

# ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING - 2023

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This year we will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing, All-Church offering on Sunday, March 19. The work of OGHS carries God's message of love and hope to people in crisis. The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education, and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy, and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. Read below for an example of the important work of OGHS in cooperation with other Christian denominations around the world.

In Nueva Frontera (New Frontier) and other rural areas in the department of Santa Bárbara, Honduras, a new program is unfolding, and has already reached 500 families through OGHS funds. Esmerelda Robles is a 27-year-old wife, mother, and farmer who lives in the Macuelizo region, and has benefitted greatly from the installation of an eco-stove which has significantly reduced the soot that previously covered her home. "Before, I had a permanent cough," Esmerelda says. "Now, with just a load of firewood, you cook, you don't need much (unlike the stove we had before), and it is very helpful for our lungs that there is no smoke."

Beyond this life-affirming aspect for individual families, the most important contribution of these eco-stoves is their significant reduction in the use of firewood. This is all part of the new frontier of innovative Church World Service programs developed with local partners, and supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, to improve food security while adapting to climate change. Other aspects of this program include learning about food and nutrition, hygiene, waste management, and environmental protection. There are training sessions about planting crops and producing fertilizers and families receive seeds which allow them to grow most of the food their families eat.

Food sustains life. Responding to hunger is an affirmation of life. Let us not grow weary of affirming life! Regardless of the cause of hunger, One Great Hour of Sharing responds - both locally and globally. Like Esmerelda, many of our global siblings living at the intersections of hunger and climate change are already reaping the harvests of your past generosity. But there are still more families in need of these life-affirming programs. It's time to share. "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up...So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all." —Galatians 6.9-10

To make a gift, you may place your check in the offering plate during church (with OGHS in the memo line), mail in a check to the church office, or utilize our **Pay Pal feature** (please indicate that it is for OGHS when asked to attach a note). You can also make a gift directly online at [wcucc.org/oghs](http://wcucc.org/oghs). Thank you for your generosity!

