



Globalinks

January 2011

an annual 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*

Living Out Our Mission

Global Women's Project (GWP) is not an aid organization; we do not raise money to simply hand over to grant recipients. Rather, GWP works to empower all women, from Indiana to Palestine to Sudan. We develop partnerships with projects all over the world, building relationships, sharing wisdom, and praying for one another. The women who design and lead these projects grow their own skills and confidence. Their projects not only benefit women, but are opportunities for more women to be invited to strengthen their skills and confidence, as well.

GWP knows that, while empowerment is globally needed, it has local nuances. In richer societies, empowerment may include releasing ourselves from our excesses - in working, eating, buying, moving, etc. GWP seeks to educate ourselves and one another about the privileges we have and the effect

that our lifestyles have on all people around the world. As we realize how much saner and happier our lives can be without SO MUCH STUFF, we can share even more resources with sisters around the world who need SO LITTLE MONEY to make significant change in their communities. Read about what smart, bold women can do with the \$1500 you help GWP send to partner projects each year.

Life is Expensive - Rwanda

Funding for this project, which began in 2008, has enabled women in the **Buge-sera region**

of Rwanda (an area greatly impacted by the 1994 genocide) to purchase land and to buy seeds and tools to grow crops for them-



selves as well as to sell at market in an effort to "come out of poverty." Esperance, our contact person for this project, recently wrote:

Apart from growing the ground nuts, this year we have been able to add more crops:

1. Pineapples: *With some of the support that you gave us, this year we have been able to purchase and plant 2000 pineapples. We are planning to harvest them late December up to early January.*

2. *Tropical Apples: We are expecting to harvest some fruits in a period of 2 years. Another good thing with that type of apples is that you can still grow other plants in the same orchard.*

3. *Tomatoes, Onions, Cabbages.*
Thank you for your partnership and support. Now the income from our projects is helping some of our poor ladies to have access to medical care, send kids to schools and meet some basic needs.

We are thrilled to be in partnership with Life is Expensive and for Esperance's leadership!

Growing Grounds - Wabash, Indiana

GWP is pleased to support **Growing Grounds** with a second year of funding for its life changing work with women at the Wabash County Jail. GWP's \$1500 grant is being used to:

- train mentors to work with women during their incarceration and upon their release
- offer support groups, including a self-led support group, a self-led addiction support group, and a child custody support group
- offer classes, including nutrition classes, parenting classes, and a GED preparation class
- organize classes for women to attend at the Wabash Church of the Brethren upon their release from jail.

Growing Grounds continues to gather statistics and to discern how best to meet the great needs among the women they are trying to help. Many are in deep financial holes, and the women of Growing Grounds are walking with them, helping them to find their way out step by step.

One program participant wrote:

I thank God every day that you came into my life and heart. Knowing that there are people that don't look down on you and are willing to be there to guide you when you've messed up makes me feel better....You have showed me the type of person that I want to strive to become along with the values I hope to be able to instill in my kids.

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

For a seventh year, GWP has helped to fund this project which works to enable



SITEAW Women Kisubi Branch show their crafts

women and girls to become more self-reliant in order to stand up against the long held, oppressive tribal traditions of female circumcision (FGM), premature marriage, domestic violence, sexual abuse and the inheriting of women.

Sister Stella Sabina, our contact person for this project, writes:

From this year's GWP grant of \$1500, we gave \$900 to individual women. Twelve of the women bought materials and started making crafts (baskets, mats, bags and fiber dolls). Three women invested in buying and selling food; bananas, potatoes, cassava, yams and fruits. Five women bought materials for making bracelets. There are two women who did not do anything

because their husbands threatened to confiscate their material and burn down the bakery they wanted to start. They returned the money, but the Director [of SITEAW, Inc.] decided to give it to them to pay their children's school needs and lunch for a term. This is the third year of [our] lending experiment. The loans are interest free. Uplifting oneself and family, especially the children in the family is the only requirement.

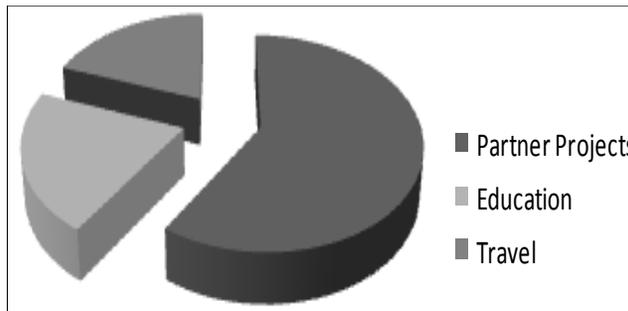
The remaining \$600 was used to pay school fees for five girls: two in Domestic Schools, one in Computer Information Institute, One in Tailoring Prep. School, and a mentally disadvantaged ten-year old girl who had been thrown away by her parents, now attends school.

We are grateful for the passion and tireless energy of Sister Stella and for the important work that SITEAW, Inc. is doing on behalf of women and girls in Uganda.

