

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



GLOBALINKS 2019



GWP Steering Committee at fall meeting in Fort Wayne, IN
Standing: Anke Pietsch, Katie Heishman, Sara White, Sarah Neher
Below: Tina Rieman (Administrator), Carla Kilgore, Kim Hill Smith, Ann Lisa Gross
Photo credit: Tina Rieman

GWP STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Sarah Neher is new to the Global Women's Project Steering Committee, and she couldn't be more thrilled. Sarah lives in Prairie Village, KS, just outside of Kansas City. This January she began working at Youthrive, a nonprofit assisting youth as they age out of the foster care system. Sarah is the Program and Development Manager and loves being able to advocate for the youth. She brings that same passion to GWP. Sarah is excited to be able to spread GWP's mission of examining the luxuries in one's life through education and taxing oneself with a luxury tax, so that women-led initiatives can be supported around the world. In her free time Sarah enjoys traveling the world, reading, a good cup of coffee, and an engaging conversation!



Katie Heishman is excited to be joining the Global Women's Project Steering Committee. Katie and her partner, Tim, recently moved to Kettering, OH, to begin as co-pastors of Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren. She is passionate about GWP's commitment to working with women around the world and modeling a life of intentional simple living. She enjoys biking to work, cooking homemade vegan food, and writing sermons with her kitty companion (Mystique).



Sara White begins her third year with GWP and continues to enjoy the focus on intentional living and the simple-yet-effective grant model. This past year she graduated from Carleton College in Minnesota with a degree in Religion and has begun a new job as the College and Career Counselor at Tyrone Area High School in Pennsylvania. She is happy to be back home in central PA working with underrepresented college-going populations.



Kim Hill Smith is excited to rejoin the GWP Steering Committee! Attending the Fall meeting in Fort Wayne, IN, she was struck by the youthful energy and deep commitment of the women serving on the current Committee. She says she has so appreciated the simple, yet profound, work of GWP – educating ourselves about our own economic privilege, taxing ourselves with a luxury tax and/or making a donation to GWP, and then sharing this money with women-led groups doing amazing work benefiting women and girls in their local communities throughout the world.

Kim lives in Minneapolis, MN, with her spouse and two cats. For the past 25 years, she has worked in outpatient mental health as a clinical social worker. Apart from work, she is the clerk and treasurer of Common Spirit Fellowship (a House Church in the Twin Cities) as well as serves on two committees for the Northern Plains District Church of the Brethren. Kim enjoys yardwork, gardening and home repair (her dream is to work a few days a week at her neighborhood hardware store when she retires from her current work).

A favorite quote from Malala Yousafzai is "One child, one teacher, one book, and one pen can change the world."



Anna Lisa Gross and her husband Phillip, two dogs, two cats are living in Morelia, Mexico (though she grew up in North Manchester, IN). Her favorite thing about GWP is that our mission is simple and complete. In Mexico, Anna Lisa is a volunteer permaculture farmer, though in the US she works as an interim pastor. She's a writer in both places, as well. In her free time she enjoys cooking, hiking, reading, and knitting. Top of Anna Lisa's travel list are Costa Rica and New Zealand. Her favorite luxuries are chocolate and coffee. Anna Lisa is grateful that she can check out e-books and audiobooks from the library (even in Mexico she has way too much to read).

Anna Lisa reflects: As Gandhi says, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." We can't live perfectly or purely, but with each other's support and encouragement, we can live more simply and support others around the world.

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 in the U.S., India, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, and Togo. 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 Kim Hill Smith, 5315 36th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55417 (write checks to GWP). For any donation received by May 1, 2019, a card will be guaranteed to go out before Mother's Day. We look forward to helping you surprise your loved ones this year!

2018 MEMORIAL GIFTS

The following people were honored through memorial gifts in 2018:

Ruth Funderburg Botkin

Carolyn Denlinger

Mary Wine Fruth

Emma Studebaker Funderburg

Vesta Graham

Mattie Jackson

Peggy Mason

Edna Funderburg Metzger

Ellen Divine Miller

Phyllis Gibbel Miller

Betty Ann Porter

Minva Reid

Louie and Phil Baldwin Rieman

Dorothy Shaeffer Miller Saylor

Maxine Sowles

MESSENGER ARTICLE

Jan Fischer Bachman wrote a wonderful article about Global Women's Project to honor and celebrate our 40th Anniversary.

