

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



GWP

GLOBALINKS 2024



2023-24 Global Women's Project Steering Committee
Kim McDowell, Maddie Dulabaum, Barb Sayler, and Karlene Tyler

FAREWELL KATIE!

Katie Heishman has been a good and faithful member of GWP's Steering Committee for five years. We are sad to say goodbye, but so grateful for the time she has given to women around the world! When Katie began her tenure with GWP, she was co-pastoring with her husband, Tim, in Ohio, and in 2020 gave birth to their daughter, Phoebe. In 2021, their family moved to Richmond, Virginia, where Katie became co-pastor and director of Richmond Hill Retreat Center, and their second child, Asa, was born. Katie was a great help to those who were less technically talented, and brought joy to GWP's Steering Committee by sharing Phoebe and Asa's growth and accomplishments while offering wise insights about our partner projects. In Fall 2022, our group met at Richmond Hill and got a first-hand look at what the Center does and how Katie and her family lived, ate, and worshiped with community members. Katie served GWP in the midst of her busy personal schedule, and this fall met us in Wabash, Indiana, for her final GWP meeting. She will be missed, and the gift of her service to Global Women's Project for the past five years will be treasured for many years to come. Godspeed, Katie!

WELCOME MADDIE!

Madeline "Maddie" Dulabaum grew up in Elgin, Illinois, attending Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren. She graduated from DePaul University in 2018 having studied English, Math, and Women's and Gender Studies. Maddie has interests in literature, music, movies, and history, and occasionally performs in local theater. Currently, Maddie lives in Carmel, Indiana, with her fiance and their two dogs Sookie and Junebug. She works as a graphic designer and communications manager for an eco-friendly flooring company. Welcome, Maddie!

GWP STEERING COMMITTEE REFLECTIONS

Our Mission: GWP seeks to educate about wealth, power and oppression, encouraging one another to live more simply, being mindful of our luxuries, and joining in empowerment with women around the world, sharing resources with women's initiatives. When we gather as a Steering Committee, we often center ourselves by reading our Mission Statement lectio divina style and sharing what part stood out to us. Here are some of those reflections from our Steering Committee members:

Kim McDowell (she/her, Hyattsville, MD): "GWP seeks to educate about wealth, power and oppression..."

The most rewarding thing about working with Global Women's Project is partnering with the women who benefit from opportunities we help support. The most challenging thing about this work is making the connections between our privilege and their need for those opportunities. For some years as he traveled and preached, Jim Wallis, one of the Sojourners Magazine founders, carried a "hole-y" Bible. With scissors, he had cut out from an old copy of the Bible the more than 2,000 texts throughout scripture that contain references to poverty, wealth, and justice. Without these verses, he was left with a Bible full of holes. And with them, there was a profound call to recognize the hazards of wealth and privilege.

Paying attention to the sources of injustice faced by women who are our GWP partners is a regular invitation to examine our own lives and power. It's also an ongoing call to share what we learn. For me, these are both among the central blessings of working with the Global Women's Project.

Barb Saylor (she/her, Englewood, OH): "...encouraging one another to live more simply, being mindful of our luxuries..."

In addition to supporting the work of our partner projects, what I love about Global Women's Project is that this work is more than about writing a check. It's about encouragement and support. It's about making conscious choices. It's about realizing that the decisions we make, the products we consume, the luxuries that we are surrounded by, impact the whole world. There are many in this world that don't have all the choices that I have. So when I am making a choice, I'm grateful that I have been challenged to another way of living. GWP reminds us about the connections of our everyday lives with the lives of women around the world.

STEERING COMMITTEE REFLECTIONS CONT.

Karlene Tyler (she/her, McPherson, KS): "...joining in empowerment with women around the world..."

This is a phrase that speaks to my heart. Traveling around the world has been my passion, and seeing how women live so differently in the world, and yet live similarly, as well, affirms my commitment to GWP. Women are the lifeblood of families, and helping women to empower their place in society and the world makes all humanity stronger. And, we on the Steering Committee are so thankful that you have chosen to help us in our work.

Maddie Dulabaum (she/her, Carmel, IN): "...sharing resources with women's initiatives."

I find the last line of Global Women's Project's mission particularly insightful and captivating. Too often, in my experience, charitable works come with an inherent power imbalance with charity frequently only going one way through giving—in a straight arrow direct from the "Haves" to the "Have-nots." While those who give can feel a sense of benevolence and satisfaction, those who receive can easily be stripped of choice, dignity, and the opportunity to voice their actual needs. In emphasizing the sharing of resources, GWP's mission inherently focuses on the creation of a global community where we are all coming to the table as equals. Be it wealth, knowledge, skills, or networks, everyone brings something valuable to be passed between participants in the movement toward women's empowerment.

I saw this in action recently when my company participated in a coat drive for a local women's shelter. Although the organizers had good intentions, there was an overabundance of coats in smaller sizes but only a few in larger sizes. As we met the women, we learned that even those who would fit into the smaller sizes wanted larger coats to be able to layer garments underneath. By sharing time connecting and communicating with these women, we now have a better idea of how best to help for the drive next year.



