



Globalinks²⁰¹⁶

an annual newsletter of Global Women's Project

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GWP Steering Committee

at our meeting in Elgin, IL,
September 2015

Top to bottom, left to right:
Emily Matteson (Modesto, CA), Carol Leland (Harrisonburg, VA), Anke Pietsch (Lebanon, OH), Tina Rieman (North Manchester, IN), and Pearl Miller (Warrensburg, MO)

~ Photo by Tina Rieman

Life Is Expensive, Rwanda

In Rwanda there is reason for optimism for women. In 2009 the government mandated that basic education be available for all young Rwandans, girls as well as boys. And, according to National Geographic, 64% of the country's legislative seats are held by women, the highest percentage of all countries in the world.

Since 2008, Global Women's Project has partnered with Ubuzima Burahenda (Life is Expensive) in the Rubavu District of Rwanda, an area severely affected by the 1994 genocide. The women in the project are actively leading in their own community to secure sustainable nutrition, basic education and equality of opportunity for their children. Esperance Nyirandayisenga recently shared the successes and challenges of their projects:

"We have been able to develop the sewing project where we are making school uniforms for kids, women's handbags, and other items. We have been selling our products to local people and western tourists, and we are developing relationships with some

friends to sell our products in the USA. The women are paid for what they make, helping them to meet their family needs, send kids to school, and pay for their medication.

"Malnutrition is one of the greatest challenges for many families. Our farming is responding to this need. We are learning to farm using an environment friendly Christian method called Farming God's way, which multiplies the yield as well. We are praying to have a little more land so that we can do more farming.

"On the sewing side, we need to buy a few more machines so that we can increase our production."



Rwandan women in Ubuzima Burahenda displaying their sewing products

~ Photo provided by Esperance Nyirandayisenga

Lenten Calendar

Do you have a GWP Lenten calendar to help guide you in your Lenten reflections? The free calendars include scripture, information about women around the world and Global Women's Project partner projects. There are opportunities to join in women's journeys with your time and money in response to the readings.



Order a free calendar for yourself, or for friends, family and your congregation. We can mail print copies to you, or send you one page per day by email throughout Lent.

Contact us soon at info@globalwomensproject.org so that your calendar order arrives in time for the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016!

Women's Sewing Cooperative, South Sudan

Communication has been scarce with the Sewing Cooperatives in South Sudan. Once in a while we receive some news, but with the postponing of peace agreements and violence still going on, life is difficult for everybody in the region. Often people are confused as to who is even responsible for the violent attacks, reports Gladys Mananyu, our contact person for the Sewing Cooperative from Juba.

"Of recent time our areas Nimule corridor has also been insecure. As a result we got cut off from communication lines, telephone calls and internets are not working. There was attack on public bus with casualties by unknown gunmen, and the impact rested heavily on the poor innocent community around the areas who got badly affect by the forces the visited the scene.

"Well, on the other side of Kapoeta our women and girls are doing well, but they also face a lot of challenges due to the rocking market prices thing are not available in the market and few are very expensive to afford but they are not giving up- especially the women they are continuing well with the training lessons, the teaching materials are difficult to get around Narus, crossing to Kenya side meant going with shillings which is not easy to get due to the high exchange rate," writes Gladys.

The women in the community benefit greatly from the sewing classes, machines and materials that enable them to have an income to support their families in these uncertain and difficult times. They send greetings and thanks for the continued support GWP sends.



Sewing cooperative women wearing clothes they have made. ~ Photo by David Radcliff

Cultural Academy for Peace, Kochi, India

In 2015, GWP gave a one-time grant to Cultural Academy for Peace (CAP) in south India. Steering Committee member, Tina Rieman, visited them in 2013, as part of a Cultural Connections trip with Deanna Brown. CAP's vision is of a "gender-just society based on human values, equality, development and peace." Their mission is "to create a society based on peace, justice, reconciliation and respect for life where models of domination and destruction are replaced by those of nurture and cooperation" with major objectives including addressing violence against women and providing equal opportunities for women.



Some of the Cultural Academy for Peace staff in Kochi, India ~ Photo by Tina Rieman

Established in 1984, Cultural Academy for Peace is committed to nurturing a society based on peace, justice, reconciliation and respect for life. CAP brings together peace activists, educators and community leaders striving to augment awareness and create a culture of peace and social justice in Asia, especially in India. Being pioneers of social development and social action through active nonviolence, CAP continues its mission through community development work, nonviolent education and training for peaceful co-existence. It focuses on various channels of advocacy, lobbying from the Panchayat to the Parliament level networking with the Government, National and International organizations to work for nonviolent social change and build up a peaceful society.

