



SECA & Heifer Project International



Children Are Changing the World

A Community Service Project of the Southern Early Childhood Association

SECA and Heifer International

The Southern Early Childhood Association and Heifer International have joined together to sponsor a project to meet the goals of enriching and supporting the global family.

SECA is an organization dedicated to:

- ① Teaching children about the world and its diversity.
- ② Teaching children to give and share through community service projects.
- ③ Teaching children to appreciate the beauty of nature and the partnership of people and earth.

Heifer International is an organization dedicated to:

- ① Just and sustainable economic development throughout the world.
- ② Enhancing the quality of life, economic self-reliance, and nutrition of poor people in the world's communities.
- ③ Strengthening rural communities through improved animal management, supporting families, and training and education.

We hope that, as a member of the Southern Early Childhood Association, you'll take this wonderful opportunity to develop a Heifer International community

service project in your early childhood program. We've put together many **free educational resources** to help you plan this project and we know that your children and families will find this project a fun and valuable way to learn about the world and our relationship to the global family.

What Is Heifer International?

Heifer International is a nonprofit organization, currently working in 49 countries including the United States, that helps families and communities move from poverty to self-reliance by providing animals, animal care training, community development, and earth-friendly farming practices to those in need. During the last sixty years, the organization has helped more than 4.5 million families in 28 countries. Heifer encourages those who receive an animal to pass on some of their animals' offspring to others within the community so that many lives can be touched.

Heifer International has developed a set of essential principles called the Cornerstones for Just and Sustainable Development that it uses to guide its activities and strategies.

What Are We Asking You to Do?

SECA and Heifer International are offering you several different ways to participate:

- ① *Raise money to purchase a chick, a cow, or a goat (or other animal) and donate those funds to Heifer International.*
- ② *Incorporate information and materials from Heifer Project into your curriculum to educate your children about the global family. Heifer International does not require that you do a fundraising project in order for you to receive their materials.*
- ③ *Use the SECA materials developed for prekindergarten children to supplement your classroom activities. "Join the Global Family" is a thematic unit for teachers about animals and how they support families in different countries.*

We'd suggest that you do all three! The curriculum materials provided by Heifer International are wonderful, full-color curriculum materials and they're **FREE** to your program. A contribution of \$20 to Heifer International will buy a flock of 10 to 40 chicks! You don't have to do a major fund-raising project. For a small contribution, you can make a big difference to a family in the world.



PASSING ON THE GIFT Passing on the gift is the key to Heifer's philosophy. Every family who receives an animal signs a contract to pass on the first female offspring to another family in need and also agrees to pass on to others the training and skills that they have acquired.



ACCOUNTABILITY Heifer screens recipients, monitors farmers' progress, and conducts self-evaluations.



SHARING AND CARING Heifer believes that global problems can be solved if all people are committed to sharing what they have and caring about others.



SUSTAINABILITY AND SELF-RELIANCE Projects are supported by Heifer for 3 to 5 years and are expected to be self-supporting after that time.



IMPROVED ANIMAL MANAGEMENT Heifer trains farmers to enhance animal management and to be good stewards to the livestock they receive.



NUTRITION AND INCOME Families can raise livestock for food and to develop a source of long-term income.



GENDER AND FAMILY FOCUS Priority for funding from Heifer is given to projects in which the whole family participates.



GENUINE NEED AND JUSTICE Heifer International is a partner to people who truly need an opportunity to improve the quality of their lives and who can benefit from modest support.



IMPROVING THE ENVIRONMENT Heifer encourages agricultural practices and incorporates livestock that protect and improve the environment.



FULL PARTICIPATION Heifer works with grassroots groups or intermediary organizations whose members "own" the project and have control over all key decisions.



TRAINING AND EDUCATION Training is more "hands-on" than academic and local people are involved as trainers.



SPIRITUALITY Spirituality creates a strong bond among group members and gives them faith, hope, and a sense of responsibility to work together for a better future.



What Materials Are Available Free from Heifer International?

READ to FEED

READ to FEED is both a global/development education opportunity and reading motivation program, primarily for children from preschool through the middle grades. Through reading, discussion, videos, and the curriculum (optional), they learn about other cultures, the root causes of hunger and poverty, and things we can do to eliminate hunger and poverty.

