

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



GLOBALINKS 2021



Because of the pandemic, the GWP Steering Committee met via Zoom for our fall meetings, freeing up money that was then doubled through our Matching Grant Challenge to contribute an additional \$6,000 to our partner projects.

GWP STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE

GWP is delighted to introduce our newest Committee member, Karlene Tyler. Karlene resides in McPherson, KS, and is known to generations of students, faculty and staff from her 42-year tenure at McPherson College. Having held 16 different titles throughout her career at McPherson, Karlene brings a plethora of skills and talents to GWP – not to mention a memorable and infectious laugh!

Karlene notes working at McPherson College and being actively involved in the McPherson Church of the Brethren have afforded her several opportunities to travel and to engage with music, loves which she has held dear from a young age (and passed down to her daughter, Emily). To date, she has traveled to 33 countries, and she hopes to visit each continent in her lifetime. In the 3 years since her retirement, Karlene has traveled to China, Uganda and Italy. Singing, playing music and acting in theatre productions are passions for Karlene, and she is grateful for many opportunities to engage in them.

Growing up on a farm in Iowa, Karlene says she feels strongly grounded in her Midwest roots and carries the best of this with her as she travels geographically and throughout her life's journey. When asked to serve on the Steering Committee, without hesitation Karlene answered, "That sounds very exciting!" Her adventurous spirit, global experiences and the easy way she connects with others make Karlene a valued member of the Committee.

GWP STEERING COMMITTEE REFLECTIONS

As we've been more confined to our homes during COVID, it hasn't stopped us (nor likely you) from expanding our knowledge and shared experience through reading, listening to podcasts, streaming shows and finding good recipes. Below are some reviews and recommendations we'd like to pass on to you. We hope they provide you with ideas for good self-care as well as inspire you to work toward a more just, kind and peaceful world.

Katie Heishman (Kettering, OH): This year, we have been doing so much cooking at home. We love cooking from scratch and practice a vegan diet, or whole-foods plant-based diet. My husband and I are always looking for new recipes to try, and we have fallen in love with *Nora Cooks*. Her website noracooks.com has a plethora of vegan recipes that are simple and hit the mark on spices and flavor. We enjoyed her "Best Vegan Meatloaf" and "Vegan Pumpkin Pie" for our small Thanksgiving.

Barb Saylor (Englewood, OH): Conscious breathing and breath prayer have been important tools for me this year, in this time when "I can't breathe" has become an all too familiar phrase, whether related to the prevalent racism in our communities, or the increased numbers of COVID-19 and the effects of the disease, or the stress and loneliness many of us are feeling in this isolated time. I came across author Sarah Bessey's "Breath Prayers for Anxious Times" as I planned my first Zoom worship in March, and it has become an important practice that our congregation has continued each week since then. Early in the pandemic, my congregation's book group decided to study something that would help us get through this anxious and difficult time. We chose Pema Chödrön's *Welcoming the Unwelcome: Wholehearted Living in a Brokenhearted World*. While this provided many tools to practice and heartfelt reflections to discuss, what I appreciated most was the consciousness of breath. Pema encouraged the practice of breathing in the suffering and hurt that is around us that we'd like to hold close, and breathing out joy and love to help relieve the pain. From Sarah Bessey: "May you find a deep breath when the air around you is thin, may you grow in compassion..., may you love well..."

Kim Hill Smith (Minneapolis, MN): I just finished reading a beautifully written memoir by Ibtisam Barakat titled, *Tasting the Sky: A Palestinian Childhood*. While written for a younger reader (which I would highly recommend for young teens), the author tells of her childhood experience as a Palestinian refugee from the start of the Six-Day War in 1967 until 1971. Throughout, she discovers relationships with people, animals, and, most importantly, a piece of chalk, which enables her to learn to read and write and to tell of her experiences in ways which are informative and healing. Of war, her mother tells her that when a war ends, it does not go away; it hides inside you, and you should try to forget. Ibtisam replies, "But I do not want to do what Mother says. I cannot follow her advice. I want to remember." Her memories are poignant and, at times, painful, but they left me with a sense of appreciation for the simple things in life as seen and experienced through the eyes of a young girl. They also reminded me of just how resilient the human spirit can be in the face of fear, loss and uncertainty. This book was the winner of the Arab American National Museum Book Award for Children's/Young Adult Literature.

STEERING COMMITTEE REFLECTIONS CONT.

Sarah Neher (Kansas City, MO): Like many of you, the murder of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and countless other Black brothers and sisters stirred me in a new way. This summer, I was introduced to the book *This Book is Anti-Racist* by Tiffany Jewel. It's written for teens as a guide to help young people discover their identities, learn about their personal and family history, the history that isn't taught in school, and action steps to become anti-racist. I found this book to be simple, educational and practical as it offers personal reflection prompts at the end of each chapter. The bright colorful illustrations by Aurelia Durand keep the reader captivated. I highly recommend this book for any young person in your life.

