

RSF

Quarterly

INNOVATIONS IN SOCIAL FINANCE

RSF'S NEW SOCIAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY

In August, RSF made a strategic investment in Greenmont Capital Partners, a Boulder-based venture capital firm focused on the health and wellness market. Led by a team of natural product industry veterans, Greenmont offers the potential for strong financial and social returns by investing in early and growth stage companies in the natural/organic, personal care and development, ecological lifestyles, and alternative healthcare categories. Initial Greenmont investments include a natural beverage consumer products company and a leading wind energy marketing and production firm. RSF is excited to add social private equity to its pioneering social investment activities.

DID YOU KNOW OCTOBER IS FAIR TRADE MONTH?

Throughout the month of October, TransFair USA, the US Fair Trade certifier, is celebrating the second annual Fair Trade Month. Coffee roasters, retailers, civil society allies, farmers, and other friends of Fair Trade will be coming together to celebrate our connection to the people around the world who grow and harvest Fair Trade Certified foods. Please visit www.transfairusa.org to find out about retailers and companies offering Fair Trade Certified products, and hosting special promotional events, and also where Fair Trade farmers will be touring in the US to share their stories of Fair Trade's dramatic impact on their lives.

Improving Lives Through Fair Trade Coffee

Fair Trade coffee helps provide a just and equitable trade environment between growers and consumers. For growers like Rogelia Figueroa Gabera, one of 8,500 members of the Association of Agrarian Cooperatives of Cuzco (COCLA) in Peru, Fair Trade coffee not only helps her family improve their quality of life, it also provides an incentive to improve the quality of the coffee they grow.

"We all want to improve the quality of our coffee, which we never used to do because we lacked the economic means or coffee prices were low or because we did not have a good market for our coffee. Now we have buyers who will give us a better price, and now we have an incentive to keep improving the quality of our coffee," she said.

Up to 90% of COCLA's export volume is certified organic, sustainable, or Fair Trade. A challenge came with rising coffee prices; COCLA needed greater access to credit in order to purchase coffee from cooperative members like Gabera who benefit from their involvement in the Fair Trade coffee industry. RSF came together with EcoLogic and Calvert Foundation to provide the additional financing needed to help ensure this socially-beneficial trade partnership.

The loan helped COCLA purchase coffee beans from its members in order to sell to buyers. The line of credit also helps COCLA access Fair Trade markets which allows them to provide an extensive array

of services to its members including: an agricultural diversification project; workshops and seminars to address such topics as pest control, organic certification, ecology and conservation; and a microcredit program specifically earmarked for lending to women.

"The loan we made to COCLA is symbolic of what we like to see happening in the Fair Trade coffee industry—social finance lenders coming together to meet the credit needs of coffee producers," says Esther Park, RSF Senior Program Finance Officer.



RSF Helps Establish Child Care Facility

Thanks to financial support from RSF's investors, parents in Peterborough, New Hampshire are finding a new source for loving and reliable childcare.

With a line of credit from RSF, the Pine Hill Waldorf School is establishing the Pine Hill Child Care Center on the campus of a local public high school.

Not only will this new center acquaint families from all walks of life to Waldorf ideals and practices, it is also designed to provide a vocational training program in child development for high school students.

"What is unusual about the center, aside from the fact that it is the first Waldorf-inspired child care center of its kind in the country, is that in addition to serving children of working families, it is serving as a learning lab for high school students who are studying to be early childhood educators in the school district's vocational center," says Deb Abrahams-Dematte, Director of Outreach and Enrollment for Pine Hill Waldorf School.

"To serve the greater community's youngest children by bringing to their

daily care the nurturing elements of a Waldorf early childhood education is the paramount aspect of this project," says Lois Horan, the new center's director.

"It is with heartfelt gratitude that we acknowledge that RSF's funding for the Pine Hill Child Care Center truly made it possible."

Both RSF and Pine Hill are excited to be working together again on the school's continued growth through the child care center. It is a chance to deepen a relationship that has existed for two decades. "Pine Hill Waldorf School was RSF's first borrowing client. RSF might not be the organization it is today if we had not worked together on a loan with them in 1984," says Mark A. Finser, President and CEO of RSF. "That loan, made possible by the members of the school community who invested with RSF, helped rebuild the school after a devastating fire."

For more information about the Pine Hill Child Care Center, please call 603.924.6620 or email pinehillccc@aol.com.

Through this new center, families from all walks of life can be acquainted with Waldorf ideals and practices.



Idea

Acción S

Action Without Borders' Buenos Aires staff builds non-profit communities in the Spanish-speaking world.

Idealist.org Linguistic B

For Mónica Urdanegui, finding meaningful work helping people in need in Peru was a challenge. Before Action Without Borders launched the website Idealistas.org, a single Spanish-language resource that could connect people with good intentions to those with ideas and resources did not exist.

"Through Idealistas.org I obtained a position in a program being carried out by an NGO in the poorest areas of Lima, Peru, that works to increase awareness of the problem of child labor while also promoting and improving children's rights among the children themselves," said Mónica Urdanegui.