Amatura Women Empowerment Group - Narus, S. Sudan

GWP is happy to partner with the women's **sewing cooperative in Narus, S. Sudan**, an area hard hit by the decades long civil war. The six sewing machines purchased with grant money from GWP for this project arrived and are now in use by close to thirty women. Because of the ability to make clothing and linens by machine instead of by hand, the women are now able

to earn money for medicine, soap, food, and school tuition for their children. Steering Committee member Nan Erbaugh will be visiting Narus in February 2011. Look for a further update on our website and in Global E-links after her return.



women in our lives while supporting women around the world.

For further information about these resources, go to globalwomensproject.org. To order Lenten Calendars, email us at info@globalwomensproject.org by early February.

Palestine News Network - Bethlehem

After another funding source dried up, the **Palestine News Network's** show for women shrunk, and this year it had ended. GWP is sad to see this unique service to women end, and we pray that the Palestine News Network will find large, generous pockets somewhere so they can restart the program! In the meantime, for our last year of partnership, PNN is using GWP's grant to aid their conflict resolution, leadership, and life skills workshops for women.

Financial Report for 2010

We are so grateful for your continuing support of Global Women's Project—we are 100% donation funded. Even in the midst of a difficult economy, you faithfully send in donations. Thank you! For those of you who like numbers, here is information on our finances through the end of November:
 \$ 10,973.29 balance at start of 2010
 \$+ 6,982.09 donations as of 30 Nov 2010
 \$ 17,955.38 total to work with
 \$- 7,500.00 grants to 5 projects, \$1500 each

\$- 2,685.44 educational expenses—Lenten calendars, bookmarks, etc.
 \$- 2,466.52 travel expenses
 \$ 5,303.42 balance as of 30 Nov 2010

Living In Solidarity: GWP Resources

GWP invites you to utilize and share several resources we have created to educate ourselves about the global poverty, oppression and injustice that women suffer and how our over consumption directly contributes to this suffering. Our resources include:

- **International Women's Day Worship Resources**
- **Lenten Calendars** - These calendars help us reflect on our abundant resources and what we might "give up" during Lent for the sake of others. Pages for each day include scripture and information about women throughout the world, including our partner projects.
- **Mother's Day Gratitude Project** - This project focuses on honoring the important

Save Trees and Money:

Receive Globalinks On-line

We are working diligently to be better stewards of our resources and donations and are encouraging you to receive all of our correspondence, including Globalinks, electronically. If you are willing to receive this newsletter electronically in the future, please email us at info@globalwomensproject.org. Once online, in addition to Globalinks, you will receive brief but timely Global E-links each month which provide updates on our projects as well as GWP activities and resources.

Translators Needed

If you speak a language other than English and would be willing to help GWP better communicate with others around the world, please let us know. Our hope is to broaden our potential for partner projects and not make people feel as though they have to write or speak in English to apply for grants.

Currently, we are looking for translators of Arabic, but we would like to compile a list of other language contacts as well. If you have interest in this, please email us at info@globalwomensproject.org.

GWP Steering Committee

All of the administrative work of GWP is done on a **volunteer basis by our Steering Committee**, which currently is comprised of Anna Lisa Gross from Richmond, IN; Carrie Eikler from Morgantown, WV; Nan Erbaugh from West Alexandria, OH; Judi Brown from North Manchester, IN; and Kim Hill Smith from Minneapolis, MN.

GWP is delighted to welcome our newest member to the Committee in the coming year, **Emily Matteson**, who will begin her term of service in August. Emily is a member of the Modesto (CA) Church of the Brethren and is a first year student at Scripps College in California. We are thrilled to welcome a "West Coast Brethren" to our Steering Committee, and will look forward to the new insights and energy she will bring to the Global Women's Project move-



Emily Matteson

ment. Steering Committee meetings in 2011 will be held in Richmond, IN (March) and Elgin, IL (August). We hope to see some of you in our travels!



*Nan, Judi, Kim
Anna Lisa, Carrie*

Special Thanks To...

- All of our donors, including individuals and church groups who hold creative fundraising events for GWP
- Common Spirit Church of the Brethren in Minneapolis, MN for folding, stuffing and mailing this newsletter
- Lois Grove from Council Bluffs, IA, who faithfully sends out thank you notes for GWP
- Church of the Brethren staff in Elgin, IL, who help with the management of our funds, grant transfers, and mail returns
- New Community Project with whom we collaborate on locating projects to support throughout the world
- All of the women and men who live simply so that others might simply live.

Contributions Welcome

If you would like to contribute financially to GWP, please make checks payable to "Global Women's Project" and send to:

Global Women's Project
Church of the Brethren
1451 Dundee Avenue
Elgin, IL 60120

Gift cards are available on-line at www.globalwomensproject.org.

Another valuable way you can contribute to GWP is to become a GWP Advocate. Our hope is to identify one or more Advocates within each District of the Church of the Brethren who would be willing to serve as a contact person for furthering the work of GWP by giving it a "local face." If you are interested, please email us at info@globalwomensproject.org.

Do You Have Any Burning Questions?

If you have a question about GWP or would like more information on anything we do, please feel free to be in touch with Nan Erbaugh at 47 S. Main St., West Alexandria, OH 45381 or at (937) 839-4277. Thanks for your interest!