

# 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.*



## **Annual Report 2010**

### ***New Project: Growing Grounds Where Hope Takes Root***



*Global Women's Project steering committee member Nan Erbaugh awards initial grant to Rev. Kay Gaier and the Growing Grounds project at Wabash Church of the Brethren, IN.*

GWP is delighted to support the Growing Grounds project, whose mission is "to provide a starting place for women whose choices have become limited by the impact of past incarceration, but who are motivated to improve their quality of life and expand their options, through education, training and building supportive relationships within the community." Designed to support jailed women in the criminal justice system, the program will train mentors who will accompany women from their entry until their release and beyond, with a goal of reducing recidivism.

Jennifer Pattison writes, "Thank you for supporting Growing Grounds as we continue our mission to assist women in our community who

transition from the criminal justice system back to society. We have completed over fifty intake assessment surveys to help determine the needs of the women in the program. Attendance at the weekly classes on "Thinking for a Change" and the intentional listening sessions is high.

Response to Growing Grounds has been positive. We have assigned a few transition coaches to work with the women upon their release. Training classes will begin in December for coaches to provide women with the materials and support they need." Jennifer states that the project is working with "Community Corrections, Probation, and other service groups within the community and state to coordinate resources available to the women in the program."

Thank you for your support and prayers,  
The Sisters of Growing Grounds

### ***Jail Ministry***

Several years ago a friend invited me to go to the Wabash County Jail to teach the women to knit. She had been taking beads for the women to make jewelry for their families and children. Several of us have continued to go weekly. I find that being a presence with these women, and showing up week after week, creates a bond, lets them know someone out there is thinking about them, praying for them, and shines a small light into their sometimes dark world. In addition to jewelry-making, we take yarn for the women to

crochet back in their cell blocks. The women petitioned for this activity and succeeded. The transformation was immediate. The women started working together to design projects, share yarn, and most importantly be creative. The jail commander and sheriff have been very supportive and say the atmosphere inside the cells has greatly improved.

The networking from this yarn project has been amazing. Even though the Manchester Church of the Brethren supports this ministry in its budget, 20 women can use a lot of yarn when they have lots of time on their hands. Many people have donated yarn, and even the family members of the inmates contribute. They drop the yarn off at the Wabash Church of the Brethren, and Kay Gaier, the pastor there, has started an outreach program for the families. She has had many conversations with mothers and grandmothers, lending a listening ear to the struggles they face.



This activity has also inspired the women to be generous as well, as one woman last year crocheted over 100 hats and scarves for each of the children in Vernon's Manor, a local home for children with mental and physical disabilities.

Another woman who went on to Madison Prison is now in charge of teaching the inmates to crochet, and they have just completed 450 sweaters to sell in the commissary.

*By Judi Brown*

## ***Ongoing Projects ...***

### ***Memorial Donations for Sewing Machines in Sudan***



A group of women in Narus, Sudan, have been meeting weekly since 2007 to encourage and teach one another, read scripture and pray together as they nurse their babies, and hand-sew items for sale. When GWP steering team member Nan Erbaugh visited the women in January of 2009, they were unanimous in expressing their need for sewing machines so they would be able to sew items more quickly to earn a living for their families. What takes three weeks to sew by hand could be done in a few hours with a machine.

Their dream is becoming a reality due to a \$1500 GWP grant, plus a generous \$1650 donation from Northview Church of the Brethren of Indianapolis, IN. The designated donations were given in memory of Reverends Phil and Louie Rieman. Louie and Phil's legacy of love and their commitment to equality and justice for women, particularly in Sudan, will live on through the dear sisters in Narus, Sudan.

More photos can be viewed at [www.globalwomensproject.org](http://www.globalwomensproject.org)

*By Nan Erbaugh*

## ***Rwandan Women harvest their community garden***

The “Ubuzima Burahenda” (Life Is Expensive) project began in 2008 to empower women living in the Bugesera region of Rwanda, which was affected greatly by Rwanda's 1994 genocide. In 2008, the group rented land and grew crops to sell at market. The GWP grant of \$1500 helped buy seeds and tools for the farming project. The women worked hard and enjoyed a good harvest.



Because of GWP's help, the group was able to purchase a plot of land in 2009, thereby alleviating the need to pay rent at the time of harvest. This year, the project has also been able to provide the women members with seeds to plant in their own gardens. Members are now working both in the project crop area and in their own gardens. So far, the rains have been good for this growing season.

Chairlady Esperance Nyirandayisenga writes, “Many lives have been changed through this. Women are now able to send their kids to school. Assistance is being provided to those with special health needs. Thank you for your support to us; we are encouraged by having sisters who do care. May God richly bless you.”

*By Nan Erbaugh*

## ***Shifting Ideas Through Education for African Women, Inc. - Uganda***

For the past six years, GWP has helped fund this project which seeks to empower women in Uganda to “peacefully stand up and end oppressive traditions in order to change their lives.” SITEAW, Inc. works to enable women to become more self-reliant in an effort to help them fight against the long held tribal traditions of female circumcision (FGM) as well as other oppressive traditions, including premature marriage, domestic violence, sexual abuse and the inheriting of women.

SITEAW provides education to women and girls in the areas of reading, writing and computer literacy as well as helps them to develop skills in basketry, brick-laying and mat making.



*Children at SITEAW school in Uganda*

With the assistance of GWP's most recent grant payment of \$1,500, our contact person, Sister Stella Sabina, reports that every girl enrolled in SITEAW's school program will be able to complete the school year without being sent home due to lack of money for tuition or the inability to purchase a uniform.

