

Global Women's Project:

Globalinks 2012



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For over 30 years, Global Women's Project (GWP) has lived in gratitude for the initiative and passion women around the world possess, in economic and community development, women's empowerment, and crafting justice.

Rooted in the Church of the Brethren, GWP seeks to educate about wealth, power and oppression, encouraging one another to live more simply, being mindful of our luxuries, and join in empowerment

GWP visits Sewing Cooperative in Narus, South Sudan

GWP Steering Committee member Nan Erbaugh went to Sudan in February, 2011 to visit with about 20 of the women in the sewing cooperative that has been a GWP partner project since 2010.

Co-op member Rebecca shared that they are so happy to have a building and sewing machines, but now they need funding to provide a teacher to teach them more advanced skills. The goal is to learn to make school uniforms to sell. Elizabeth said, "You are our voice to the other world."

Mary shared, "It is the power of God which brought you here. This place and the people were totally destroyed during the war. Seeing you here gives us hope. You've shown yourselves, you stood with us, and we thank you. As women, don't stop here; you give us strength.

with women around the world, sharing resources with women's initiatives.

Guided by a steering committee of 5-6 women, we are truly a grassroots organization. If you have been a part of the GWP movement, we are grateful!

If you have just discovered GWP, we hope you will join us in this life transforming journey.

Stand with us as women ." GWP is happy to stand with these strong women as they learn skills which will enable them to provide for their families and pay for school tuition for their children. The 2011 GWP grant of \$1500 helped pay for an instructor.



Join us for Tea!

We will host a GWP Tea Time at Annual Conference this year in St. Louis, July 7-11! Join us Monday following the afternoon business session. Visit our booth for specific location information!

GWP is pleased to partner with SITEAW for an eighth year as it provides girls with fees necessary to attend school and gives interest free loans to women to begin their own small businesses in Uganda.

Sister Stella, our contact person for this project, shares that SITEAW has been able to pay fees for 20 girls to attend school this year and that 2 of them recently completed their 2-year course in Home Management and Sewing. She writes, "The number in need is so great but the resources can't allow us to sustain more than 20."

She also reports that the number of women to whom SITEAW has been able to provide interest free loans of \$15 to \$30 for 6 months to a year to begin their own businesses reached 60 this year. She says that 34 of the women have already repaid their loans and are progressing well. She notes that the biggest obstacle to their success is finding places to sell what they have made. Sister Stella writes, "The women have been faithful and hardworking. They return the money. When they are not able to do it on time, they apply for a period of grace. Interest free loans have helped SITEAW women a great deal - they feel empowered. It is better than handing out things to them."

As a way to raise additional funds for SITEAW, Sister Stella has written a children's book entitled **We Are The People Of This World**. Its aim is to help children appreciate diversity and to learn about our connectedness as human beings. Her book can be ordered through her website at www.omukazi.org. All proceeds support the SITEAW girls and women in Uganda.

To brighten your day, view this video of Sr. Stella and children singing "We are the People of this World" at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=WklKN7aRarY

Additional Partner Project Updates

Rwanda: "Life is Expensive"

We celebrate the growth of "Life is Expensive" in Rwanda, which has inspired new projects in surrounding communities, who are now seeking funders themselves!

From project founder, Esperance: "This year has been so fruitful for the members of Life is Expensive. One of our great achievements this year is that we harvested our pineapples. After selling we decided to buy 1 year health insurance for all the members of the association. Now we do rejoice that no one will die at home without medical attention."

Nepal: Women's Empowerment

GWP friend Elizabeth Keller is traveling in Nepal and was able to meet with Women Empowerment members Monita and Ronit.

She writes: "Ronit showed me at least 20 different videos from a Women Empowerment video in a village located three hours outside of Pokhara. There the women gather in a forested area alongside the river to pick aloe leaves.

They sift through the leaves, leaving them to dry for three days. Then, they boil them for a long time. After the drying and boiling, they beat the fibers again and again with a bat and the full force of their bodies: often balancing themselves on rocks with barefoot feet under the hot sun. It's long, arduous work. After beating the fibers into a black form, they separate them into tiny threads, which they then crochet or thread into various products like handkerchiefs, bottle holders or cell carriers. The aloe is apparently very good for the skin, so if they make wash cloths or towels or blankets, then they also serve as healing power. The women of this particular village said that this skill and work gives them Light in the midst of such darkness. They of course give whatever money they make to the girls for school, or back to the community for enhancements that improve the whole. This is what women do all over the world."

