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Self-Development of People disburses over \$180,000 to fund 11 self-help Projects in the U.S. and in Belize

Detroit, MI project awarded grant

LOUISVILLE, KY (February 26, 2015) — The Presbyterian Committee on the [Self-Development of People](#) (SDOP) has approved grants totaling \$180,000 to 11 self-help projects in the United States and Belize. The money is from the [PC \(USA\) - One Great Hour of Sharing \(OGHS\)](#) offering. Self-Development of People receives 32 percent of undesignated OGHS gifts.

Unity in Our Community Time Bank was awarded a \$12,700 grant. The project is an alternative economic model to assist members of this group in their efforts to formalize the exchange of people's time and talents to meet one another's needs without exchanging money.

SDOP's grant recipients through the years have ranged from a group seeking to address the problem of poverty and hunger by using hydroponic gardening to grow food for its members and by selling excess produce to the local community; to a bag making cooperative by a group of youth which has enabled them to learn viable leadership and business skills; to a peer to peer developmental project in which participants with mental health challenges have received appropriate training. As certified recovery peer specialists they have in turn provided training to others. The training has helped these group members gain employment skills thus increasing their independence.

SDOP enables members and non-members of the [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#) to form partnerships with economically poor, oppressed and disadvantaged people in order to help them achieve self-sufficiency.

Grants were approved at a meeting of SDOP's national committee in Houston, TX in January 2015. For further information about [Self-Development of People](#), please contact the National Office at:

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