Mother's Day Gratitude Project

Each May, GWP invites you to honor or memorialize your mother, or another special mentor in your life, through our 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 that will benefit women around the world. Great idea, right? This past year was my first time writing the Mother's Day cards, and it was a pretty inspiring experience. The Project combines 3 of my favorite things: writing/sending mail, telling women how awesome they are, AND supporting women-led projects in the U.S., Uganda, Rwanda, and South Sudan that are strengthening women and their communities. As I write the cards, I say a prayer for the relationship between the giver & receiver, as well as for all the women benefitting from the gift. Interested in participating this year? Towards the end of April, we'll email a reminder to mail your contribution to me, Emily Matteson, at 1405 Ashwood Drive, Modesto, CA 95350, so that I have the information to write a card to your family or friend. Can't wait to help you surprise your loved ones again!



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. *Thank you!*

SITEAW - Uganda

GWP's longest running project is Shifting Ideas Through Education for African Women, or SITEAW, whom we have been in meaningful partnership with for 12 years. It's located in Uganda, and the grants we give to SITEAW are used for girls' education and to provide women with interest-free loans to start small businesses. Our contact, Sister Stella, shared with us that they are currently sponsoring 17 girls in school. We celebrate that this past year 10 girls who

Growing Grounds, Wabash, Indiana, USA

Growing Grounds, in Wabash, Indiana, is still supporting women who are or have been incarcerated. The apartment from Habitat for Humanity they rent to give women a place to stay after leaving jail is doing well, but "We are finding it is not realistic to receive some of the rent from them a large percentage of the time. They cannot get jobs easily with felonies, they do not have transportation except the bicycles that we provide, and they have so many other past and current obligations to Probation, Court, Bowen Center, Drug Court, child support, and more, that they are already in debt by thousands of dollars," explains Carol Horn, one of the founders of Growing Grounds.

Money and helping hands are always needed for the many programs and projects that Growing Grounds provides, like Monthly Meals, case development and classes, helping to pay bills, providing transportations, tutors, child care, household items, job searches and many more.

A new collaboration with the victims advocate for Wabash County has been very positive. Many of the women Growing Grounds works with have been victims of some kind of abuse.

Because of the ever growing costs and workload, Growing Grounds in collaboration with Community Corrections is looking for more people to be on their Guiding Group/board. Unfortunately "many folks do not see this work as needing to be restorative, but follow the general public's punitive way of treating released folks. It will be a tricky balance," says Carol Horn. They are grateful to GWP for our continuing support each year.

went through their programs have graduated from college and technical schools and have found jobs. These girls save part of their salary to allow their younger siblings to attend school as well. Sister Stella writes that to SITEAW this is the greatest achievement: for education to help a girl help herself, her family, and her community. We give thanks for Sister Stella and the work SITEAW is doing to provide education and opportunity for young women in Uganda.



International Women's Day

Worship Resources

Each year people around the globe celebrate International Women's Day (IWD) on March 8 in recognition of the achievements of women! International Women's Day has been observed since 1911, when more than one million women and men attended rallies in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland, to campaign for women's rights to work, vote, be trained, to hold public office, and end discrimination. Local and regional organizations, governments, charities, educational institutions, women's groups, corporations, and the media, celebrate IWD, encouraging effective action for advancing and recognizing women in their own context.

A web of activities links IWD around the world: a Micro-Finance Women's Leadership Conference in Uganda, a Peace Demonstration

highlighting ordinary women doing extraordinary things in their communities in Nepal, an Art Challenge in which Nigerian youth express their dreams for women in their communities, and the I Am a Woman I Read effort to encourage reading among women in Iraq, to name only a few!

Global Women's Project encourages you to take the IWD celebration to your faith communities! Our website contains a rich bank of resources (meditations, litanies, liturgies, prayers) for you to use in worship. (Go to: <https://globalwomensproject.wordpress.com/worship-resources>) Note the newest reflection (below) by Lois Grove, *So Who Is Underdeveloped?* Call attention to IWD in your community so that the future for girls and women is equal, safe and rewarding!

So Who Is Underdeveloped?

by Lois Grove

I am increasingly becoming uncomfortable with countries being referred to as "Third World", "Developing Nation", or "Underdeveloped Country". I hearken back to the time I spent in Nigeria. The valuable lessons I learned from the women there did not become evident to me until I returned to the States, after spending five years living and working very closely with the Nigerian women.

At that time, I was preparing a talk for a church women's group and felt some stressors in my daily life—three children under the age of three, a husband in graduate school which meant little yearly income, and a schedule that was a bit too crowded. All of these were squeezing joy from my being. In my talk, as I described the daily existence of women in this "developing" country, I began to realize that their stress factors were more than inconveniences,

but many times life-or-death matters. Their backbreaking daily rituals to produce food and care for their children (some of whom would not live to one year of age), having to walk further and further for firewood and other necessities of life, snakebites, water-borne diseases, political upheaval, were part and parcel of their living. BUT—the difference between them and me was that while there was not lusty singing coming from my mouth, their bodies were moving and swaying with a song of praise in gratitude for God's goodness to them, even as they pounded the grain they had farmed and walked the long distances for the necessities of life.