It can be found in the November issue of Messenger, or here:

<http://www.brethren.org/messenger/articles/2018/the-luxury-of-helping.html>

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.wordpress.com, 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.

LENTEN CALENDAR

Do you already have a GWP calendar to help guide you in your Lenten reflections? These free calendars include scripture, facts about poverty, information about women around the world and the Global Women's Projects partner projects. There are many 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 faith community. We can mail a print copy to you or send you one page per day by email throughout the Lenten season.

Contact us at cobgwp@gmail.com so that your calendar arrives in time for the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

GWP is 100 % donation supported, and we can't thank you enough for your contributions in 2018. With your help, we have been able to distribute funds to 6 of our partner projects around the world and to the EYN Women's Education Initiative, totaling \$16,700. Of our total expenditures to date (as of 10-31-18 \$19,767.10), 84% of your contributions were sent directly to the work of empowering girls and women. The remainder of the funds (16%) were used toward GWP's programming, printing Globalinks and travel to bi-annual Steering Committee meetings. Thank you again for supporting this important and life changing work!

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 to GWP, c/o 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin IL 60120. Thank you!

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

SOWING TEARS REAPING JOY FOR 40 YEARS

BY ANNA LISA GROSS

Those who sow with tears
Shall reap with songs of joy. Psalm 126:5

Global Women's Project began 40 years ago when so much in this country was changing. 1978. Do you remember 1978? If not, ask someone for a few stories.

Second wave feminism (then just "the women's movement") was sweeping the US, and other parts of the world.

Ruthann recalls, "It was a striking time. Feminism was in society before, but took roots in the church in the early 70s. **There was real hope among progressive women that the church would respond.** And they did, at least in a token way, with the hiring of Beth Glick-Rieman in the role Person Awareness, to help the church understand the importance of the role of women."

Though the CoB had "officially" been ordaining women for 20 years, women were not welcomed or called into leadership equally to men. One thing Beth did was organize a conference of women, in 1978, two years into Beth's work. She invited Ruthann Knechel Johansen to give the keynote.

Then, on the eve of the gathering, **Beth found out that her position was being eliminated.** Were there tears? Anger? Grief?

I believe these women despaired together. Ruthann wondered if they would be able to hear her speech through the pain, but she didn't change her words. They listened as Ruthann spoke, sharing a vision for **women's liberation in the US to be intimately connected to liberation of all women and all people throughout the world.** She called women of the CoB to raise our consciousness of our relative wealth and privilege and to build relationships by connecting our resources with the essential needs of others.

Ruthann reflects, "After I learned that Beth Glick-Rieman's position had been discontinued or realigned, I wondered if the speech I had prepared would be relevant at this moment because in it I proposed that we apply US aspirations for women's and human liberation to the conditions particularly of women and children around the world. When we were angry or grieving about our own denomination's actions and our personal situations, could we consider the plights of sisters and families far distant? Could we link our regret and grief of this moment to the suffering of others often exacerbated by our own government?"

With Ruthann's leadership, these women harvested energy and passion out of their tears and frustrations - and Global Women's Project was born!

Today our country and our world is changing - at least as deeply and quickly as in 1978. Much of this change is scary, sad, and we are sowing tears, along with anger, grief and fear.

In the midst of so much suffering **we are collaborating better, we are finding more creativity, we are choosing life, we are getting to know our neighbors, we are writing more letters and getting out the vote.**

We are sowing tears and harvesting songs of joy.

Ruthann is hopeful, "If we don't turn suffering into self-pity and become resentful and paralyzed, suffering can offer us new opportunities to see our own and others' reality more deeply and fully. Hebrew and Christian scripture, Jesus' presence among us, and our faith tradition teach us that the relationship between suffering and joy is profound."

And we have a lot of tears ahead. So we need each other's

stories. We need each other's small reasons for hope, like little Christmas bulbs that together, when we string them up, can light up one little corner at a time.

Ruthann encourages us as the church, “because in the church we do have more resources, potentially, available for us to draw on the relationship between joy and suffering – in scripture, in history. But unless we are deliberate about reflecting on those resources, on moving beyond our particular time period and context, we won’t draw on them. Our faith unites us intimately with those who suffer. We can learn from our Nigerian sisters and brothers how to sing through tears; we can be compassionate toward our own weaknesses and losses. We must challenge labels, dismissive stereotypes, and categorizations. By confronting deceptions and despair with lament, courage, and hope, what has been sown in tears may be reaped in joy.”

