

...in loving memory of Gretchen DeVries

Gretchen DeVries, a United Church of Christ missionary, helped establish the Asian Rural Institute in 1973, and worked tirelessly with Takami-sensei for over 20 years. She passed away on February 24, 2005. Gretchen was a tremendous spirit at ARI who taught, counseled, and loved literally hundreds of people who came through ARI. She was one who always took care of those whom others overlooked, and the devotion she showed them is always reflected in their faces at the mention of her name. In order to honor her memory, and with the blessings of her family, ARI has initiated the Gretchen DeVries Scholarship Program.



The goal of this program is to raise \$32,000, enough to cover the academic scholarships of two participants to attend ARI's rural leader's training program in 2006. Through this program we hope to ensure that grassroots rural leaders will continue to have the opportunity to take part in ARI training for years to come.

2006 Gretchen DeVries Scholars



Ms. Mir Suraiya Ahmed Tutu - Bangladesh

At the age of 12 Ms. Tutu's father gave her a small plot of land. She worked hard through the year to grow vegetables on that land. At the harvest time, her father sold all the produce

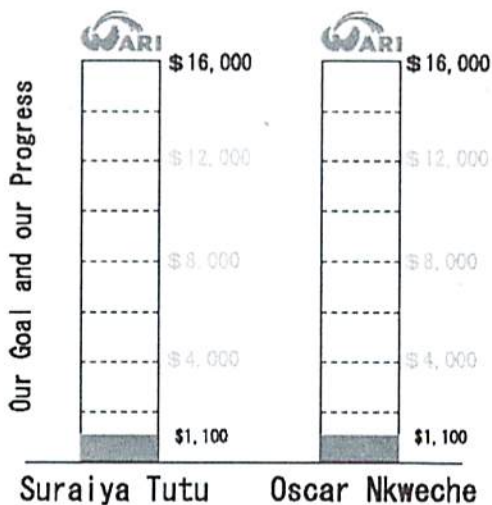
and gave his daughter the profits. A story such as this is a very rare case for a woman in Bangladesh, a country where women typically have no rights and no voice. As a Project Coordinator in a local NGO called *AID-Comilla*, Ms. Tutu is now working to improve the circumstances of women. She organizes them into groups and teaches them how to conduct meetings in which they can address problems in their communities. She conducts training for these groups in legal rights, vegetable gardening, and how to make and save money for the family. Through these activities, women are gaining more access to economic resources and more independence, which puts them in a position in society where they are treated with respect and dignity.



Mr. Oscar Fortsin Nkweche - Cameroon

The son of peasant farmers, Oscar Nkweche spent his weekends and holidays working on the family's 15 hectares. When the coffee crisis struck and the price of beans dropped

overnight, it hit Cameroon hard. Coffee is a cash crop, grown on monoculture plantations for export only, relying on chemical fertilizers. When there was no money to be had in coffee there was no food for the people. To deal with this crisis Oscar started a pig farm and uses the pig manure compost to revitalize the soil for his vegetable and fruit gardens. In 2003 he started working as an agricultural extension worker for a local NGO called *Strategic Human Services (SHUMAS)*. Now he is providing practical training in integrated organic agriculture for 45 cooperative farming groups in 20 rural villages, teaching them how to maximize yields on their small plots of land. He shows them how their produce can put food on the table and also generate income for their children to go to school.



How to give through AFARI:

Send a check to AFARI. Write "GDV Scholarship" in the memo (tax deductible for all who pay US taxes) to:

AFARI (American Friends of ARI)
Dr. Don Tarr, Treasurer
905 Ivanhoe Drive
Northfield, MN 55057 USA

Canadians citizens may send tax-deductible gifts to:

United Church of Canada
(memo: GDV Super Gift for ARI)
Division of World Outreach
3250 Bloor St. West
Etobicoke, ONT M8X2Y4