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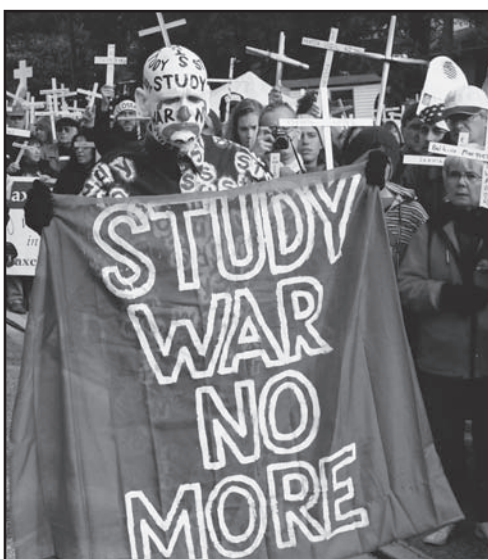
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# SOA Go Away

*Each year, Farmer to Farmer gives financial support to people who want to join the annual vigil at Ft. Benning, Georgia, to express opposition to the School of the Americas/WHINSEC. This year, we supported a group of students from St. Olaf College.*

Twelve students from St. Olaf college took a bus with Macalester College to Georgia to attend to SOA protest. Of those twelve, only two had gone before. The protest increased our awareness of the SOA's role in Latin America, current human rights issues and the power of solidarity. With over 20,000 other protesters at Ft. Benning, Sunday's vigil in particular felt extremely unified. One message stressed over the weekend is that the work starts after the protest. Only through contacting congresspeople, letter-writing campaigns, and petitioning will change take place. St. Olaf held multiple follow up events. Everyone learned and experienced a lot at the protest and we truly appreciate the support of Farmer to Farmer. Hopefully next year we will all be celebrating the complete closure of the School of Americas/WHINSEC.

*-Hannah MacDougall*



Each year I am profoundly moved by the days spent at Ft. Benning, protesting The School of the Americas. I can always count on the fire I have to fight for human rights issues re-lit. The weekend was full of passion and drive to get the school finally closed down and I felt really fortunate to be fighting alongside some really remarkable people I traveled down with. Thank you so much for the scholarship to go. Being a college student, the 100 dollars was a huge help. This school will close and all those that fought to accomplish it will be so proud. Thank you for being part of something so incredible. *-Kelly Morey*



Farmer to Farmer welcomes your comments and involvement.



# Snippets

Farmer to Farmer is organized to build mutual friendship and cultural understanding among rural people so that we might better understand and accompany each other in our common struggles. We seek to promote peace within ourselves, within our community, and across international boundaries. We envision agriculture that is sustainable and respectful of the earth, and one that remains in the hands of the people who live on and work the land. We support grassroots agricultural projects that are democratically initiated and managed. Our decisions about a project are guided by the respect that characterizes the relationship between friends. As an organization, we affirm the sacredness of the earth and work for and respect the rights of all people and cultures to self-determination.

### Board of Directors

Donna Goodlaxson, president  
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 secretary  
 Jody Slocum, outreach  
 Rebecca Kilde, newsletter  
 Andy Gaertner, fundraising  
 Paul Helgeson, organization  
 Nancy Keith-Popp, treasurer

### Contact Information

We're always pleased to hear from you. You can get in touch with us by mail at:

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 Glenwood City, WI 54013  
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 visit our website:  
[farmertofarmer.org](http://farmertofarmer.org)  
 where you can sign up to join our  
 Yahoo group.

## Santiago Atitlan Children's Library

2008 has been an thriving year of growth for our Santiago Atitlan Open Door Library (La Biblioteca Puerta Abierta) thanks to the generous support from our friends around the world. We've been successful in launching our traveling library program which brings books and story hour to rural schools; in hosting our Adventures in Reading program during the vacation months; in providing home-work guidance for our local community; and in sharing the gift of reading with thousands of children in Santiago Atitlan.

As we look ahead into 2009, we hope to be able to maintain our current projects as well as to create new ones. We would be very grateful for any support that you could send our way. All donations go directly to the library and are 100% tax deductible.

The International Humanitarian Foundation has sponsored our library in their 2008 catalog of giving. To view the IHF on-line catalog's La Puerta Abierta sponsorship page, visit <http://www.internationalhif.org/page.php?71>

If you would like to make a donation to La Puerta Abierta Library in the name of a friend or family member as a holiday gift, we would be happy to send a greeting card to the designated person informing them of the donation in their name. Simply send me a personal email ([themandoo@yahoo.com](mailto:themandoo@yahoo.com)) informing me of the donation and include the name and address of the recipient in whose name the donation has been made.

*Happy holidays and kind regards  
 from Amanda and the children of  
 Santiago Atitlan*

## Goats in Ecuador

Craig Adams and Lucy Altemus sent us news about their projects in Ecuador: "The Milk for Kids goat project is going ahead, albeit slowly. Our Ecuadorian counterpart, José Pilamunga, is an extremely hard worker, a leader and well respected in our Kichwa community. Unfortunately he is so much in demand that we can hardly find a time for him to sit down with us to work out needed details of the project, which necessitates a detailed project budget. This will include pairs of goats for four families, well-designed stables for each family, feeder and milking platforms, training at a good goat farm near Quito, and purchase of a good breeding buck. The Peace Corps will post the project on their website in the near future."