Through a simple, unchanging vision of **raising our own consciousness of our relative wealth and privilege and building relationship by connecting our resources with the essential needs of others**, GWP has not only built relationships throughout the world, we have maintained relationships throughout the denomination, with conservatives, progressives, moderates and others. Ruthann isn’t surprised, “Often we come together through service.”

The future of the Church of the Brethren is hazy, the changes in our country and world are daunting, and throughout the world, women and their families continue to ache for stability. GWP may not exist in another 40 years, but the vision of living simply that others may simply live, the practices of gratitude for luxuries and sharing with others, and the God-given ability to reap joy from tears will last forever.

GROWING STRONG - ONE-TIME GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2018

Last year we shared the joyful news with you that we were able to provide three one-time grants to support women-focused projects that were just getting started. This year we are excited to report that we provided a second year of support to two of those projects as they look towards the next steps in fulfilling their missions.

WOMEN’S HEALTH IN CHIAPAS, MEXICO

We are very excited to continue to support a group of local women running workshops on traditional women’s health practices, menstruation, and the creation of reusable pads. Here is an overview of their work from program leader, Elena Gómez:

The first workshop created a safe space to share about our experience with menstruation...The topic of ancestral practices, local wisdom about the subject is also discussed. We introduce the topic of disposable towels and their effects on the economy, personal health and the environment. In the second workshop, we make a re-usable pad, what we call, “teluna” (or a “moon cloth,” using local understanding of the connection between menstruation and the moon)...In the third workshop, we evaluate how it has gone to use the teluna, and answer any questions or comments.

When women were asked what they learned in the sessions responses included:

- That my time of the month is a beautiful time, and it’s not a sickness
- Young wisdom shared in transformation, opens the way in a circle of women
- As a woman I have learned to take care of myself, love myself more, and connect with mother earth

Having already completed workshops in a number of communities, Elena hopes to bring the program to four more towns in the next year.



Women in Chiapas with their pads
Photo courtesy of Elena Gomez Martinez

FEMALE THEOLOGIANS OF EKKLESIYAR YAN’UWA A NIGERIA (EYN)

This year we provided a scholarship for one woman to participate in CATS (Certificate of Achievement in Theological Education) program which is a collaboration between EYN and Bethany Theological Seminary. Bethany professor Dan Ulrich reports that five Nigerian women were provisionally admitted into the program in 2017 pending demonstration of English proficiency. Students then participated in an intensive English course and a pilot course titled Global Perspectives on Scripture: 1 Corinthians.

You can read more about this partnership at:
<https://bethanyseminary.edu/first-joint-class-with-eyn-students-offered/>

GROWING GROUNDS

USA – Growing Grounds has literally grown, both in size and maturity, over its years of service to incarcerated women in Wabash County Jail (Indiana). Beginning with nutrition and parenting classes, Growing Grounds identified stark needs: self-esteem and skill building, emotional and financial support, advocacy in the court and culture. Not interested in “toxic charity” (which might soothe immediate ills but continues unhealthy cycles), Growing Grounds volunteers delved into recidivism - why do so many women end up back in jail?

Now Growing Grounds supports women outside jail, as well, with transportation, housing, clothing, addiction recovery, confidence-building and more. We rejoice in the commitment these volunteer women show in their relationships with women in their own community. By paying a woman’s rent and utilities, for example, as she comes out of jail and has to pay fines and probation fees, she has a chance to seek stability and begin a new chapter of life. We pray with Growing Grounds for a transitional house of support to become part of their ministry in Wabash, Indiana.

NARUS SEWING COOPERATIVE

SOUTH SUDAN – In South Sudan, GWP partners with the Narus Sewing Cooperative, which is organized by our contact Gladys Mananyu. This cooperative taught and empowered women to learn sewing and care for their own businesses. South Sudan’s situation has been unstable and violent in recent years. Gladys shared that, “the situation is still not good in most remote parts of the country including some of the main urban centers. Yet, we remain hopeful that this ugly mess and the senseless fighting will one day come to an end and our country will return to peace!”

Last year, Gladys informed us that many of the women who benefited from the sewing co-op were no longer in Narus, having fled to refugee camps for safety. She shares, “the majority of them left for refugee camps in the neighboring countries, and others left due to lack of access to basic necessities like food, and others because of the hardship being experienced in the country.” However, those who remain are running their own businesses as tailors. Because of the instability, Gladys shared that she has been able to organize a women’s training program in Torit. The goal of this program is similar that each woman will be able to “to work on her own and earn some income for the support of their families.”

