

Globalinks

a newsletter from

Global Women's Project

Living in solidarity with women throughout the world, by supporting self-help projects that are led by, empower, and benefit women and their communities.



February 2009

Showing Solidarity with Sisters in Sudan



Nan Erbaugh visits the Women's Sewing Cooperative in Nimule, Southern Sudan

Global Women's Project is pleased to support women's sewing projects in Southern Sudan. The women who are organizing these projects in their community have a strong faith. Our goal is to join them in their journey to become more self sufficient.

GWP Steering Committee member Nan Erbaugh visited southern Sudan for three weeks in January 2009. She was able to visit the Nimule Women's Sewing Cooperative which GWP helped in 2007. The program is running well, but faces many challenges. There are nearly 100 women in the program, yet only one instructor. With only 8 sewing machines, time at the machine is at a premium. Graduates of the program can buy a machine and pay for it over the course of a year as they start to earn money. Some of the women stay in Nimule; others go back to their home villages to start their tailoring business. The goal for all is self-sufficiency so the women can provide food, soap, medicine, and school fees for their families. More machines and instructors are needed; training in Arabic and English is also needed in order to conduct business in the marketplace.

The Nimule group has helped a sewing cooperative get off the ground in Pageri, about an hour north of Nimule. The Pageri women sew under the big tree where all community meetings take place because they have no building. 97 women share 6 machines and one instructor, and of course, during the rainy season, the program has to shut down. They, too, need more machines, more instructors, Arabic and English training, plus a building.



Sewing Coop in Pageri, Sudan under the village tree

Several hours east, 30 women in Narus have a sewing cooperative, which has been meeting weekly since 2007. They make bed covers by hand with cloth from Kenya, but they desperately need sewing machines. What takes them 3 weeks to sew by hand could be done in a few hours with a machine. The price they receive for the sewn item is the same regardless. The women said when they come together to sew, they encourage and teach one another, discuss scripture, and pray. They are hoping for 12 sewing machines so they could sew school uniforms and other clothing as well as bed covers. They want the cooperative to own the machines, hoping that with the profits they would

generate from sewing, they could help not only their own families, but also the cooperative to buy a grinding mill which could generate income, too. To say that life is hard in Sudan is a severe understatement. The resourceful, intelligent, articulate, and persevering sisters there need us to stand in solidarity with them.

-- Nan Erbaugh, W. Alexandria, OH

Global Women's Project remembers ... Louie Baldwin Rieman



The GWP Steering Committee wishes to honor the life of Louie Baldwin Rieman, who passed away in an accident along with her husband, Phil Rieman, on Dec. 26, 2008.

Louie and Phil worked with the New Sudan Council of Churches for four years. Louie served on the GWP Steering Committee following their return from Sudan. She was passionate in her love and commitment to women both in the US and throughout the world. She worked hard to educate us about living more simply so we would have more resources to share with others.

We invite you to share your memories of Louie and her work with GWP at our website www.globalwomensproject.org.

Sister Stella, Organizer of SITEAW, Shifting Ideas Through Education for African Women, a GWP partner project in Uganda, wrote of Louie and Phil Rieman, "Everyone of us had been touched by the deep love they shared. The challenge is on our side to keep that fire of love burning."

-- Judi Brown, N. Manchester, IN

Resources for living in solidarity

Global Women's Project seeks to educate ourselves (as variously privileged people) about the global

poverty, oppression and injustice that women suffer, and how our own overconsumption and misuse of resources directly contributes to their suffering. To help us do so, we have developed several new resources for you to share with other women and your community.

International Women's Month in March:

Watch the web site for worship and event materials to use in your congregation and/or women's groups. Visit www.globalwomensproject.org.

Mother's Day Gratitude Project

In honor of a woman you know and love, and in solidarity with mothers around the world, express your gratitude with a gift that helps other women. Your chosen recipient will receive a lovely, personalized card indicating that a gift has been made in her honor. To order a gift card, send a donation to:

Global Women's Project c/o Nan Erbaugh
47 S. Main Street
West Alexandria, OH 45381-1243

Include your name and recipient's name and address, so a card can be sent.

Lenten Calendars:

Carrie Eikler and Anna Lisa Gross have developed Lenten Calendars, to help us reflect on our abundant resources and what we might 'give up' during Lent for the sake of others. The calendars include scripture, information about women around the world and GWP partner projects. There are opportunities to join in these women's journey of empowerment with time and money. To obtain a calendar for yourself, or several for friends, family and your congregation, email us **soon** at info@globalwomensproject.org.

If you would like to receive the Lenten calendar electronically, please email us. *Sample page:*



Week Four: Palestine *Ephesians 3:18-19*

The Palestine News Network has started a weekly radio show by and for women, airing on 8 radio stations in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. GWP funds support the show, which discusses often taboo subjects of health, society and politics, reaching women in over 80 communities. This PNN program is coordinated by Rana Al-Arja.