Global Women's Project Steering Committee touring the Growing Grounds Project at our Fall 2023 meeting in Wabash, Indiana: Barb Saylor, Kim McDowell, Karlene Tyler, Maddie Dulabaum, and Katie Heishman.

GWP FINANCES AT A GLANCE

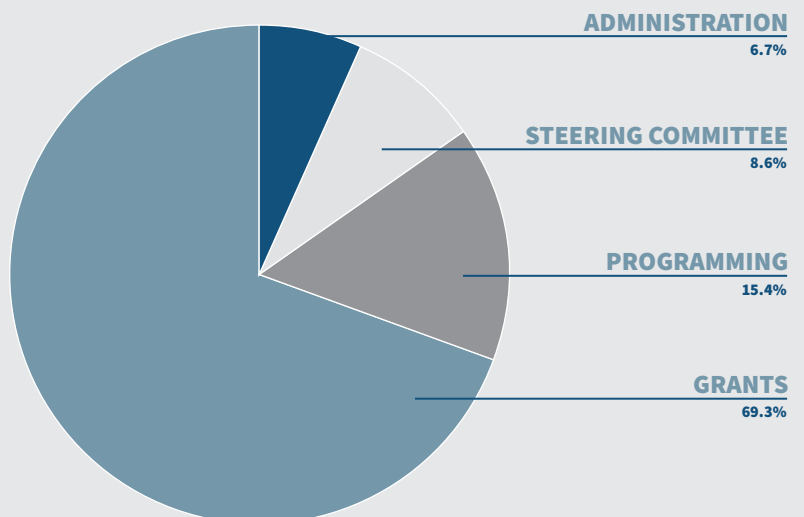
Where exactly did your money go when you contributed to GWP in 2023? Here's a summary as of 11-30-2023:

Beginning Balance on 1-1-2023:	\$26,245.97
Donations through 11-30-2023:	\$13,238.92

EXPENDITURES

Administration:	\$1,251.52
Steering Committee Travel:	\$1,617.54
Programming:	\$2,894.42
Grants to Projects:	\$13,000.00

ENDING BALANCE:	\$20,721.41
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CULTURAL ACADEMY FOR PEACE

KERALA, INDIA – For almost 40 years, Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP) has worked to create a culture of peace and gender justice in India. Continuing services of rescue and rehabilitation, education, skills training, legal assistance, and more are being offered through multiple programs and events with women and girls. Several of those to highlight this fall are:

- The Koramkotta Island Digital Literacy Initiative instructed residents of a marginalized island Dalit community in using mobile phones, educational apps, Microsoft Office, and ChatGPT. Assisted by 11th and 12th grade students from a school in Kochi, participants learned about simple but vital tasks such as saving contacts and making online payments.
- Shanthibivhan (the shelter residence for women and girls in need of protection from violence) celebrated an Onam community festival, featuring performances by the children, dancing, food, and invited guests (including police personnel and political figures). One person said that this occasion “radiated a sense of unity and community spirit,” and was intended to foster encouragement and merriment among the residents of Shanthibivhan.
- The purchase of land for the Community Peace Village Project is complete. Upcoming efforts will focus on resourcing the construction of a few cottages that are part of the architectural master plan.
- A new batch of students has enrolled in the Community College skills training program aimed at re-entering the world of employment. Tracks include Wheels for Women, Hospitality Management, Geriatric Training, Tailoring/Embroidery, and Baking/Confectionery.

CAP serves multilayered needs of girls and women in south India with joy, determination, and hope!



ADVENT WRAP-UP

We rejoice for all who unwrapped the luxuries in their own lives while working through the Advent calendar. This is our fifth 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 women and girls.

LENTEN CALENDAR

GWP’s Lenten desk calendar has become a seasonal staple for many looking for a meaningful, educational spiritual practice. In 2022, we debuted an updated Lenten Calendar that is available digitally and in print. The Lenten calendar features images from our partner projects, educational reflections and challenges from Anna Lisa Gross. You can utilize a 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 – In 2022, our contact in South Sudan, Manayu Gladys, requested a one-time grant to support a women's farming initiative in the region. Manayu shared that, even in the midst of all the climate change challenges, the women are hopeful that they will produce a harvest to support their families returning from refugee camps. These photos show them in their maize field, which will be ready to harvest in January.

Our long-term support for the sewing cooperative continues and is currently located in Narus. The young women call themselves “Champion Girls” and are doing very well in their tailoring and dressmaking program, and are creating items like bedsheets and table mats to sell. These young girls have run away from forced marriages and are now being protected in the school away from their relatives.



GROWING GROUNDS

WABASH COUNTY, INDIANA, UNITED STATES – Growing Grounds is an outreach through the Wabash Church of the Brethren, and partners with other individuals, churches, and organizations in their community, providing a new start for individuals and families “whose choices have become limited by the impact of life circumstances or past incarceration” and working to improve their quality of life and their work and educational options.