Gladys conveys her “sincere appreciation and thanks to the GWP for the continuous support to empower women in acquiring skills to make change in their lives and others.”

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

TOGO – One thing that is special about Global Women’s Project is the flexibility of support for an organization which means that we can fund specific activities that might be off the radar of bigger donors. That is the case with our newest partnership in Togo where we have been working with Beverly Ott to identify specific needs within the organization.

ECHOPPE (Exchange for the Organization and Promotion of Small Entrepreneurs) 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. Our contribution will go towards training the social workers who help facilitate these and other programs. These workers are predominantly women, serving other women in their communities. Unfortunately there is pressure in Togo to monetize social work, requiring recipients to pay for services. Our funds will also support a training later in the year for female street vendors on safe food preparation.

Read more about ECHOPPE here:
<https://www.echoppe.org/english/>



SHIFTING IDEAS THROUGH EDUCATION FOR AFRICAN WOMEN (SITEAW)

UGANDA – GWP is pleased to be partnering for the 15th year with Sister Stella in order to provide scholarships for educating girls in Uganda as well as contributing to \$50 interest-free loans enabling women to start small businesses in their local communities. Sister Stella reports SITEAW currently is supporting 10 girls in primary school, 21 girls in secondary school and 4 young women in college. SITEAW also is providing funding for two groups of women to work with instructors to learn craft making and sewing. As Sister Stella sent this update, she was busy preparing for a trip to Kenya and Uganda “to visit our girls and encourage them in their struggles.” She writes, “I will bring back a lot of updates when I return. Thank you so much for being part of our struggle.” Thank you, Sister Stella, for your persistent and faithful work!



Women growing eggplants in Rwanda
Photo courtesy of Life Is Expensive

LIFE IS EXPENSIVE

RWANDA – Life Is Expensive has received funding from GWP since 2008 and has benefited women in the Bugesera Region of Rwanda (an area greatly impacted by the 1994 genocide). This project has worked to support women in the purchase of land to grow crops to sustain their families and sell at market. Most recently, Esperance, our contact, shared that the women have been able to grow an abundance of eggplant! She shares that, “They have done so well that we are able to supply the market in addition to feeding our families. We are planning to learn more and grow more high value crops.” Esperance has also shared that the women are continuing in learning how to tailor. They are making quilts, bags, and school uniforms which is helping provide for their families. They are hoping to build a small shop in a city in order to increase their sales, because they are located quite a ways from an urban area.



Women displaying a quilt in Rwanda
Photo courtesy of Life Is Expensive

CULTURAL ACADEMY FOR PEACE

INDIA – Recent flooding has caused severe damage in the state of Kerala, India. CAP has been assisting in restoring these communities. In Chenamangalam, CAP has been working to replace the looms women lost in the flood. Efforts are being made in Kuramkotta to provide a ferry for daily transportation. In Vypin, household materials, such as bed sheets and towels, have been distributed to senior citizens recovering from the floods.

Sex-trafficking continues to plague the communities CAP serves. They have organized community vigilance groups, mass-awareness programs through street theaters, and workshops to educate the community about the issue. CAP also joined a group of nuns in the Save Our Sisters Action Council organizing many demonstrations, most notably protesting Bishop Franco who has been arrested for rape.



Girls at one of CAP's homes observe World Humans Rights Day
Photo courtesy of CAP

CAP also provides direct service to victims of domestic violence, abuse, and human trafficking. The Shanthi Bhavan shelter is for women and children. Nirbhaya is a home for sexually abused girls under the age of 18. Wheels for Women is a program to create economic sustainability for women. The program trains women to become licensed auto-rickshaw drivers.

Although CAP is leading the way with many initiatives, they still face challenges. They are truly grateful for the prayers and support from the Global Women's Project community. We are honored to be in partnership with them.

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.

MARCH - Lent begins Wednesday, March 6, 2019. Celebrate International Women's Day with your faith community this year on Friday, March 8, 2019. 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 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, 2019.

JULY - Stop by our booth at Annual Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina, July 3-7, 2019. We always enjoy connecting with you.

ANYTIME/BIRTHDAYS/HOLIDAYS - to celebrate a special day or any day go to www.globalwomensproject.wordpress.com and click on "gifts" to see how you can donate to GWP.



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Global e-Links, below.

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www.globalwomensproject.wordpress.com

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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:

NEW! 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.wordpress.com
Email us at: cobgwp@gmail.com