Indiana, USA: Growing Grounds

Along with our international work, GWP partners with women closer to home. Kay Gaier, pastor of Wabash (IN) COB shares the following reflection:

"Growing Grounds has been involved in very practical ways with several women as they transition out of incarceration back into the community. One case in particular has been very positive. Readiness for change is key and often hard to discern."

We still have so much to learn, but even in less "successful" cases we have no regrets. The word is spreading and the class I am teaching in the jail has been great for making contacts and building relationships. We are ever more aware of how vital transition housing is to meeting needs and providing a context for longer term involvement. We also currently have several families attending our parenting class and are providing for a Red Cross CPR class for women in the jail to assist in certification.

We are so grateful for your support and on-going interest in this difficult but important effort.

Celebrating a Global Sister: Phyllis Miller

In 2011 Global Women's Project lost a dear sister, Phyllis Miller. Below is a remembrance from Mary Cline Detrick. We give thanks for Phyllis' life and her commitment to the work of GWP. We are also thankful to her husband, Donald Miller, who directed a portion of her memorial gifts to GWP

By Mary Cline Detrick

Phyllis Miller was a member of the original Global Women's Project Steering Committee which formed immediately after Ruth Ann Knechel Johansen's challenge to us at the Manchester College Gathering of Women in 1978 (which gave birth to GWP). We met numerous times to plan and begin to implement this exciting possibility of taxing

ourselves on luxuries and giving the money to fund women's projects and our own education of how our life styles contribute to poverty around the world. I remember Phyllis' gentle presence, as well as ideas and excitement in getting GWP going as a viable program for justice. I believe she was our first secretary/recorder and helped write the first Globalink. I remember particularly that she hosted us at her home for our final planning for Mary Brandenburg's trip to Kenya, following up on our first GWP project which brought clean water to a clinic and a village. Phyllis was a thoughtful listener and always willing to help in our various group tasks. Her commitment to GWP helped launch this important



movement—serving on the first Steering Committee, making numerous trips to Elgin at her own expense, and supporting GWP in other ways—befitting one of the Mothers of GWP who lovingly nurtured it from its infancy into the strong program for justice that it is today.

GWP Financial Overview 2011

Gratitude! That's the best word to express our feeling for your continued support of Global Women's Project. Regardless of how bad the economic outlook is, you view the work of GWP as vital and open your hearts to the needs of women throughout the world. Considering that we are 100% donation funded, we literally could not do it without you. How we wish we could thank each of you face to face. Here is how our numbers look for 2011 through the end of November:

\$ 8,238.42 balance at start of 2011 (\$2,734.87 less than the start of 2010)

\$+10,375.72 total donations through November

\$ **18,614.14** total to work with

\$- 7,500.00 grants to 5 projects, \$1500 each

\$- 2,844.08 educational and travel expenses

\$ **8,270.06** balance as of 30 November 2011

A sincere, heartfelt thank you to each individual, women's group, Sunday School class, and others who sent in a donation! We are so grateful.

Nan Erbaugh, GWP treasurer

Continuing in the work that Phyllis Miller and others began, Global Women's Project operates by grassroots support and through the work of the GWP Steering Committee: The current steering committee is:

Carrie Eikler (Morgantown, WV) co-pastor of Morgantown Church of the Brethren/Mennonite Church

Nan Erbaugh (West Alexandria, OH) pastor of Lower Miami COB

Anna Lisa Gross (Minneapolis, MN) hospital chaplain resident

Kim Hill Smith (Minneapolis, MN) clinical social worker

Emily Matteson (Modesto, CA) Anthropology student at Scripps College

Calendar of Events



**Mutual
empowerment:
peacefully, simply,
together**

Throughout the year, there are many ways to support the work of GWP. Mark your calendars to participate in the following ways!

January-Find last year's or order a free GWP Lenten Calendar as a daily spiritual tool to guide you through the season. E-mail us at info @globalwomensproject.org and we'll send you a calendar (or multiples for your faith community/group) or to register for our daily Lenten calendar e-mail. Lent begins on Feb 22 this year.

April/May-Begin thinking of the women you would like to honor on Mother's Day through our Mother's Day Project. Donate in honor of someone and we will send that person a lovely card, letting them know you have honored them with a gift to GWP.

Early July - Annual Conference GWP Tea Time. Also stop by the booth for any new educational resources for your family, congregation, or women's group.

Anytime/birthdays/holidays -To celebrate a special day or the everyday, find beautiful cards with photos from our partner projects at www.globalwomensproject.org and click on "gifts".

Global e-Links - Join our growing community and connect with this monthly e-newsletter. E-mail us at info @globalwomensproject.org to get on our list. **Or Friend us on Facebook!**

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