Karlene Tyler (McPherson, KS): Many television shows have been furnishing us entertainment during this unique year. While much television doesn't seem to offer inspiration, I have found the series, *Call the Midwife*, a comfort and inspiration during this time. The Netflix series which takes place in the impoverished community of Poplar in East London is nine seasons long, beginning in the 1950's after World War II and ends in the late 1960's.

The series covers topics ranging from difficult pregnancies, to taking us through the polio epidemic of the 50's, as well as exploring different lifestyles. The series is set in Nonnatus House, a nursing convent, where both nuns and secular midwives live together. They are called on to care for the poorest of the poor through pregnancies and other health crises. Their main mode of transportation is the bicycle.

I started watching the series about the time I joined the GWP Steering Committee and was constantly reminded of how these strong women portrayed in the series reminded me of the projects and stories with which GWP partners. And, of course, by the end of the series the characters had become my friends, and I found myself feeling I was leaving my family. I felt pride in their accomplishments, sadness when tragedy struck, and inspired with their resilience. So, if you're looking for something to entertain, inspire and educate about the history of London after World War II, I highly recommend *Call the Midwife*.

GWP FINANCES AT A GLANCE

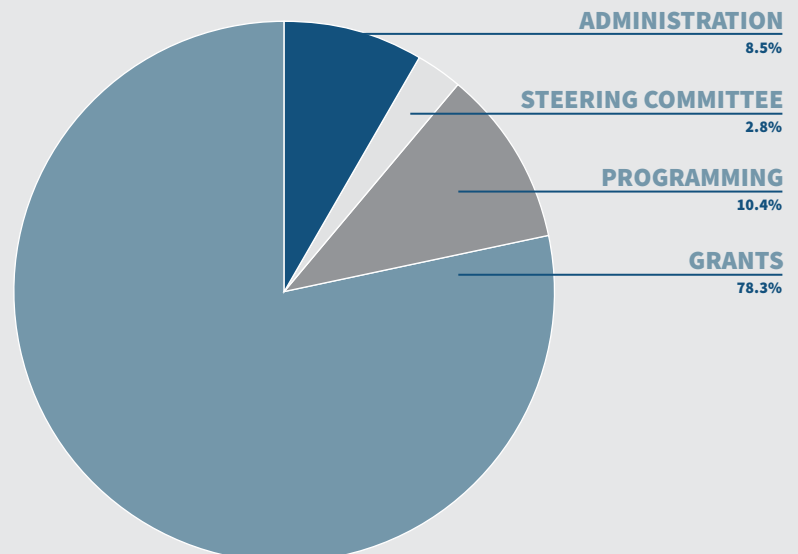
WHERE EXACTLY DID YOUR MONEY GO WHEN YOU CONTRIBUTED TO GWP IN 2020? HERE'S A SUMMARY AS OF 11-30-2020:

Beginning Balance on 1-1-2020:	\$14,784.70
Donations through 11-30-2020:	\$21,846.24

EXPENDITURES

Administration:	\$2,054.07
Steering Committee Travel:	\$674.51
Programming:	\$2,528.11
Grants to Projects:	\$19,000.00

ENDING BALANCE:	\$12,374.25
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Girls engaged SITEAW programming in Kampala, Uganda

SHIFTING IDEAS THROUGH EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN WOMEN (SITEAW)

UGANDA – GWP is pleased to continue its partnership with Sister Stella Sabina, Director of SITEAW, for a record 17th year! As the name suggests, SITEAW ardently believes that education and skills training are the best tools to empower and free girls and women from oppressive traditions such as unsanitary female circumcision (which sometimes results in death) and early marriage - as well as vulnerability to abuse, rape, human trafficking and being sold into slavery. SITEAW posits, “Education and skills are the treasures that cannot be stolen from them.”

As with most programs since the spread of COVID-19, schooling and training in Uganda have been hindered and delayed due to shutdowns. With help from their GWP grant, however, SITEAW is continuing to provide programming for girls in Kampala as well as passing on money to support girls in the villages. Sister Stella says, “We are going through a very hard time to keep the girls in the villages safe. Predators are always close by.” She acknowledges, “It’s tough. But I hold to the power of positive thinking.” She asks of each of us, “Please say your prayers facing our way.” We are grateful for Sister Stella’s steadfast and tireless commitment to the SITEAW girls and women in Uganda.



LIFE IS EXPENSIVE

RWANDA – The people of Rwanda endured great hardship during the lockdown and quarantine associated with the pandemic. Closed borders shut down some forms of income for women accustomed to selling different produce across the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. Many have faced starvation. Our partner project, Life is Expensive, focused on distributing food to those in need, sharing bags of rice and flour, to as many as they could. They continue to plant gardens and have distributed seeds to women to help tackle hunger long-term. Esperance sends her greetings.

