

Global Women's Project c/o Kim Hill Smith
5315 36th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417



GLOBALINKS 2020



GWP Steering Committee in Kettering, Ohio

Clockwise: Anna Lisa Gross, Barb Saylor, Lindsey Frye (visiting for fall meeting),
Katie Heishman, Kim Hill Smith, Sarah Neher

GWP STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATES AND REFLECTIONS

GWP's Steering Committee welcomes Barb Saylor, who joined us in 2019. Barb lives on a small farm in Englewood, Ohio, with her husband, Mark, and daughter, Emma. They have a plethora of animals, and Barb enjoys getting her hands dirty in their garden. For the past 4 ½ years, Barb has served as the pastor of the Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren. She is on the Program and Arrangements Committee for the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District and the Coordinating Committee for the Dayton Area CROP Walk. Barb's most recent venture is joining the World House Choir which performs music that motivates and inspires our communities toward justice, diversity, equality, peace and a web of mutuality.

Ruthann Knechel Johansen articulately and powerfully stated in her inspirational speech that served as the catalyst for the initiation of GWP,

“Liberation is a cooperative movement at the most fundamental level...none of us can be liberated alone...we must join together to enable the birth of a more humane society here at home and to extend that same liberation globally.”

Below are some reflections from current Steering Committee members in response to the question, “What inspires you to join a movement that works toward greater liberation and global equality?”



Sarah Neher (Kansas City, MO): I believe that global liberation is intrinsically tied to the investment of those who are economically disadvantaged. GWP's mission to empower women around the world by sharing resources raised from educating women who have abundance is simple, beautiful, and holistic. I'm honored to serve such a great organization.



Katie Heishman (Kettering, OH): My inspiration comes from my foundation in a God who proclaims justice and liberation for the poor and oppressed. God condemned systems which oppressed the most vulnerable, and I have directly benefited from the oppression of brothers and sisters around the world. I am inspired to do everything I can in my sphere of the world to work against these broken and oppressive systems in the pursuit of God's kingdom here on earth.



Barb Saylor (Englewood, OH): I have always believed in the power of one, how one person can make a difference, how one idea can transform an initiative, how one spark can create a blazing fire! The power of one is important, but “none of us can be liberated alone...” It takes many “one's” to become community, to create a movement, to share together in the journey of life. GWP's mission to walk alongside women globally is an inspiration and challenge to me as one, a part of the many.



Kim Hill Smith (Minneapolis, MN): From family systems theory in psychology, we know an individual's actions have an impact on every other person in that system (similar to how pulling down on one dangling piece of a hanging mobile shifts all the other pieces). As a global system, what we do here in the US impacts our global siblings. A Mennonite friend and avid knitter recently asked her houseguest from Nairobi if there were sheep farms where he lived. He said no and explained that their textile production economy was destroyed years ago by the US and Europe dumping their old clothes there. It was a stark reminder of how my clothing consumption impacts others. My friend presented the challenge only to buy as much clothing as you could take responsibility for when finished with it (for example, giving the clothing to another person or organization that could use it - or composting it if it was made from natural fibers). How we live matters!



Anna Lisa Gross (Lafayette, IN): I did nothing to earn my birthright of white privilege, US citizenship, stable housing or supportive family. I don't want to call it an “accident of birth” or a “blessing,” but I know I must work in solidarity with people who were born without these privileges.

EXCHANGE FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND PROMOTION OF SMALL ENTREPRENEURS (ECHOPPE)

TOGO – ECHOPPE works in a number of West African countries to “respond to the base causes of poverty in order to find long term solutions” by providing micro loans and making connections between farmers and street vendors. GWP’s support provided training for social workers who are predominantly women helping facilitate these and other programs, and for female street vendors on safe food preparation. GWP also funded the cost of two motorcycles.

ECHOPPE had a Mother’s Day celebration for women to get together, to learn new things, and as Founder Beverly Ott writes: “It’s a time for sharing, for having fun, to dream... When sometimes, all that life holds out for you is work, taking care of the children and trying to see how tomorrow will be survived, these meetings put people/women together to have fun, with no one looking at them, their bodies or whatever. They are themselves: beautiful human beings.”



