 meditations from an ecumenical, interfaith pool of writers.

The first issue of *Sprouts* from Texas came out in January 1992, as the ministry began a quarterly publication of *Seeds Magazine*, with two issues of *Sprouts* in between.

In 1994, Michael Williamson compiled *A Guide to World Hunger Organizations, Volume II*, a 10th-anniversary update. In 1996, Katie represented Seeds in a human rights delegation to Chiapas, the southernmost state of Mexico. Also that year, the Smyth & Helwys publishing house hosted the first fledgling Seeds website, which was developed with a grant from the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

In 1998, the Council and staff, in the face of the changing landscape of journalism, began to face the fact that there wasn’t enough money to keep printing a magazine. But the history of Seeds, as Marla Pierson wrote in a *Waco Tribune-Herald* article, is a tale of resurrection.

Within the year, the staff began to create *Sacred Seasons*, a series of worship resource packets with a biblical focus on hunger and poverty issues. Also during that year, the Seeds team negotiated a partnership with an interfaith ad hoc group to produce the award-winning *Hunger News & Hope*, now a mostly electronic newsletter that is distributed through several religious denominations and through the Seeds website and social media.

From 2000 to 2008, Seeds published, through *Sacred Seasons*, two collections of monologues for scene-to-scene dramatic presentations for children. *Easter Walk* includes 12 monologues about the events of Holy Week. *With Our Own Eyes* includes monologues about the seven resurrection appearances in the gospels.

From 2003 to 2005, Seeds created and posted worship kits for three peace services, sponsored by the American Baptist Church. In 2006, the staff created *Developing a Heart for the Hungry: A Hunger Emphasis Primer for Beginning Churches*. Seeds received a grant from the H. C. Gemmer Christian Family Foundation in 2015 to update the primer, which is now available free of charge on the Seeds website.

In 2007, the Alliance of Baptists sponsored a collection of hunger sermons called *Speaking of Hunger*. Seeds just received a Gemmer grant to create another collection of hunger sermons for fall 2016. In 2008, the Alliance of Baptists sponsored *Hope Is in Our Hands*, a collection of hunger lessons and activities for youth and children.

Over the years, the Waco staff developed a curriculum for a four-part workshop for churches called *Hunger in God’s World*. In 2015, that curriculum was published in collaboration with the Hunger Ministry division of the Waco Regional Baptist Association, and is also available on the Seeds website.

The Seeds folks in Waco, like their predecessors in Decatur, have been active in organizing and training people to respond with compassion and integrity to difficult and compelling issues in our world. Seeds works closely with a number of national and local groups to bring this about.

The council and staff have been engaged several times in intense discernment about the future of Seeds. During the most recent one, someone came across a meditation on the call of the prophet Isaiah, written by Frederick Buechner. In the meditation, Isaiah asks God, “How long should I do this?” The answer, in Buechner’s paraphrase, is “Do it ‘til the cows come home.”

The Council and staff saw this as a sign from God, and that is why, 25 years after the “adoption,” Seeds is still here.

Forty-two years ago, as Oakhurst historian Alverta Wright wrote, “the winds of a hurricane planted a seed in the heart of a Christian relief worker.” That seed sprouted and has been nurtured by hundreds of people. We hope it will flourish until the cows come home.

—Compiled by Katie Cook. Sources: Houston Chronicle; SBC Today (now Baptists Today); Waco Tribune-Herald; Oakhurst Baptist Church archives, Seeds Magazine, correspondence with former editors. Note: the above is excerpted from a longer article, “Sowing Seeds of Hope,” which can be found at [www.seedspublishers.org](http://www.seedspublishers.org) under the “About Seeds” tab.

## Grateful Memories

Seeds of Hope received memorial gifts  
in honor of

**C. W. (Wally) Christian**  
from the following:

Ellen Kuniyuki Brown  
Dennis & Lois Myers  
Gregg & Melody Parsons  
Bill & Ruth Pitts  
Pat & Jim Busby

Jimmy C. & Dorothy K. Green

Seeds received a memorial gift  
in honor of

**Lois Patricia Lynch Askins**  
from the following:

Skip & Sandy Londos

## Seeds of Hope Publishers

### Staff

Editor: L. Katherine Cook  
Acting Business Manager: John Segrest

### Council of Stewards

Sara Alexander  
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  
H. Joseph Haag  
Kathryn Mueller  
Jacqueline L. Saxon  
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.

# Seeds of Hope Budget 2016



	Budget FY 2015	Actual FY 2015	Budget FY 2016
<b>INCOME</b>			
Hunger News and Hope Grants	6,000.00	0.00	0.00
Sacred Seasons Subscribers	2,000.00	700.00	1,000.00
Monthly Partners	2,600.00	2,760.40	2,600.00
Memorials	0.00	1,341.00	0.00
Grants	6,200.00	3,300.00	3,300.00
Gifts	0.00	4,048.72	3,000.00
Fundraisers	5,000.00	5,022.50	5,000.00
Income NOC	18.00	4,181.42	5,333.28
	<u>21,818.00</u>	<u>21,081.21</u>	<u>23,233.28</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Telephone	250.00	241.68	250.00
Internet	480.00	692.77	1,050.00
Web Host	50.00	0.00	0.00
Office Supplies & Technology	1,000.00	1,265.03	1,000.00
Travel	500.00	518.65	500.00
Bank Charges	228.00	90.00	100.00
Fundraising Expenses	1,400.00	899.02	1,400.00
Mailing, Postage & Shipping	600.00	316.75	500.00
Printing	2,000.00	1,995.78	2,000.00
Books	0.00	51.34	0.00
Expenses (NOC)	0.00	927.08	1,000.00
IRS Payroll Taxes	150.00	150.00	0.00
Editor Salary	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Editor Health Insurance	2,850.00	2,807.99	4,083.28
Editor Life Insurance	300.00	300.00	300.00
Editor IRA (Deferred Compensation)	1,200.00	0.00	0.00
Seeds FICA	510.00	741.63	750.00
Seeds IRA Match (3.0%)	300.00	300.00	300.00
	<u>21,818.00</u>	<u>21,210.01</u>	<u>23,233.28</u>

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](http://www.seedspublishers.org). Just hit the "donate" button and send an email to [seedseditor1@gmail.com](mailto:seedseditor1@gmail.com) saying you're signing up to be a sustaining partner. We are now able to receive gifts of stocks, bonds, mutual funds & other securities. Contact us and we'll tell you how to donate in with a brokerage gift. 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    
  Brokerage gift    
  Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

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