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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.

We the People of Detroit (Detroit Water Crisis Hotline) was awarded a \$15,000 grant. Group members of this advocacy project are advocating for their water rights due an aggressive campaign to disconnect the water services of residents with an overdue balance above \$150 or if they are behind more than 60 days for payments. The project will provide short term water supplies for members to avert a public health crisis, restore water to affected and high risk members and implement a policy to ensure fresh clean water is delivered to low income residents at an affordable cost.

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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