



**Featured Program Monthly Theme\***  
*Educated Girls Become Empowered Women*

“Her Turn” – Girls Education and Empowerment Project of Nepal Teacher Training Innovation

Nepal Teacher Training Innovation’s (NTTI) main mission is to improve the quality of teaching in Nepal by encouraging creativity and critical thinking in Nepali classrooms. NTTI is also offering empowerment workshops for girls.

The objective of “Her Turn” is to help Nepali girls from Sindhupalchok District become educated, empowered, and equal through a process that emphasizes team building, sisterhood, inclusion, and consensus.

DFW will provide a \$48,369 grant over two years that will directly impact 400 girls and 25 teachers, and indirectly benefit 1,400 individuals within the community.

**Special Focus for March on US Foreign Aid\*\***  
*Honoring International Women’s Day*

DFW partners with Oxfam this month to educate ourselves about U.S. Foreign Aid - how it relates to DFW’s mission, and how we can be effective advocates.

You may have taken part in our recent Foreign Aid survey, or attended one of the webinars held at the end of February. Now it’s time to share this educational focus with your chapter members. On the March program page is a link to educational materials that make it easy for you to present this information. Choose from the Oxfam brochure *Foreign Aid 101*, a short PowerPoint presentation, or a PDF with important bulleted facts. A link to the recorded version of the webinar will be available there, too.

Visit the International Women’s Day link on our home page for more ways to educate and share.

**\*Her Turn – Update: “The Illusion of Inclusion”**

**The urgent need to empower women in Nepal is illuminated** in a February 16 article in the Kathmandu Post. While the Interim Constitution from 2007 required at least 33 per cent representation of women in all government bodies and institutions, this hasn’t translated into a significant shift in including women’s issues and voices in any more than token matters. Women remain socially excluded from positions of authority and educational opportunities, and their issues are not prioritized in the national agenda. *“In the current 18-member cabinet, for example, there are no female ministers, and out of 49 government secretaries at the various ministries and departments too, no women have been chosen. This means that women in Nepal are still deprived of a legitimate voice in national debates on issues of significance, whether it is the peace-process, the drafting of the constitution, or government formation.”* (author – Kamal Dev Bhattarai)

**\*\* International Women’s Month: “Bullet Points about DFW and US Foreign Aid”**

- **Only one-half of one percent of the US budget is spent** on poverty-focused development assistance. (Americans spend as much on candy.)
- **When aid is used effectively to fight poverty, it builds a safer world** for everyone and strengthens US standing and moral authority abroad.
- **The most effective use of foreign aid is** to fund grassroots programs that include local people as full partners in the process – **just what Dining for Women has been doing for the past ten years.**
- **Dining for Women’s focus on education and engaged giving** makes us natural advocates for US Foreign Aid.

## Sustained Program Funding

### **Friendship Bridge** – Guatemala

Friendship Bridge's mission is to provide microcredit and education to Guatemalan women so that they can create solutions to poverty for themselves, their families, and their community. Based on direct feedback from clients, Friendship Bridge has been redesigning their non-formal education program and developing an advanced education and technical training program for their microcredit clients.

With sustained funding of \$45,000 over 3 years, Dining for Women will support 275 women as direct beneficiaries of this new program.

*Friendship Bridge* was featured in February 2006 and 2007 for total support of \$8,253.

**Grant requested: \$15,000 in 2013; \$15,000 will also be granted in 2014 and in 2015 based on fulfillment of progress reporting requirements.**

### **2012 Program Grant Totals**

\$47,177 to **Nepal Youth Foundation** - January  
\$47,382 to **Starfish One by One** - February  
\$60,158 to **Women's Earth Alliance** - March  
\$72,638 to **Afghan Friends Network** - April (over 2 years)  
\$60,098 to **Children of Vietnam** - May (over 2 years)  
\$32,718 to **Massai Girls Education Fund** - June (over 2 years)  
\$32,718 to **Huru International** - June  
\$50,000 to **Transitions Global**- July  
\$50,000 to **Global Grassroots** – August  
\$33,000 to **Health in Harmony** – September Featured  
\$15,000 to **INMED** – September Sustained  
\$49,377 to **Anchal** – October Featured  
\$15,000 to **13 Threads** – October Sustained

*Grants are awarded after all donations for the month have been received and processed which takes 60-90 days.*

406 Active Chapters

## Meeting Ideas

- Discuss the challenging issues these young Nepalese women face. Present information from *Food for Thought*, written by Aleksandra Perczynska, Her Turn Program Coordinator.
- Spark discussions at each dining table or eating area, using one of the *Food for Thought* discussion questions. For each table or area, print a question on a slip of paper and ask members to read and share their thoughts. This is a great opportunity to discuss issues the women and girls we are supporting face in their lives. Time permitting, share at the end of the meeting.
- Suggest a book this month to read and discuss next month. See Fair Trade, Books, Films, and Music Recommendations for March.
- Encourage members to go to Dining for Women's Facebook page and read some of the posts and articles. Bring a topic you found interesting to the next meeting.
- Present program briefly using the PowerPoint presentation. Can show presentation file or just use for your own notes!
- Announce the March *Sustained Program Funding* and a brief summary - see links on the DFW webpage for the Sustained Program Fact Sheet.

## Next Month's Featured Program "Self-Sufficiency for Village Women" - Senegal

The mission of **CREATE! Center for Renewable Energy and Appropriate Technology for the Environment** is to help rural populations in the developing world cope with water, food and fuel shortages resulting from the impact of climate change on their communities; reduce dependency on fossil fuels; and foster sustainable human needs-based development at the village level.

DFW's grant of \$50,000 for 2 years will directly impact 358 women and girls who will participate in cooperative agricultural, environmental, and income-generating activities, and will also indirectly benefit 1,200 people within the community.

## Monthly Program Materials

Additional education materials are available to enrich your meetings. Please make sure your members and upcoming program presenters are aware of this. See the monthly featured program webpage for access to the materials. Link to *Sustained Program Funding* information can be found the on the Program page,

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

*Note: We are now using Dropbox only to provide access to the current featured month's video file. At the end of each month we'll replace it with the next month's video file. All other files are available on the current featured month's Program page.*

### **Our Mission**

*Dining for Women's mission is to empower women and girls living in extreme poverty by funding programs that foster good health, education, and economic self-sufficiency and to cultivate educational giving circles that inspire individuals to make a positive difference through the power of collective giving.*

### **Our Vision**

*Our vision is to create a new paradigm for giving – collective giving on an immense scale while maintaining the intimacy of small groups with a focus on education and engaged giving.*