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

TOGO – ECHOPPE works in several parts of Africa: Togo, Bénin, Mali and the Central African Republic. It aims to break the cycles of poverty through supporting individual initiatives for economic improvement and social growth. Working primarily with women, ECHOPPE empowers individuals to support themselves and their families and encourages them to become citizens in a larger society through entrepreneurship, leadership, ecology, zero waste, zero emissions and zero poverty.

In 2020, GWP’s support allowed ECHOPPE to provide loans to the very poor, to women who live in rural areas, who are single, and who are struggling with chronic health conditions. These loans are being provided at lower rates, but also with increased social services to these people in order to stop the causes of poverty and to incite change within the country.



CULTURAL ACADEMY FOR PEACE

KERALA, INDIA – Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP) was established in 1984 and has been a GWP partner project since 2015. CAP is committed to nurturing a society based on peace, justice, reconciliation and respect for life. This holistic mission is lived out through providing shelter to women and children escaping unsafe situations, uniting activists, educating leaders and the community, and lobbying for nonviolent social change.

With the rise of the COVID-19 pandemic, CAP continues to care for their community. CAP created a campaign ‘Break the Chain,’ promoting ways to stay healthy amidst the pandemic. Children at Shanthibhavan, a short-stay home for women and children in need, have created posters, and women are sewing masks to give out to the community.

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. One “snapshot” of their clients (from Carol Horn): a mother in a wheelchair, because of leg amputation, and her very disturbed 30-year-old son with schizophrenia and paranoia with a felony for resisting police at a mental health facility. The complications that both endure keep them homeless as no entity in our society is prepared to help them long-term.

Growing Grounds has been working for years to have their own housing – stable, supportive and in community. They are working (with donated time and money) to renovate a home which will provide four units – it will be ready soon! The renovation of Host House on Hill Street in Wabash with four units is now projected to be renovated by early winter. A local family-owned rental company is donating a six-unit building for Growing Grounds clients’ transitional housing. As winter descends amidst COVID-19 challenges, Growing Grounds is more important than ever.

NARUS SEWING COOPERATIVE

NARUS, SOUTH SUDAN – The women of the Narus sewing cooperative in South Sudan send their greetings and gratitude for the support received this year. The coop trains women in practical skills of sewing and tailoring in order to change the livelihood of their families. Mananyu Gladys shares that there is a high demand for this program in the local area, but there is a lack of resources and sewing machines. The coop was able to train six of twelve interested women. During the pandemic, the women in the program made face masks for local students and sewed school uniforms for local girls.



WOMEN'S INTEGRATED HEALTH

CHIAPAS, MEXICO – Women are healing. Women are healing their bodies, their lives, their families, their communities. Women in the snajtaletik collective hold 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 – healthy 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.



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 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: Karlene Tyler, 333 South Lakeside Dr, Unit I, McPherson, KS 67460 (write checks to GWP). For any donation received by May 1, 2021, 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 of 2020, you contributed \$21,846.24 to GWP, including a record \$6,149.50 through our Mother's Day Gratitude Project and \$3,300.00 through our Matching Grant Challenge. Because of your generosity, we were able to send \$19,000.00 to support our partner projects in Mexico, Togo, Uganda, South Sudan, India and Wabash, IN. 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.

2020 MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following people were honored through memorial gifts to GWP in 2020:

Ruth Funderburg Botkin
Carolyn Denlinger
Helen Freeman
Mary Wine Fruth
Belinda Kline Good
Elsie Harley
Mildred Hepner
Mattie Jackson
Beverly Kline
Anna Ferne McConahy
Ellen Divine Miller
Phyllis Miller
Clara Thompson Moats
Marie Smith Moats
Vera Gilbert Moats
Wava Long Neher
Minva Reid
Rebecca Good Reynolds
Phil and Louie Baldwin Rieman
MarySue Helstern Rosenberger
Dorothy Shaefer Miller Saylor
Nettie Schneider
Eileen Sexton
Elizabeth Kline Smeltzer
Bill and Barbara Smith
Mary Margaret Smith
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

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 sign up to have the Lenten Calendar sent daily to your email to guide your spiritual journey this year (we have a limited number of printed copies available that we could send you as well). Email us at cobgwp@gmail.com to be added to the daily Lenten Calendar email list or to request a printed calendar. Lent begins Wednesday, February 17, 2021.

MARCH – Celebrate International Women’s Day with your faith community this year on Monday, March 8, 2021. 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 9, 2021.

JUNE/JULY – Stop by our booth at Annual Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina, June 30 - July 4, 2021, and come to our insight session on Saturday, July 3rd at 8:30 p.m. We always enjoy connecting with you.

DECEMBER – Join us for a time of Advent reflection by checking out our annual Advent Calendar filled with scripture, prayer prompts, activities and taxes, along with a color-by-day Christmas image.

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