## Coffee Prices Go Up

For the first time in a bunch of years, Farmer to Farmer will raise its coffee prices with the latest shipment from Guatemala.

"Costs have increased for the San Lucas Mission, and they've had to raise their prices to cover shortfalls," said Jody Slocum. "We're committed to making sure the farmers continue to get a fair price for their coffee, and I'll be checking into that when I go to Guatemala in January."

Farmer to Farmer sells about 25 percent of the coffee produced by the San Lucas coffee project. We're currently looking into importing coffee from a small organic farm in Honduras.

All profits from our coffee project continue to go directly to initiatives that support economic and social justice in the Americas.

# Right Around Here: Good Food Gone Local

by Reb Kilde

I lived in Glenwood City for fifteen years, and loved raising small kids in a small town. We could walk to the grocery store, the library, the park. Glenwood's got a hardware store and a clinic. But it seemed that Main Street had a hard time holding on to a good cafe. Some restaurants, like Kate's, stayed awhile. (Kate's still sells baked goods and pastries a few mornings a week.) Some were closed before I even got a chance to stick my head in the door.

Last year, Jim and Sunny Laskin opened The Cafe. Not new to the restaurant business, Jim knew what he wanted to do: create a comfortable place where people can come to meet friends and get fresh, good food at a reasonable price. All their baked goods are prepared on site from scratch. Their soups are made fresh daily, often with produce grown in Sunny's garden. And the desserts? Scrumptious. They go great with a hot cup of coffee.

"When we were getting ready to open, we were looking for a good coffee to serve. We bought some coffee at a local business in Baldwin and said, 'Hey! This is pretty good.' The label said 'Farmer to Farmer coffee from Glenwood City.' Perfect."

The Cafe is open from 7:30 to 4, Monday through Friday. I moved to Wilson a year ago, but I still drive up to Glenwood every now and then to visit the library and stop in for great food and conversation at The Cafe.

**photos (top to bottom)**

**The Cafe in Glenwood City. See that picnic table? They barbeque their own pork once a week in the summer.**

**Renee Bartz and her new line of baking supplies.**

**Bolen Vale Cheese gift boxes, available in any combination your taste and budget dictate.**

**Jim and Sunny show off their cookies at The Cafe in Glenwood City. Mmmm.**



I bet it's happened to you. It's been a long day, you get home and realize that you don't, in fact, have any cheese. You need cheese, and the closest cheese is 20-something miles away.

Well, if you live near Connorsville, you're in luck. You can just pop over to Renee Bartz's store and pick up some cheese. Or milk. Or frozen pizza. Or spices and baking supplies. Or gift boxes...

Four years ago, Renee and Mark opened Bolen Vale Cheese on their dairy farm after the local cheese store closed. Since then, the store has expanded to offer other staples in response to requests from customers. She started carrying Farmer to Farmer coffee a couple years ago after hearing about it from Lucy Altemus.

They now carry a full line of dairy products, grass-fed beef from their farm, lamb and goat meat from a neighbor's farm, locally harvested maple syrup and honey, and gift boxes. (The pancake mix in the gift boxes is made from wheat from their farm.) In the summer, local growers sell fresh vegetables at the store.

Oh, did I say ice cream and malts?

There's a lot going on at Bolen Vale Farm, too. You can find out about all the activities around the farm at their website: [www.bolenvalecheese.com](http://www.bolenvalecheese.com).

It suprised me that a lot of the store's customers come from outside the community. Renee would like to see more of her neighbors shopping in her store, instead of driving 20 miles to a big box store to save 50¢ on a gallon of milk.

"A lot of my customers have become my friends, and that's the best part of the business for me," she said.

They're open Tue-Fri 9-7 and Sat 9-5.



# Support Farmer to Farmer's Work



Why is La Biblioteca Puerta Abierta important to the community of Santiago Atitlan? The illiteracy rate in rural Guatemala is 77%. Rural schools function with the bare necessities, a chalkboard, wooden desks, and miniature chairs. School supplies are scarce, and books are non-existent.

The Biblioteca Puerta Abierta has created a safe environment for students to explore reading and to receive academic help with their studies. We have "opened our doors" and evolved into a true community center, where students of all ages can develop their critical thinking and comprehension skills through reading.

Farmer to Farmer's ongoing work depends on your support.

I'd like to be a member of Farmer to Farmer.

Here's my donation of

\$15     \$35     \$50     other

Yes! I'd like to make an additional donation specifically for:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarships

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Craig & Lucy's Programs in Ecuador

Send your donation to:

Farmer to Farmer

PO Box 303

Glenwood City, WI 54013

We're a 501(c)3, and your donations are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Thank you!

It's a pretty light issue. We got busy with the season. Look for a lot of news in the spring issue.

Until then, watch our website at [www.farmertofarmer.org](http://www.farmertofarmer.org). Happy New Year!



Farmer to Farmer

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