

Global Women's Project c/o Karlene Tyler
333 South Lakeside Dr, Unit I
McPherson, KS 67460



GWP

GLOBALINKS 2023



2023 Global Women's Project Steering Committee
(clockwise) Karlene Tyler, Barb Sayler, Kim McDowell, Katie Heishman, and Doris Abdullah.

FAREWELL SARAH!

This past September, we bid farewell to GWP Steering Committee Member Sarah Neher. Sarah first joined the GWP Steering Committee in September 2018. She served a four-year term as we implemented our new five-year terms on GWP. Sarah served in many roles from managing our social media, creating our meeting agendas, leading and planning bi-yearly meetings, coordinating the advent calendar production, researching and writing one of the advent calendar devotionals, writing thank you cards, and so much more. While on GWP she served as liaison to Chiapas, Mexico and CAP in India. We are grateful for Sarah's joy, thoughtfulness, optimism, and critical thinking she brought to her leadership and time on GWP. We are so grateful for her four years of service and will miss her greatly! Thank you, Sarah!

WELCOME TO KIM AND DORIS!

Kim McDowell joined the GWP Steering Committee in Spring 2022. She is grateful to be connected with women working for justice through our partners and through travel in recent years with Cultural Connections to India and New Community Project to Nepal. Kim retired in 2021 from pastoral ministry, having worked in congregations in New York, Indiana, and Maryland. Currently, Kim is one of three members of the Mid-Atlantic District Interim Executive Minister Team. Kim lives outside Washington D.C., is married and has two adult daughters.

Doris Theresa Abdullah joined GWP Steering Committee in Fall 2022. She is an ordained minister at Brooklyn First Church of the Brethren, a Children's Disaster volunteer since 2001 and the Church of the Brethren Representative at the United Nations. She served on the Board of On Earth Peace from 2002-2013 and retired after 30 years in financial services with the French trading firm Pechiney World Trade in 2001. She brings to GWP, experiences gained over many decades of working in an international environment with people of many cultures and races as well as personal relationships and living among persons of different religious traditions.

GWP STEERING COMMITTEE REFLECTIONS

As an organization that focuses on supporting communities of women, our steering committee reflects on how communities of women have impacted or inspired us:

Doris Abdullah (Brooklyn, NY): Most if not all of the women that I have known jumped over gender barriers to obtain their goals, with my mom and grandmothers being my first heroes. All three gave me life long courage and support throughout their lives. Mom always concerned herself with my safety from physical and mental harm, teaching safety through stories about harmed girls that worked as babysitters, housekeepers, and secretaries. I was never to take a job in any of those fields. Her love of books was a passion, and in my teens I encountered Dostoevsky's trappings and tortures found in Crime and Punishment; experienced the damages of prejudices in Richard Wright's Native Son and saw human fragility in Tennessee Williams The Glass Menagerie. Being surrounded by books provided me with a fantasy world, loads of curiosity and a love of learning that is still with me. I was to remember that nobody could take my education away from me and the more I learned the better it would be for me. Her positive encouragement to learn all that I could and seek safety in love are the pillows in my struggles against prejudices and negatives that enter my life. I feel blessed to be able to share her encouragements, courage, and love with and to other women.

Katie Heishman (Richmond, VA): A few years ago, a monthly Zoom call for young clergywomen in the Church of the Brethren began and it's been one of the most special spaces for me. The invitation is open to any young adult woman and the rotation of women can change from month to month, but the focus is always on creating space to share and to support one another. We have walked through the pandemic together, the births of children, miscarriages, job changes, funerals, divorces, mansplaining, defeats, and celebrations. I am grateful for this group which has held, inspired, challenged, and lamented alongside me these last several years of early ministry. It is so, so sacred to have a set apart space to gather each month as clergywomen and to be able to rely on the stability and steadfastness of the 2nd Tuesday of every month at noon.

STEERING COMMITTEE REFLECTIONS CONT.