The women learning dancing at the Mother’s Day celebration

GROWING GROUNDS

WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA, UNITED STATES – Growing Grounds began as a ministry to women in the Wabash County (IN) jail and quickly learned that they wanted to keep women out of the jail. For over a decade, they have been supporting women coming out of incarceration so they can stay out. They provide financial, emotional, and informational support for housing, utilities, transportation, and much more. Growing Grounds works with Habitat for Humanity and homeless women now have an apartment for transitional housing. Growing Grounds offers mentoring, prayer, and countless other forms of non-judgemental, rigorous support.

CULTURAL ACADEMY FOR PEACE

KERALA, INDIA – CAP continues to provide empowerment to the women they serve in a variety of ways. They offer counseling, rehabilitation, and rescue for women below the poverty line, coming out of trafficking, or other abusive situations. In addition to relief work they also focus on community development through their Integrated Community Development Program which supports the community in economic growth, food security, education, health and hygiene, gender mainstreaming, environment, and capacity building. CAP also provides a program that teaches women how to drive rickshaws so they can enter the mainstream economy.

Looking toward the future – CAP is raising money to open a Community Peace Village which will provide a safe and peaceful environment for women and children recovering from violence and trauma. The community will be made of a group of cottages, that promotes community living which has been lost in the modern era. The community will have community programs such as counseling, occupational therapy, life skills education, art therapy, meditation, and gardening. The hope is that through the healing of community they can gain skills to earn a livelihood and reintegrate into society.



CAP is committed to nurturing a society based on peace, justice, reconciliation and respect for life



Training of women gender based violence group

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE REDUCTION PROGRAM

SOUTH SUDAN – New Community Project (NCP) requested grant support for a new project in South Sudan on Gender-Based Violence. Through grant support, they have been able to hold workshops and seminars for local community leaders, chiefs, women representatives, and government officials. They have held trainings for law enforcement agencies around laws which lead to violence against women, like the illegal divorce of women and early pregnancy, which can cause young women to drop out of school. Social workers have been trained in how to offer in-home guidance and counseling to victims of violence. The project is able to provide an emergency pill for those that have been sexually assaulted to stop the transmission of HIV/Aids among women and girls. Women in the local communities are so thankful for this project because it has elevated their voices in the pursuit of equality with men and in the halting of violence against women.



Women sharing information about healing plants

SHIFTING IDEAS THROUGH EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN WOMEN (SITEAW)

UGANDA – For 16 years, GWP has supported the passionate and tireless work of Sister Stella Sabina, Director of SITEAW – our longest partner project! Throughout this year, GWP’s grant money was used to help pay tuition and exam fees for 39 girls in primary and secondary senior school as well as for 2 young women in college. It also helped support a Basket Balancing Race held in August. Basket Balancing Races were started to raise additional tuition money for the girls as well as to create a positive and life affirming community activity for them to replace some of the more oppressive traditions, such as communal gatherings for female genital mutilation, in which many girls have died due to unsanitary practices. Sister Stella says the Basket Balancing Races “bring women together for communal activities that empower them” and have “created more jobs for women to support themselves.” She notes, “Some of the most successful projects are making aprons [which the Basket Balancing racing teams use as uniforms instead of t-shirts] and baskets. Women who learned how to sew and weave now have jobs that help them all year around.” To GWP and our supporters, Sister Stella shares, “We are forever grateful for your love and presence in SITEAW women and girls’ lives.”



Sister Stella and SITEAW girls at the Basket Balancing Races

WOMEN’S HEALTH

CHIAPAS, MEXICO – Women in the snajtaletik collective are planting, sprouting, and tending empowerment throughout Chiapas. They lead workshops with girls and women about menstruation and women’s health, teaching women that their bodies are sacred, not shameful. They are reclaiming ancestral and indigenous practices around women’s health, including making cloth menstrual pads together which is better for women’s bodies, family budgets, and the planet.

