

Featured Program

Catalyst Foundation - Vietnam

- **Catalyst Foundation firmly believes that the most effective way** to break the cycle of poverty and protect each individual child from being trafficked **is to strategically empower whole communities** by educating, providing training and employment, building safe dwellings, and empowering children to stand up with dignity.
- **DFW's grant of \$36,000** will help the Catalyst Foundation provide health care, primary and vocational education, and social services to more than 300 women and girls in a rural Raglai community. One of the smallest ethnic minority groups in the country, the Raglai have been ignored and deprived of basic human rights for generations, leaving them extremely vulnerable to human trafficking.
- The traffickers prey on parents' desperation. Children are bought and sold, some for as little as \$100. The parents sell because they are tricked into believing that the buyer has good intentions, that their children will have a promising job and a promising future. "The trafficker looks like your mom. The trafficker doesn't look like a bad guy," says Caroline Nguyen Ticarro-Parker, founder of Catalyst Foundation.

Key Points –

- Raglai people, like many ethnic minorities around the world, are economically and socially disadvantaged because of discrimination.
- Poor people are the most likely victims of human trafficking.
- By helping a community out of poverty, the people become more open to education and less likely to become victims of human trafficking.

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

Sustained Program – The BOMA Project, Kenya (<http://diningforwomen.org/node/2923>)

This is the second year of a three-year grant. DFW will again contribute \$15,000 to BOMA's Rural Entrepreneur Access Project (REAP) - an innovative microfinance program that gives ultra-poor women in Northern Kenya the tools they need to start small businesses in their communities so they can graduate from extreme poverty.

The BOMA staff says that the culture of food aid disempowers women, who previously had little to do besides wait in long lines for food. Women in REAP now report being busy, and gratefully so, as they actively create the connection between running a small enterprise and long-term positive improvement in their families' lives. And despite the traditional gender roles in pastoralist culture, the women in REAP enjoy extraordinary support from village men, who are under increasing pressure to provide for their families as the climate changes.

The total three-year impact of the Dining for Women grant: 324 women entrepreneurs who will use the income to support an estimated 1,620 children.

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

Betty Purkey-Huck (Sedalia, CO) says her members asked, "Which countries rank among the top five in gender equality?"

Each year since 2006, the World Economic Forum has published 'The Global Gender Gap Report'. Although no country in the world has achieved gender equality, the five highest ranked countries have gender gaps of 13-22 percent. The top five are —Iceland, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the Philippines. Iceland holds the top spot for the fifth consecutive year and therefore continues to be the country with the narrowest gender gap in the world. In 2013 the United States ranked 23rd.

- Our December Food for Thought included a discussion about countries as role models - leaders in having divided resources more equitably between women and men – and some effective system strategies in those countries. Learn more at <http://www.diningforwomen.org/smiles-on-wings-FoodForThought>
- Download the 2013 Global Gender Gap Report - <http://reports.weforum.org/global-gender-gap-report-2013/>

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.)

- Niki Robinson's chapter in Missoula, MT has a notebook that holds useful information from the Chapter Leader Resources page. The notebook is passed along to each person who hosts a meeting so they have the resources they need.
- Amber Herzberg plans to show DFW's Facebook and Pinterest pages at her next chapter meeting and encourage everyone who uses social media to follow and share Dining for Women in this way.

Our Vision

We envision a world where millions of people's lives have been transformed and extreme poverty has been reduced because Dining for Women connected people in creative, powerful ways that assure gender equality.

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 Culture

In all we do, we model our deep belief in collaboration, education, inspiration, and 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