Kim McDowell (Hyattsville, MD) Through my life I've been shaped and strengthened by communities of women who have walked with each other through joy and through struggle. They've been groups of friends, colleagues, family members, fellow parents, sisters in the church, and others who have stood with each other, and have opened their lives to me and to one another in deep ways. I've always found that level of honesty and vulnerability to be empowering.

Maybe that's why I found particular inspiration in the group of women I met this year in Nepal. All of them were survivors of trafficking—overcoming experiences and odds I'm privileged to have been spared. They were very young and very old. And all of them brought their wounds, their healing, and their thriving to the task of standing with other girls and women. They are part of the first anti-trafficking group in Nepal founded and run by survivors. But they're also people who are living with remarkable determination, hope, and spirit that inspire the same in me!

Barb Sayler (Englewood, OH) Soon after we moved to our community, the political yard signs around us let us know that we thought differently than many of our neighbors. We felt compelled to convey our own messages that fit with our faith and beliefs in love and inclusion. While we heard our share of negative comments, we also met neighbors who thanked us for these messages. It was from one such meeting that I met a woman from down the road with similar political and theological beliefs. We started a book study and have since added a few others all that live within a few miles of us. This community of women is a healing balm for me as they provide support, friendship, wisdom, and examples of living out one's convictions. In this community where I once wondered if I would find anyone that I could connect with, I'm amazed to have found this circle of women.

Karlene Tyler (McPherson, KS) As I have thought about women's groups of which I have been a part, it was difficult to choose just one. Although I am now retired, when I first worked as a college administrator, there were very few females in administration. Through the years that changed and I so enjoyed having other females with whom to bounce ideas around. I also have shared work at my home church with women. I Zoom with six other women from high school, who hadn't seen each other in 40-50 years. I have a group of women with whom I socialize, and, of course, I have the GWP Steering Committee and the global sisterhood of women with whom we partner! I can honestly say that I have been inspired and mentored by women in all of these groups. And, I feel blessed and express gratitude to be a part of all sisterhood!

SHIFTING IDEAS THROUGH EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN WOMEN (SITEAW)

UGANDA – We are so grateful to be able to continue our partnership with Sister Stella Sabina for a 19th year! SITEAW believes that education and skills training are the best tools to empower and free girls and women from oppression. Through the years Sister Stella has been able to work to eradicate female genital mutilation, and last year was working to rescue girls that had been sold into slavery and sent to Abu Dhabi. Our GWP grant money has helped provide programming for girls they have rescued to help them heal. This past October Sister Stella reported they “rose from COVID-19” and the girls were back in school. The big news was they were able to purchase land where the girls would be safe, and they were almost finished with the first building! They are working on getting a well dug so they can have safe water. We send our gratitude to Sister Stella for her steadfast and tireless commitment to the girls and women in Uganda.



GWP FINANCES AT A GLANCE

Where exactly did your money go when you contributed to GWP in 2022? Here's a summary as of 11-30-2022:

Beginning Balance on 1-1-2022:	\$28,391.13
Donations through 11-30-2022:	\$15,138.15

EXPENDITURES

Administration:	\$1,443.19
Steering Committee Travel:	\$1,232.10
Programming:	\$243.31
Grants to Projects:	\$13,000.00

ENDING BALANCE:	\$22,431.59
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ADVENT WRAP-UP

We rejoice for all who unwrapped the luxuries in their own lives while working through the Advent calendar. This is our fourth Advent calendar, and we have appreciated the response from the community through the years. Your gratitude for the luxuries in your lives has become generosity. Your donations to GWP will be used to support projects around the world that benefit and support women and girls.