Boys are invited, too! They work together with their hands and minds, making basil infusions for cramps and other PMS symptoms. They also make soap with baking soda, basil, geranium flower, horsetail, and arnica to care for vaginal infections. These workshops include many other projects, including homemade diapers.

The women report that when they gather in a circle and share about women’s health, they learn about each other’s lives. One struggle the collective faces is hearing stories of abuse within families, and they are working to connect women with shelters and support to escape violence.

NEW LOGO

We are thrilled to share our new logo! Over the last 42 years, Global Women's Project has had three logos. Each logo has shown the connection of women with the earth, and we are excited to continue our mission with a fresh look. GWP is grateful to Jessie Long from McPherson, KS, for sharing her graphic design talent and creating our new logo.

1978



2007



2020



JOIN THE CONVERSATION IN GRAND RAPIDS THIS SUMMER!



Global Women's Project will be presenting a session at the 2020 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, MI, at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 2nd, titled, "Birthing a New World: Global Interconnectedness of Wealth, Poverty and Liberation." We will look at GWP's 42-year history of educating about the dynamics of wealth and privilege, poverty and instability, and the empowerment of women and girls throughout the world and ask: Are things getting better or worse? What has changed for women and girls in the US and in other countries? Where do we find hope? How can we put our energy, resources and prayers to best use? We would love to have your input. Come join the conversation!



MOTHER'S DAY GRATITUDE PROJECT

This May, GWP invites you to honor or memorialize your mother, or another special mentor in your life, by participating in our annual Mother's Day Gratitude Project. Here's how it works: you send a donation and a note to GWP with the name and address of the person(s) you want to honor, and we send a handwritten card to that person letting them know that you gave a gift in their name. Instead of buying your loved ones material gifts, you'll be showing them love through a gift that directly benefits our partner projects. We are so grateful to all those who have participated in this project in the past, making it our most successful fundraiser during the year.

Interested in participating this year? In April we'll e-mail a reminder to mail your contribution to: Sarah Neher, 541 W. 11th St., Apt. 201, Kansas City, MO 64105 (write checks to GWP). For any donation received by May 1, 2020, a card will be guaranteed to go out before Mother's Day. We look forward to helping you surprise your loved ones this year!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING GWP!

Without you, Global Women's Project could not continue its life changing work. Because we are 100% donation supported, your financial contributions are what makes it possible for GWP's volunteer Steering Committee to carry out our two-fold mission of educating people here in the US about global inequality and partnering with women led and run projects around the world focusing on empowering women and girls. Between January 1st and November 30th 2019, you contributed \$15,931.67 to GWP. With these dollars, we gave grant money to six projects in India, Haiti, Uganda, Togo, South Sudan and Wabash, IN (USA) totaling \$12,500.00 as well as provided educational and equipping workshops at the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, Older Adult Conference and Young Adult Conference. We can't thank you enough for supporting this important work!

SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE

To memorialize a loved one:

Please write the check to GWP and use the enclosed envelope. Please include a note saying who you're memorializing. We will list the names of all people memorialized throughout the year on our website, www.GlobalWomensProject.org, and in our annual newsletter. (We do not list the names of the donors or the amounts of the donations—just the names of the people who are honored through a memorial gift.)

To honor someone special in your life:

Please write the check to GWP and use the enclosed envelope. Please include a note saying who you're honoring. If you want a note sent to the honoree on behalf of GWP acknowledging your donation, we ask that you also send an email to cobgwp@gmail.com with the name and address of the honoree.

2019 MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following people were honored through memorial gifts in 2019:

Barbara Hines Alley
Beulah Mae (Hampton) Baile
Louise Dillon Erbaugh
Rowena Frantz Flory
Roy and Helen Freeman
Mary Wine Fruth
Edna V. Groff
Doris Eller Heisel
Mattie Jackson
Ellen Divine Miller
Minva Reid
Louie and Phil Rieman
Dorothy Shaeffer Miller Saylor
Maxine Sowles

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO GIVE

No matter what time of year, it's never too late to give to Global Women's Project. Use the enclosed envelope any month of the year or mail your donation made out to "Global Women's Project" to GWP, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin IL 60120. Thank you!