Materials in a **READ to FEED** Kit:

- A video – *The Promise*
Eight-year old Parmatma of India and 9-year-old Beatrice of Uganda have never met, but they share a dream—the hope of a life free from hunger and poverty. Heifer International’s children’s video shows how Heifer’s animals are fulfilling that dream.
- Leader’s Guide
- **READ to FEED** poster – *Children Are Changing the World*
- Donation Materials
- **READ to FEED** stickers
- **READ to FEED** bookmarks
- A Children’s Book – *Beatrice’s Goat*
- A Curriculum Guide (3rd and 4th Grade)

Activities as presented in the curriculum guide are appropriate only for older children; however, many of the activities may be modified for kindergarten to 2nd grade. You’ll get some great ideas from the guide about activities you can do with younger children.

Animal Crackers & Fill the Ark (Faith-Based)

Animal Crackers is an educational resource for children, youth, and adults that is faith-based. The curriculum includes biblically based lesson plans appropriate for pre-K and up. This global education and world hunger curriculum provides 80 pages of stories, songs, intergenerational activities, and crafts that show the important role Heifer International animals play in ending hunger. **Animal Crackers** includes a curriculum section entitled *In Every Corner Sing* for children ages 3 to 6.

Fill the Ark is a 4-week learning and sharing program that families and early childhood programs, congregations, and individuals can use to help support lasting solutions to world hunger and poverty.

Materials available with **Animal Crackers** and **Fill the Ark**:

- Resource Book – *Animal Crackers: World Hunger Education for Pre-school to Adult* (includes poster)
- Collector’s Cards – Set of 10 animal cards
- **Fill the Ark**: Calendar, Ark Bank, and Leader’s Guide



What Materials Are Free From SECA?

Join the Global Family

We’ve developed a thematic unit for those programs that want to implement a Heifer International service project but do not wish to use a faith-based curriculum. **Join the Global Family** is a set of thematic units (10 in all) that have been developed to highlight a Heifer International theme each day.



The units include:

- Chickens • Cows • Fish • Goats • Llamas • Pigs
- Rabbits • Sheep • Water Buffalo • Trees

There are ideas for activities and learning strategies for each unit, including a list of children’s books that are appropriate to use with the activities.

If you order the SECA materials, we also suggest that you order the Heifer International materials to get the posters, cards, videos, and other materials. They’re all designed to go together, and we want your children to have access to all these wonderful resources.

How Do I Order the Resources? Turn the page!

To order Heifer International Resources:

Call (800) 422-0474 and tell the staff which materials you would like to receive. Specify either the **Read to Feed** kit or the **Animal Crackers/Fill the Ark** materials.

If We Decide to Do a Project, What Types of Things Could We Do?

- **Book Exchange** – Children and their families gather used children’s books and bring them to the “trading center.” Each child can then purchase any book for 25 to 50 cents, with proceeds going toward the sponsorship of a Heifer animal.
- **“Children Changing the World” Art Show** – Display children’s artwork at a store, library, or preschool. Recruit local celebrities to promote the exhibit. Children can sell or auction the artwork at an Art Exhibit.
- **Heifer Hunger Banquet** – Organize a meal featuring locally or regionally grown foods or foods of other cultures. Charge admission or ask for donations.
- **End Hunger Flea Market** – Children and their families gather used books, clothes, electronic equipment, or hand-made crafts to sell at a community wide End Hunger Flea Market. Donate proceeds to Heifer to purchase animals for impoverished families around the world.
- **Recycling to End Hunger** – If the local recycling center pays for recyclable materials, encourage families to gather recyclables for cash. Proceeds can purchase animals through Heifer.

To order SECA Resources:

Call (800) 305-7322 and ask for the **Join the Global Family** packet.



Use creativity and that early childhood “get up and go” to introduce your children to the global family and the similarities and differences that exist among us. The Heifer Project can be a great way to incorporate **math** (How much does a cow cost?), **science** (How do things grow?), **geography** (Where do people live?), **early reading and literacy** (Can you tell me what happened to Beatrice?) and **diversity** (What makes us different? What makes us alike?) into your everyday curriculum. Even if you don’t do a fundraising project, it’s a great educational opportunity for your children and families.



If You Develop a Special Project, Let Us Know



We’d love to receive a short article, with pictures, about any Heifer Project that you do. We’ll have the opportunity to publish some of the project descriptions in *Dimensions*. Watch the winter 2004 issue for details on submitting an article about your project.