NEW LENTEN CALENDAR

GWP's Lenten desk calendar has become a seasonal staple for many looking for a meaningful, educational spiritual practice. Last year, we debuted a new, updated Lenten Calendar that was available digitally and in print at Annual Conference. Our new Lenten calendar features new images from our partner projects, educational reflections and challenges from Anna Lisa Gross, and a new design. You can utilize the new virtual version of our Lenten calendar this Lenten season by signing up on our website. If you would like a physical copy, please email us at cobgwp@gmail.com and we'll mail you a copy or a few! We hope you'll join us on a meaningful Lenten journey.

NARUS SEWING COOPERATIVE

NARUS, SOUTH SUDAN – Our partner project in South Sudan has been a roaming sewing cooperative, which has moved to different towns and villages based on need and sometimes violence in the regions. The Sewing Cooperative is currently in Narus, South Sudan. Most recently, six new sewing machines were purchased, as well as embroidery thread and materials to craft bedsheets to sell. In 2021, we shared a one time grant with our South Sudan liaison Manayu Gladys to support a small farming cooperative. They have started with small-scale field cultivation to have production of crops and food. The hope is to increase the livelihood of the families involved, as well as sell the surplus at local markets to expand the farming cooperative.



ETIENNE NSANZIMANA

RWANDA – In 2021, a request came for a one time grant for a tailoring project from Etienne Nsanzimana, who is a member of the Church of the Brethren in Rwanda. The grant provided sewing machines and education around tailoring and sewing for women in their village. Etienne reports that the women have been working hard and hope that in 6 months they will be able to help their families and be able to make money and provide for their basic needs. She ends her report by sharing, “I want to thank you for the contribution and support you’re giving to my village, this is a life transformation to [these] young girls and ladies.”

CULTURAL ACADEMY FOR PEACE

KERALA, INDIA – In recent initiatives with women this year, Cultural Academy for Peace has:

- worked at public advocacy for gender justice and activism against gender violence;
- helped provide education and training for fifty women through the Community College, offering courses in Tailoring, Driving, Cosmetology Therapy, and Hospitality Management;
- continued to offer shelter, counseling, and follow-up services to girls and women who are victims of domestic violence and trafficking;
- extended partnership with residents of Korumkotta Island, a Dalit community that has experienced marginalization and the effects of flooding;
- completed purchase of land for the Community Peace Village which will house programs providing shelter, healing space, and services for women and girls who come to share in the services CAP offers.

A next focus will be raising funds to support the construction of a cottage and a compound wall at the Community Peace Village.

Cultural Academy received the “All Kerala CSR Awards” last year for outstanding service given to women and children, from the Kerala Management Association!



GROWING GROUNDS

WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA, UNITED STATES – Growing Grounds “strives to provide a new start for women, men, and families in Wabash County whose choices have become limited by the impact of life circumstances or past incarceration, but who are motivated to improve their quality of life, expand their work and educational options, and build on positive relationships.”

Growing Grounds partners with the Wabash Church of the Brethren and Habitat for Humanity to make available emergency shelter to homeless women, which is a small 2-bedroom apartment, as well as paying for motel rooms. They help pay rent to keep families in their apartment and provide security deposits to secure a new apartment. They provide court and agency fees to keep someone out of jail and no interest loans to help with utilities, get a driver’s license, pay for a storage rental unit, gas cards for work, and other needs. Growing Grounds offers classes in jail on communication, trauma, nutrition, parenting, finance, and much more. They provide free food and clothing for families, and a bike as needed for transportation. They started Housing Action of Wabash County, Inc. in 2018, and it was incorporated as a stand-alone nonprofit in 2022 “to provide a collaborative effort to discover and address housing barriers for very-low, low, and moderate-income residents of Wabash County.”

Founding Member Carol Horn writes: “Growing Grounds continues getting more and more referrals ... from Hands of Hope Domestic Violence, Department of Child Services, the food pantries, mental health services, and more. We find that so much of it relates to having been incarcerated and the various neglect, abuse, and drug situations that caused the trauma and downhill slide in the first place. So, there are many fronts to work on and we thank you for being such a big part of it all!”



