



Note – Beginning in January 2014 the Chapter Leader Talking Points will not be available on the website.
The link will only be offered in the monthly Chapter Leader Newsletter.

Featured Program

Smiles on Wings - Northern Thailand

- **Smiles on Wings (SOW) has been delivering dental care and humanitarian aid** to remote rural villages of the Karen Hill Tribe since 2003. On these mission trips, Dr. Usa Bunnag, the founder, realized the plight of young girls and the need for more Karen-speaking health and education professionals. She began a scholarship and mentoring program to enable young women to study nursing or early childhood education.
- **With little money and strong cultural pressure**, Karen girls are primed to take care of their families. Often they are married at age 14 or 15. If they are not married, they may be lured to the cities on the promise of jobs and money to send home, often ending up in forced labor or trapped in brothels. Girls in this northern region, ages 12-16, are the most at-risk population for human trafficking in the country, according to the Coalition Against Trafficking Women.
- **DFW's grant of \$36,867, paid over two years**, will provide four years of tuition, school expenses, room and board, and transportation for five young village women to earn university degrees, plus the services of coordinator/mentors to assist the girls while away from home.

Key Points –

- Providing health care to remote villages is an effective way to build trust in order to help village daughters achieve higher education.
- When girls from traditional villages are educated, they are more likely to return to the village to practice their profession, assume leadership positions, benefit the community, and serve as role models.
- It is critical that healthcare and education be sustainable from within when villages are so remote they can only be reached by walking or riding elephants. Some of the villages can be reached by long-tailed boat, some require a full day of traveling by four-wheel drive, and some are only seasonally accessible.

<http://www.diningforwomen.org/smilesonwings>

Sustained Program – Lotus Outreach, Cambodia

This is the second year of a three-year grant. DFW will contribute \$15,000 again this year to support Lotus' program that provides trauma counseling and reintegration assistance to victims of human trafficking, rape and domestic violence residing at a safe-shelter in the border region of Banteay Meanchey, Cambodia—a known hotspot for trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence.

“Lotus Outreach rejects the Cambodian assumption that women are inherently less valuable than men . . . improving the circumstances of one woman provides an exponential return for her family, her community and her nation.”
—Lotus Outreach International

Learn more - <http://www.diningforwomen.org/node/762>

We're so glad you asked! (Questions submitted on Meeting Evaluation Forms may be answered here.)

A Frequently Asked Question - Why do we give only to women and girls internationally?

According to The World Bank, the majority of the population living on less than \$1.25/day is women and children who live in developing nations. It makes sense that if we are to change the level of poverty worldwide we do it through the empowerment of these women.

As Nicholas Kristof, NY Times Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and co-author of *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* states, "The oppression of women worldwide is the human rights cause of our time. And their liberation could help solve many of the world's problems, from poverty to child mortality to terrorism."

Read more at <http://www.diningforwomen.org/faq#n64>

Meeting Ideas - Take it and make it your own -

(Please share YOUR ideas through the Online Meeting Evaluation Form on each Program page. You can adapt any of these ideas to suit your chapter's needs and interests.)

- Use this month's *Food for Thought* to guide a discussion on the importance of role models embodied in the phrase, "If you can't see it, you can't be it."
- *Miss Representation* is an award-winning documentary that exposes how mainstream media contribute to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America. Some of your members may have seen the film and can share their experience. Perhaps some members would like to gather to watch the film. Learn more at <http://film.missrepresentation.org/>
- Read Margo Franssen's blog, "Stop Thinking about the Overhead Ratio" (<http://huff.to/1dPK0aa>) and discuss it with your members in relation to DFW's 13th Month Campaign. Quote from the blog – "The goal of keeping your overhead low is demoralizing for NGO's, and a misguided strategy for donors. If we want to change the world we need to change the way we think about a growing sector that is well positioned to do this job."

Our Vision

We envision a world where Dining for Women connects people in creative, powerful ways that assure gender equality, transforming lives and reducing extreme poverty.

Our Mission

Through collective giving, Dining for Women inspires, educates and engages people to invest in programs that make a meaningful difference for women and girls living in extreme poverty

Our Values

Dining for Women embraces collaboration, education, inspiration, transformation.

2013 Program Grant Totals

\$50,000 to Heshima Kenya – January Featured (over 2 years)
\$15,000 to The Boma Project – January Sustained
\$50,000 to Midwives for Haiti – February Featured
\$15,000 to Matrichaya – February Sustained
\$48,369 to Her Turn, Nepal - March Featured (over 2 years)
\$15,000 to Friendship Bridge – March Sustained
\$50,431 to CREATE! – April Featured (over 2 years)
\$15,000 to Village Enterprise – April Sustained
\$50,000 to MayaWorks – May Featured
\$15,000 to PINCC – May Sustained
\$45,848 to Breaking Ground – June Featured
\$50,000 to OneHeart WorldWide – July Featured

Grants are awarded after all donations for the month have been received and processed which takes 90-120 days.

Please mail chapter donations within five days of meeting.

406 Chapters