

\$TAMPING for DOLLAR\$

Vol. 1 No. 6

Stamping for Dollars is an occasional newsletter of the Indianapolis First Friends team who sell donated postage stamps to benefit Right Sharing of World Resources (www.rswr.org). RSWR is an independent Quaker organization partnering with groups of women in Kenya, India, and Sierra Leone in community transformation.



Stamping for Dollars is sent to RSWR staff, First Friends staff, the Stamping for Dollars team, and others who have shown particular interest in the RSWR stamp program.

Phil Goodchild, a RSWR board member, shared his experience of working on the stamp team in the First Friends weekly newsletter, *Friend to Friend*. Phil agreed to reprinting it here.

Why I Do \$tamping for Dollar\$ for RSWR

A long, long time ago, when I lived overseas as a boy and letters were basically the only way our family had to communicate with friends and relatives back in the States, I collected postage stamps. I was fascinated by

the reflections of history, culture and national pride in each country's stamps, advertisements by governments to their people and to the world of what matters to them. And stamps were beautiful works of art in miniature. Fast forward to the 21st century, stamps and snail mail are practically anachronisms.

As a board member of Right Sharing of World Resources, I was vaguely aware of the tiny-but-mighty efforts of a few to raise money for RSWR by soliciting stamp donations, then selling them to collectors. The devotion of the "Stampers" didn't really register with me until First Friends became the hub of these efforts.

I began hearing more about the camaraderie of Amy Perry's merry band of Stampers, the sheer volume of stamp donations they methodically transform into funds for RSWR, and the fun they have doing it. But it took the pandemic to really draw me in to this caring circle. Undaunted by disease, they figured out safe and responsible ways to carry on their mission, and volunteering with them, especially this past winter, has been a life-affirming gift of fellowship and service for me in a dispiriting time. I'm admittedly the least efficient, most occasional member of the Stampers' crew. But I know that RSWR is grateful for the Stampers' constancy and support of RSWR and its women partners in India, Kenya and Sierra Leone. And I'm still captivated by the power of tiny bits of multi-colored paper, vestiges of innumerable individual human intentions, to help someone else's tomorrow.

Phil Goodchild

Who Buys Your Stamps?

- Indianapolis Stamp Club supporters
- Collectors and dealers in California, Iowa, Florida, Illinois, and Nova Scotia.

Many of our buyers like knowing that their purchases support the RSWR mission. If you know of a stamp aficionado in your community, tell them about RSWR.

\$TAMPING for DOLLAR\$

Vol. 1 No. 6

Who Donates Stamps?

This question made the Stamping for Dollars team curious about the geographical distribution of our donors, Norma Wallman kindly attached a red dot to a United States map at every location from which we have received a stamp donation since April 2017. Thanks, Norma!

We learned that, as shown in the photograph below, donors in 43 states send us stamps. Only Idaho, Nevada, Utah, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Rhode Island are without stamp donors.

Notice that the eastern third of the US has more stamp-sending locations than either the central or the western third.

We also receive stamps from nine foreign countries: Canada, Costa Rica, Great Britain, France, India, Finland, Australia, Switzerland, and Norway.

We are grateful to all of our stamp donors.