So who is underdeveloped? Yes, their development level may be one of a very basic standard of living and physical infrastructure, but in no way are the women underdeveloped in their recognition of who God is and how God sustains them minute by minute throughout their lives.

Finance Report

In the November 20th 2015 edition of Huffington Post, the magazine discussed charity trends and the top places we give. United Way received an estimated 3.9 million dollars followed by the Salvation Army at 1.89 million. In addition, the article cites the top 5 reasons we give.

The top 5 reasons we give:

- Wanted to be part of a community or group team
- To benefit the local community
- Physical challenge
- A friend or family member asked me to participate
- 69% felt a personal or emotional connection

(Source: Blackbaud, 2011, Peer to Peer Event Fundraising Survey)

Whatever your reason for giving to Global Woman's Project, we are happy for your support !!!

GWP's work is 100% donation- and volunteer-based. The GWP Steering Committee wishes to thank all of you who have faithfully supported our partner projects as well as our educational efforts through your generous donations to GWP over the past year. With your continued support, we are able to carry out our mission of working to alleviate poverty, oppression, and injustice endured by women throughout the world.

Finance Report - Donor Detail

A review of our donations over the past 5 years

2010	\$ 9,917.09
2011	\$12,502.72
2012	\$15,624.38
2013	\$20,757.06
2014	\$20,089.99

YTD 1/1/15 - 11/30/15 is \$12,681.68

Year-to-date project grants : \$10,000

2015 Memorial Gifts

The following people were honored through memorial gifts in 2015:

Phyllis Gibbel Miller
Louie and Phil Baldwin Rieman
Jane Shepard

CCEPI, Nigeria

This year, Global Women's Project affirmed the work of CCEPI (Center for Caring, Empowerment, and Peace Initiatives) with an additional \$1000 grant for 2015. (We also donated to them in 2014.) CCEPI cares for the immediate needs of vulnerable women and children, helps to strengthen families, and assists in peace and reconciliation efforts within and among communities in Nigeria, regardless of religious or cultural background.

Opportunity to Host GWP Steering Committee

You can be a host for the Global Women's Project! The GWP Steering Committee meets twice a year in person, and we are always looking for a place to plan, dream, discuss, and get inspired. What a great way to support GWP and learn about our work. We would be happy to be involved with worship and/or Sunday school in your church and always love to share the stories of our partner projects.

"If your home is too small, perhaps you and a friend could share hosting. Or your church could host the meals and meetings, with committee members sleeping in homes of church families," suggests Rachel Gross, our gracious host in the fall of 2013 and former Steering Committee member. We are very flexible and love to see new places and meet new people. Let us know if you can help us out! Email us at: info@globalwomensproject.org

To memorialize someone:

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 info@globalwomensproject.org, with the name and address of the honoree.

2016 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 from last year or order a free GWP Lenten Calendar to guide your spiritual journey this year. Email us at info@globalwomensproject.org and we'll 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 on February 10, 2016.

March - Celebrate International Women's Day with your faith community on Tuesday, March 8th, or choose a Sunday worship in March. Check out the amazing collection of worship resources and reflections on our website written by women across the country.

April/May - Begin thinking of the women you would like to honor on Mother's Day through our annual 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. Mother's Day is May 8, 2016.

June/July - Stop by our booth at Annual Conference in Greensboro, NC, June 29 - July 3, 2016. We always enjoy connecting with you!

Anytime/birthdays/holidays - To celebrate a special day or the everyday, go to www.globalwomensproject.org and click on "gifts" to see how you can donate to GWP.



Get Connected!

Follow us on **Facebook**.

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

Visit our webpage:

www.globalwomensproject.org

Email us at:

info@globalwomensproject.org

Make checks out to Global Women's Project and mail them in the enclosed envelope to Tina Rieman. **(Please note our address change!)** GWP is still connected to the Church of the Brethren, but address corrections need to come to a member of the steering committee directly (instead of the CoB offices), so please use the form below and the enclosed envelope. Thank you!



Clip and send to GWP.

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

**Send your contact info to us
...and we'll send GWP to you!**



Clip and post the calendar!

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 Gloablinks 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 other ways I can connect with GWP.
- ☐ Contact me about potentially hosting a GWP steering committee meeting.
- ☐ 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 Tina Rieman

508 E Miami St

North Manchester IN 46962



www.globalwomensproject.org

info@globalwomensproject.org