

# THE ROOTS



WINTER 2015

## Vietnam SHADE Update

Roots of Peace staff members travelled to Vietnam in November to visit with pepper farmers participating in the SHADE program and research new project sites. While there, ROP met with representatives from the 6 provinces in the Central Coast that were hit hardest by the war. All expressed interest in having ROP work in their provinces and offered government collaboration. In addition, farmers in 5 clubs who began participating in SHADE in 2011 celebrated a graduation ceremony. While now financially independent, these farmers will continue to receive support with the marketing of their product and will be invited to agricultural trainings.



## Women of Roots

Every year Roots of Peace acknowledges individuals who make extraordinary efforts to rid the world of landmines by presenting them with the Global Citizen Award. In December, Roots of Peace honored Violet Grgich, Grgich Hills Estate Wine, as a 2014 Global Citizen Award recipient at the first Women of Roots Luncheon. Violet has been a long-time supporter of Roots of Peace, designing a special bottle of Grgich Hills Estate wine to benefit our work and creating the Roots of Peace Fountain to collect pennies at the entrance of the legendary Grgich Hills Winery in Napa Valley.

## CrowdRise Campaign

Roots of Peace wishes to thank all those who supported our CrowdRise Campaign. Together we raised over \$30,000 to benefit the SHADE program in Vietnam. In addition, the Skoll Foundation leveraged all money donated during the 6-week challenge bringing our total to over \$50,000. Funds raised will enable us to scale SHADE by expanding pepper production to additional regions in Vietnam.



## Afghanistan CHAMP Program

In Afghanistan, the CHAMP project finished the year with an impressive total of 14,000 MT of produce exported. At the beginning of December, CHAMP hosted an important meeting at the Ministry of Agriculture to discuss eliminating key barriers and improving Afghan exports. This objective is a key part of the new Afghan president, Ashraf Ghani's goal for the country, and CHAMP is positioned to play a key role.

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