The next time you rent a movie or pick up a book, chose something written and/or directed by a woman.

original artwork by Jan Flory Schrock

Current Partner Projects



Palestine News Network, Bethlehem, Palestine

Steering Committee member Anna Lisa Gross visited the women at the Palestine News Network (described in the Lenten Calendar page above) in January 2008 and met the show's coordinator, Rana Al-Arja.

Writing about the recent escalation of violence, Rana writes: *"To us there is no celebration with the horrible aggression going on in Gaza; our hearts are full of pain and sorrow. Everything is canceled in Bethlehem and with this situation I don't think any more tourists will come to Palestine."*

Unemployment is overwhelming throughout Palestine and the West Bank, and Bethlehem is fully dependent on tourism. Please continue to be in prayer for peace between Israel and Palestine.

Christian Commission for Development Honduras

Through a one-time grant of \$2500, GWP partnered with the Christian Commission for Development. The CCD has begun a women's empowerment initiative, intended to give women a greater voice in civil society and local governance.

"Life is Expensive!" Rwanda

This new project is located in an area of Rwanda which was badly affected by the 1994 genocide. The majority of the population is composed of widows and orphans, many of whom are living with HIV/AIDS. GWP funds help purchase land, tools, and seed so the members of the association can grow their own food, selling the overflow at market. The goal of the project is to help the women "come out of poverty." Esperance Nyirandayisenga is its leader.



*Association Ubuzima Burahenda-chairwomen,
Rwanda*

"Shifting Ideas Through Education for African Women, Inc" - Uganda

Sister Stella Sabina, a Ugandan nun, is the energy behind this project that initiates educational programs and support groups to help women in Uganda. They seek to lift up life-giving traditions in eastern Africa, while working to change those that oppress women. In particular, they work to change traditions of female circumcision, domestic violence, premature marriage of daughters for large dowries, the inheritance of women by male family members, gender discrimination within the judicial system, and exploitation by churches and other religious groups. They also support girls who are at risk of dropping out of school.

Women Empowerment - Nepal

Women Empowerment (WE) is a community-based organization that works in multiple districts in Nepal to improve the socio-economic status of women. They focus on increasing literacy, educating girls, skills training, and providing micro loans to women-controlled small business ventures. Some of their new businesses include sewing pillows, beadwork, and cosmetology.

Roshni Rai works full-time for Women Empowerment, through a grant from New Community Project, one of GWP's most valued partners.



Global Women's Projects invites everyone to join in the effort to help women and girls live with dignity and respect throughout the world. Ideas to show your solidarity might be:

- **Make GWP a project** for your women's group, or Mother/daughter/women's banquet;
- **Hold a garage sale** to share your excess items, benefiting GWP;
- **Sponsor a project** through a monthly donation;
- **Give a gift** to GWP in honor of a woman you know. Gift cards are available on the web site.

What's New?

Check out the new **web site** administered by Anna Lisa Gross. www.globalwomensproject.org

GWP is on **Facebook**. Thanks to Elizabeth Keller and Anna Lisa Gross for administering the page.

Circle of Friends Email

We would like to be better stewards of resources and donations by distributing our newsletter by email. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please email us at info@globalwomensproject.org.

Short monthly updates of projects, activities, and news will also be shared.

New logo

Jane Robinette has designed a new logo for GWP. From Urbandale, Iowa, Jane has studied law, is an artist and web site designer, and has donated many hours of work to volunteer agencies. Her paintings and word poems highlight peace and justice for women. You can view more of her work at www.janerobinette.com. We thank Jane for donating her talent to Global Women's Project!



Contact us at:

info@globalwomensproject.org
www.globalwomensproject.org



*Judi, Carrie, Nan,
Anna Lisa, Myrna*

*GWP steering committee members share the work of administering Global Women's Project. **Judi Brown** (IN) provides support, inspiration and guidance for our work.*

***Carrie Eikler** (WV) administers the address and email data base. *Congratulations to Carrie, Torin and Sebastian Eikler on the birth of Alistair!**

***Nan Erbaugh** (OH) coordinates the financial details and grants.*

***Myrna Frantz** (IA) edits the newsletter and designed the holiday gift cards.*

***Anna Lisa Gross** (IN) administers the web site and keeps minutes.*

A Special Thank You to ...

***Leslie Seese** (OR) for mailing our newsletter.*

***Lois Grove** (IA) for writing thank you notes.*

***Church of the Brethren**, Elgin IL office, for donation receipts and grant transfers.*

***New Community Project** for assistance in locating projects around the world.*

***All of the women and men** who thoughtfully live simply, so that others may simply live!*

Please Join Us!

Send donations to:

*Global Women's Project
c/o Church of the Brethren Offices
1451 Dundee Avenue Elgin, IL 60120-1694*