Action Without Borders developed the successful English-language website, Idealist.org, in 1996. When they decided to expand the Spanish-language version, RSF was the first to support them. Through a grant from RSF last year, Action Without Borders was able to develop and implement an outreach program from their office in Buenos Aires,

Crosses Borders

Argentina. Their goal was to increase the number of organizations and individuals using the site by building trust and credibility among non-profit communities in the Spanish-speaking world through partnerships and collaboration.

A year and a half later, they have seen a 74% increase in the number of organizations registered on Idealistas.org and a 140% increase in the number of individuals subscribing to Mi Idealista. New resources and events are being added every day.

“I was obsessed with the notion that you have a world rife with problems,” says Action Without Borders founder Ami Dar in the March issue of *Time* magazine featuring innovators in philanthropy, “but you also have ideas and resources and people with free time and good intentions, and there had to be a way to bring these things together.”

For more information and to find out how to get involved, please visit www.idealista.org.

Sustainable Agriculture Gets a Bigger Piece of the Pie

When the property adjacent to Pie Ranch located in San Mateo County, California became available for sale, the Pie Ranch team acted quickly asking RSF to serve as their fiscal sponsor and forming the Green Oaks Agricultural Trust to purchase the parcel.

For Pie Ranch co-directors Jered Lawson and Nancy Vail, acquiring this property furthers their mission to inspire urban youth to appreciate fresh foods and the farmlands where these are grown.

The Trust will hold the land in perpetuity as a working farm and a non-profit center. Its purpose is for the education and practice of sustainable farming, community food security, and land conservation. The Pie Ranch team overseen by the Trust will provide educational programming and stewardship of the property.

It will also help engage communities in building healthier local food systems, demonstrate economically viable

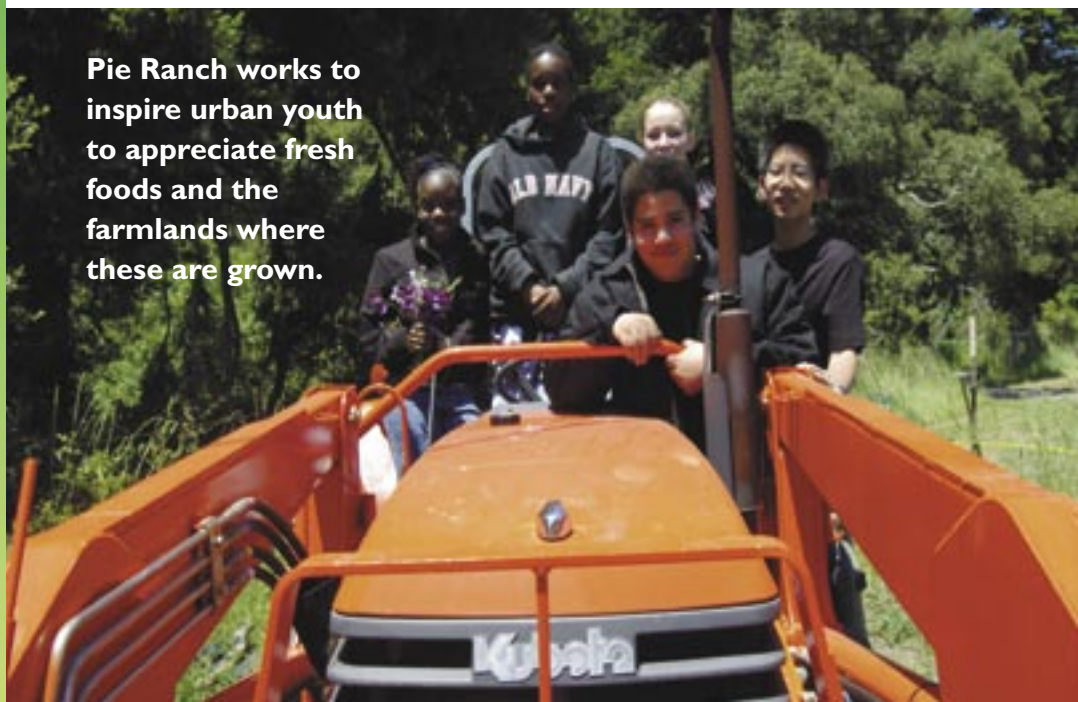
agriculture and catalyze community-based models for conserving agricultural lands in the region.

“The benefits to the public will be an increase in the number of urban and rural residents who intimately know and take part in the history of the food they eat, and claim a share in the responsibility of rural land stewardship through sustainable agriculture,” says Jered Lawson.

“We approached RSF to be the fiscal-sponsor of the Trust because RSF is an established and well-respected organization with a like vision in the realm of agricultural and cultural movements,” says Jered. “RSF provides credibility and anchorage to our young and emerging programs and organization.”

For more information about Pie Ranch and to help with purchase of the land, please visit their website at www.pieranch.org or call 650.879.0971.

Pie Ranch works to inspire urban youth to appreciate fresh foods and the farmlands where these are grown.





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Are your investments driving toward a better world?
Or are they working in reverse?

Fair trade. Renewable energy. Organic farming. Organizations that hold the most hope for building a more sustainable world have the least access to funds for survival and growth. You can help move them forward by investing with RSF.

Help us provide urgently needed funding for solutions to our planet's most pressing problems. And see the immediate impact of your investment. Coffee farmers earn a living wage. Clean technology powers our cities. Organic farmers get their food to market.

Earn a financial return and help heal the world.

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