You can also give online at:
www.brethren.org/globalwomensproject



ADVENT WRAPPED

We rejoice in the prayer pathways tread this Advent, and sing praises for all who unwrapped the luxuries in their own lives while working through the Advent calendar. We appreciated your comments in person, on facebook and on instagram. Your gratitude for the luxuries in your lives has become generosity, as you send donations to GWP which we pass along to women who are changing their communities. Our spirits rejoice with Mary as she sings an Advent song of God's world-changing work!

We look forward to your feedback as we consider a 2020 Advent calendar.

JOIN US ON OUR 2020 LENTEN JOURNEY

The Lenten season begins on Wednesday, February 26th, and GWP invites you to participate with us in this inward and outward reflective journey. If you already have one of our printed Lenten Calendars, pull it out! If not, let us know, and we'll send you one - or we can email you one page of the calendar per day throughout Lent (note: this saves trees and postage). GWP Lenten Calendars include scriptural references for your reflection, facts about poverty, information about women and girls around the world, and highlights from some of our Partner Projects.

Last year, we received a wonderful note from Erv and Joan Huston from Elizabethtown, PA. Upon completing their Lenten journey, Joan wrote:

*What a great Lenten guide you've given us. Thank you. It was good for me to again focus on taxing luxuries. When I was more consistently doing so - in Idaho in the 80's, my big take away was that **the cost of our luxuries was the destruction of our necessities** - clean air and water and healthy soil. That's obvious today. And the Lenten guide helped us identify some gifts - like knowing grandparents - we hadn't previously considered.*

To join our Lenten journey with a paper Lenten Calendar or daily email, contact GWP at cobgwp@gmail.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

There are many ways you can support GWP throughout the year. Check out some of these opportunities to engage with our work:

JANUARY/FEBRUARY – pull out your Lenten Calendar or order a free GWP Lenten Calendar to guide your spiritual journey this year. Email us at cobgwp@gmail.com and we will send you a calendar (or multiples for your faith community/group), or ask to be added to the daily Lenten Calendar email list. Lent begins Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

MARCH – Celebrate International Women’s Day with your faith community this year on Sunday, March 8, 2020. Check out the amazing collection of worship resources and reflections on our website written by women across the country.

APRIL/MAY – Begin thinking about the women you would like to honor on Mother’s Day through our annual Mother’s Day Gratitude 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. Mother’s Day is May 10, 2020.

JULY – Stop by our booth at Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 1-5, 2020, and come to our insight session “Birthing a New World: Global Interconnectedness of Wealth, Poverty and Liberation” on Thursday, July 2nd at 8:30 p.m. We always enjoy connecting with you.

ANYTIME/BIRTHDAYS/HOLIDAYS – to celebrate a special day or any day go to www.GlobalWomensProject.org and click on “GIFTS” to see how you can donate to GWP.



GET CONNECTED!

Follow us on **Facebook:**
www.facebook.com/globalwomensproject

Subscribe to our monthly email newsletter, **Global e-Links**, below.

Visit our webpage:
www.GlobalWomensProject.org

Email us at: cobgwp@gmail.com

Clip and send to GWP

SEND US YOUR CONTACT INFO ... AND WE’LL SEND GWP TO YOU!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE _____

- This is a change of address
- Enclosed is my donation to continue the work of GWP!

- Add me to the monthly Global e-Links list.
- Add me to the annual paper Globalinks mailing list.
- Send me the Lenten calendar one day at a time by email.
- Send me a Lenten calendar by mail. (How many? _____)
- Contact me about honoring a special woman through GWP.
- Contact me about hosting a GWP steering committee meeting.
- Contact me about serving on the steering committee.
- Contact me about other ways I can connect with GWP.
- Please remove me from your mailing list.

Return this form and your donation to GWP's partner projects in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for your generosity!

Please make checks out to Global Women's Project.

Mail donations and address info to:

GWP c/o Kim Hill Smith
5315 36th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55417

Print more newsletters from our website and fill out a second form for your church or women’s group!

www.GlobalWomensProject.org
Email us at: cobgwp@gmail.com