LIFE IS EXPENSIVE

RWANDA – Our connection with Life is Expensive in Rwanda is going on 13 years! Our partner, Esperance, has led Life is Expensive through many different kinds of community engagement and support in Rwanda. This past year, they supported women in a tailoring program, which supports women in making an income to care for their needs like “food, clothing, and compulsory health insurance.” Life is Expensive has focused on children – many of whom are orphaned and living with HIV/AIDs. A major problem in this region is childhood malnutrition. Life is Expensive hosts a feeding program for children to combat this problem. This year, they made school bags to give out to 50 needy children filled with school supplies to support the poorest in their community. Esperance closes her report by sharing gratitude: “Thank you so much for your partnership and support over the years.” Thank you, Esperance, for your leadership and care for your community!



WOMEN’S INTEGRATED HEALTH

CHIAPAS, MEXICO – God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit” [Genesis 1:29] The old is new and the new is old in the usage of plants to cure diseases and relieve pain. The Snajtaleitik (common home of our becoming) Collective in Chiapas prepared medicine from the plants in their backyard garden. In the midst of Covid 19, they held workshops on preventative diseases, nutrition and health, self care, and the making of hygienic products from plants.

They also held 29 workshops on varied themes of plant differences, environmental care, knowledge of medicinal plants, and how to make plant related products, with 302 women, 17 girls and kids, and 29 men participating in the workshops. Medicines to prevent respiratory illness caused by inhaling fumes from stoves were used to encourage the cutting down of fewer trees. Hygienic products such as toothpaste, deodorant, and soaps made from sweet aromatic plants uplifted the emotional health and spirituality of the community. The making of these products provided economic improvements to help a family be lifted from extreme poverty by starting their own business and equipping them with knowledge on the making of products from plants. The connection to the elements (earth, water, air and sun), nutrition, and good health were expressed as: your food is your medicine.

The community received workshop requests from other municipalities including the geographic jungle of Ocosingo and the agricultural Trinitaria area. We pray for their success as they expand knowledge on plant usage in health care.





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, 2023, 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!

Global Women's Project is 100% donation supported, which means ALL OF YOU! The Steering Committee would like to thank ALL OF YOU for your financial contributions throughout the year. ALL OF YOU have made it possible to send grants totaling \$13,000 to our six partner projects around the world. These projects embody GWP's 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, 2022, ALL OF YOU contributed \$15,343.65 to GWP, and 85% (\$13,000) of your contributions were sent directly to the work of empowering girls and women. The remainder of the funds were used toward GWP's programming, printing of new Lenten calendars, travel to Omaha to represent GWP at Annual Conference, and, once again, travel for our Volunteer Steering Committee to meet in person for the first time in two years! We thank ALL OF YOU for supporting this important and life changing work!

SPECIAL WAYS TO GIVE

To memorialize a loved one:

Please write the check to GWP and use the enclosed envelope, including a note saying whom 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, including a note saying whom 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.

2022 MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following people were honored through memorial gifts to GWP in 2022:

Carolyn Denlinger

Kathryn Erisman

Doris Eller Heisel

Mattie Jackson

Martha Jacoby Knechel

Vera Emmert Johansen

Sharon Knechel

Phyllis Miller

Minva Reid

Virginia Roberson

Louie and Phil Baldwin Rieman

Elizabeth Kline Smeltzer

Vivian Ziegler

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 – Sign up to have the new Lenten Calendar sent daily to your email to guide your spiritual journey this year. Email us at cobgwp@gmail.com to be added to the daily Lenten Calendar email list. Lent begins Wednesday, February 22, 2023.

MARCH – Celebrate International Women’s Day with your faith community this year on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. 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 7, 2023.

JUNE/JULY – Stop by our booth at Annual Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 4-8, 2023. 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.



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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 new 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 Karlene Tyler
333 South Lakeside Dr, Unit I
McPherson, KS 67460

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