*By Kim Hill Smith*

## **Women's Empowerment - Nepal**



Global Women's Project, along with New Community Project, is excited to begin our second round of partnership with Women's Empowerment in Nepal. WE is a community based organization that provides micro-loans to women-controlled enterprises, works at increasing literacy, educating girls, and skills training. Thanks to your generous donations to GWP, WE has been able to employ Roshni Rai, a strong woman who works tirelessly for the mission of WE.

*By Carrie Eikler*

### **GWP Grants in 2009**

Narus, Sudan Sewing project	\$1,500.00
Nepal Women's Empowerment	\$1,500.00
Palestine News Network	\$1,500.00
Rwanda Life is Expensive	\$1,500.00
Uganda SITEAW education project	\$1,500.00
Wabash, Indiana Growing Grounds	\$1,500.00

Gifts cards are available online at [www.globalwomensproject.org](http://www.globalwomensproject.org).

Please send contributions to:

Global Women's Project

Church of the Brethren

1451 Dundee Ave.

Elgin, IL 60120

Memo line: GWP

## **Palestine News Network Update**

GWP is funding PNN's radio program for women for a second year. However, due to funding cutbacks from PNN's other funders, the radio program for women is only airing once a week, and the program for children is on hold. Global Women's Project hopes to raise and share more money with PNN to help them hire a coordinator for this radio show, which brings essential (and often taboo) topics into women's homes. This radio show is one way that women can expand their minds - and lives - and empower one another.

*By Anna Lisa Gross*



### **International Women's Day Worship Resources**

Last year International Women's Day (March 8) fell on a Sunday. What a wonderful way to connect our congregations with the stories, struggles, and strength of women around the world! If you are interested in developing a program around the theme of International Women's Day *this* year, then check out our website in early February. We'll have new worship resources available for you to use. If you have come across some resources you would like to share, let us know! Send an email to [info@globalwomensproject.org](mailto:info@globalwomensproject.org) with the subject "Worship Resources".

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Project stories are also available online for sharing with your congregations and women's groups. [www.globalwomensproject.org](http://www.globalwomensproject.org).  
By Carrie Eikler

### ***Lenten Calendars***

We are thrilled to offer Lenten calendars for the second year! Last year's calendars were a way for many GWP supporters to reflect on their own lives, meditate on wealth and justice, and have a daily time of spiritual centering throughout Lent. This is also an important way for us to share our wealth with our sisters and brothers around the world who are working for empowerment and sustainability.

We hope you will participate with us this year! Order a calendar by emailing us at [info@globalwomensproject.org](mailto:info@globalwomensproject.org) by February 3. You can also pick up a calendar if you're passing through Richmond, Indiana, and help us save on postage. We can also send you the Lenten calendar daily by email.

If you received a calendar last year, you can use it again - but we've updated and improved it! Many thanks to Carrie Eikler and Anna Lisa Gross for developing the GWP Lenten Calendar!

### ***Join GWP Advocate Circle***

Looking for a way to further your involvement in GWP? Consider becoming a GWP Advocate! The mission of GWP Advocates is to further the grassroots work of Global Women's Project within districts of the Church of the Brethren (or other ecumenical and women's groups) through communication and advocacy. It is our goal to have more than one advocate in each district or area, so that we may have a local "face" to the work of GWP.

For questions or more information on becoming a GWP Advocate, please email us with the subject "Advocate" at [info@globalwomensproject.org](mailto:info@globalwomensproject.org) or

check out our website:

[www.globalwomensproject.org](http://www.globalwomensproject.org). Also join our email circle to receive monthly updates and project ideas from Global Women's Project.

### ***Global Women's Project Steering Committee***



**GWP steering committee members** share the work of administering Global Women's Project. Front row: Carrie Eikler (WV), Anna Lisa Gross (IN). Back row: Myrna Frantz (IA), Kim Hill Smith (MN), Nan Erbaugh (OH), Judi Brown (IN) Newsletter edited by Myrna Frantz.

### ***We appreciate the organizational support from:***

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

**New Community Project** for helping us connect with projects around the world.

### ***With Special Thanks to:***

**Lois Grove**, (IA) for sending thank you notes  
**Jane Robinette** (IA) for sharing her artwork  
**Leslie Seese**, (OR) for printing and mailing the newsletter.

**And to all of you who support the ongoing work of Global Women's Project and women around the world, empowering their communities!**

**GLOBAL WOMEN'S PROJECT - OUR  
MISSION:**

To become aware of global poverty, oppression & injustice suffered by women around the world

To recognize how our U.S. over-consumption & misuse of resources directly contribute to their suffering

To examine & change our way of living & learn about our sisters' lives

To support self-help community projects that are led by, empower & benefit women in the US & developing areas

To impose on ourselves, a tax on luxury items & use the money for grants given to help support projects that enrich, fulfill, liberate, educate & develop leadership of women globally.

Global Women's Project  
Church of the Brethren  
1451 Dundee Ave.  
Elgin, IL 60120-1694

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE?**

Learn about your global sisters, identifying their gifts as well as their needs!

Examine your lifestyle & discern how you can be a better steward of your resources!

Tax yourself for the luxury items you purchase or possess!

Contribute money to the GWP fund rather than purchasing luxury items!

Lead or organize a workshop that focuses on life in the global community!

Publicize GWP. Tell people about the lives of our global sisters in newsletters & bulletins!

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