Here are some endeavors carried out through Growing Grounds in 2023:

- Providing rent payment to keep families in their apartments or pay for a new apartment where they gain shelter and start over.
- Since Wabash County has no general emergency shelter, paying for motel rooms for those who are homeless.
- Partnering with Habitat for Humanity to make a small 2-bedroom apartment available to homeless women.
- Working to end the cycle of someone returning to jail because they can't pay court and agency fees.
- Giving/loaning money to women and families in emergencies to help with utilities, get a driver's license, rent a storage unit, and get gas cards for work.
- Collecting a vanload of free food items and distributing them from the church and the Little Food Pantry.
- Partnering with the Community Corrections and Probation Departments to store and distribute clothing to families.
- Being lifelines for women and men who have nowhere else to turn to for assistance.
- Securing household items and bikes for persons and families to get into an apartment.
- Along with Advantage Housing, the City of Wabash, the Community Foundation of Wabash County, and an anonymous donor, purchasing and renovating a Host House which has four apartment units for families who are homeless.



Board of Growing Grounds at the newly renovated Host House: Carol Horn, Dennis Horn, Kay Gaier, Michelle Roudebush, Jim Gaier

LIFE IS EXPENSIVE

RWANDA – This project is located in an area of Rwanda which was badly affected by the 1994 genocide. The majority of the population is composed of widows and orphans, many of whom are living with HIV/AIDS. GWP funds will help purchase land, tools, and seeds so the members of the association can grow their own food, selling the overflow at market. The goal of the project is to help the women “come out of poverty” and Esperance Nyirandayisenga is its leader.



WOMEN’S INTEGRATED HEALTH

CHIAPAS, MEXICO – Women and children share sacred conversation about their menstruation and maternal health in Chiapas Integrated Health (CIH) workshops. CIH serves anyone in need in their area, and the needs have only increased with COVID-19, climate change, increasing violence, and poverty. Mexicans have access to universal health coverage but reliable, quality health care is hard to come by—especially in remote, rural areas of Chiapas.



SHIFTING IDEAS THROUGH EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN WOMEN (SITEAW)

UGANDA – GWP is marking a 20-year partnership with Sister Stella Sabina in Uganda!! Last year, SITEAW was able to purchase land and begin building the SITEAW Center. They currently have 15 girls in school and are using the first building to house 14 of the girls who cannot go home because of the danger of genital mutilation, being “married off,” or sold to the Middle East.



These photos show how they continue the work of clearing land to host the next annual Basket Balancing Race next June. The plan is to rent the field to others for sporting events and celebrations such as weddings, etc. The hope is that money raised will help continue the building of SITEAW Center and provide jobs and education for women and girls.



Sister Stella also reports they have partnered with Butler University where students participate in the Cultural Diversity Drum Circle via Google Learning. Butler students earn credit by learning about other people and the Ugandan girls have been empowered by their participation in the virtual activities. A video can be found at <https://youtu.be/ztae4F3i4Po>.

Sister Stella writes, “We thank you for the difference you are making in the world, especially in Uganda for our girls, and we wish you a Merry Christmas/Happy Holidays and a Happy, Happy New Year!”



MOTHER'S DAY GRATITUDE PROJECT

This May, Global Women's Project 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 email a reminder to mail your contribution to: Karlene Tyler, 333 South Lakeside Dr, Unit 1, McPherson, KS 67460 (write checks to GWP). For any donation received by May 1, 2024, 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! We are extremely grateful for all of your financial contributions throughout the year. This year (01/01/23-11/30/23) we received donations of \$13,238.92, and were able to support our partner projects at the same level as in 2022. We sent \$13,000.00 or 98% of your contributions to women and girls around the world. One reason we were able to do this was because of a surplus we built up during the past three years. The level of donations during the pandemic was amazing! And, we were able to support some extra projects, plus our six primary partner projects. In order to continue to support our primary projects at this level we will need to "up our game!" Our Mother's Day Gratitude program is a great way to honor special women in your lives as well as memorialize those who have passed. The Steering Committee would like to thank you for your continued support of this life changing work of Global Women's Project!

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.

2023 MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following people were honored through memorial gifts to GWP in 2023:

Carolyn Leach Denlinger
Helen Freeman
Doris Eller Heisel
Mattie Jackson
Shelly Kinney
Linda Light
Peggy Mason
Ellen Divine Miller
Phyllis Miller
Fran Nyce
Minva Reid
Louie & Phil Baldwin Rieman
Virginia Roberson
Dorothy Shaeffer Miller Saylor
Mary Wine

BECOME A MONTHLY SUSTAINER

Did you know that you can sign up to make ongoing, monthly donations that continue until you decide to cancel or change your gift amount? This ongoing support gives us a steady foundation in supporting our partner projects. You simply choose the amount that best fits your budget and sign up using your preferred payment method. To sign up, click on the DONATE button on our website and choose a Recurring Monthly Gift.

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 our 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 14, 2024.

MARCH – Celebrate International Women’s Day with your faith community this year on Wednesday, March 8, 2024. 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 12, 2024.

JUNE/JULY – Stop by our booth at Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan, July 3-7, 2024. 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 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 1
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