



Featured program for March 2014

The BlinkNow Foundation

Women's Empowerment Center Development



Dining for Women



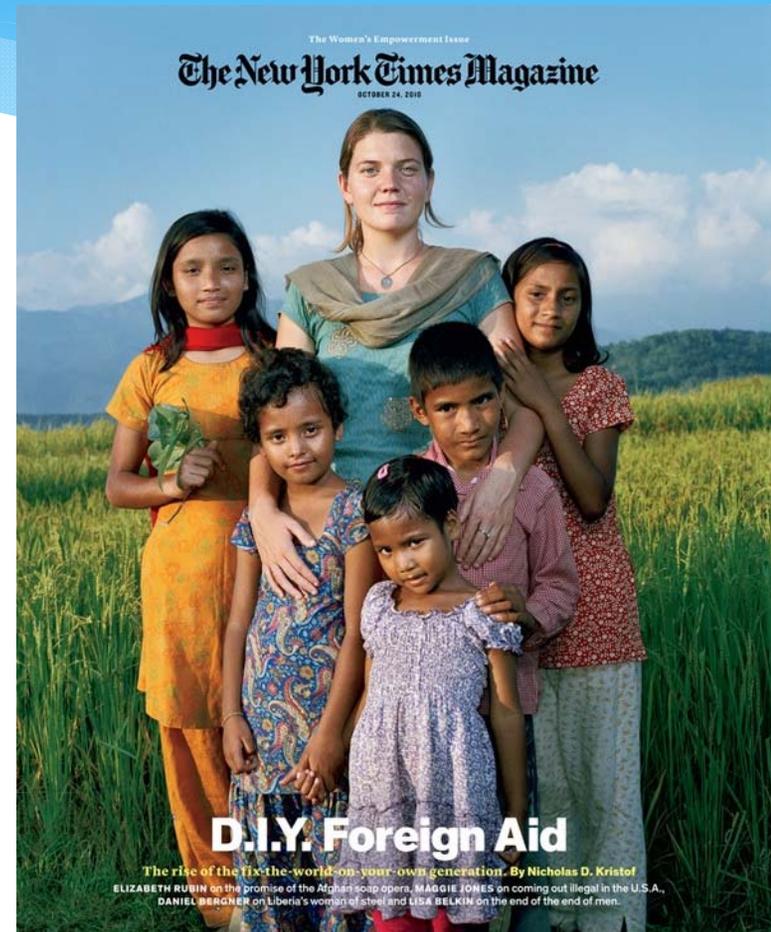
Changing the world one dinner at a time

Mission

“To create a self-sustainable living community for destitute children that provides their most basic needs and also contributes to post-war recovery and peace in the nation of Nepal.”



- “I created The BlinkNow Foundation as a vehicle to share my ideas with other young people, especially children in the U.S. I believe that in the blink of an eye, we can all make a difference.”
— Maggie Doyne, founder
- Maggie started by sending an orphan to school, then built a home for 40 of them, then built a school for 300 children in the village of Surkhet.
- Now, with support from DFW, the Women’s Empowerment Center will develop sustainable solutions to poverty.



Life Challenges of Women and Girls

For women and girls in Nepal, equal opportunities do not exist. Due to lack of education, Nepalese girls are at a great risk of being trafficked into the sex trade, enslaved as unpaid domestic servants, or working in low-paying and often dangerous sweat shops.



- Many fathers and husbands leave for India to work as migrant workers, abandoning the women and children to fend for themselves. Some men send money, but often the men do not return.
- Suicide has emerged as the single leading cause of death among women in Nepal aged 15-49, outranking other causes such as accidents and disease, according to a government study.*

*Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN) news article dated January 21, 2010

The Program

By providing training, health care, and literacy programs along with vocational skills, The BlinkNow Foundation hopes to create income generation and job security while promoting gender equality in the Surkhet, Nepal.

The Women's Empowerment Center will enroll 130 women in training programs:

- Educational and financial literacy will give them the basic tools they need to learn to sign their own name, read and write, and create a bank account for themselves.
- A job training program will provide them with the needed skills and tools to create new jobs or better qualify them for employment opportunities in the local market.
- Access to maternal, reproductive, and mental health will improve their lives and the lives of their children and families.



Additionally, 60 Scholarships to Kopila School will be offered to daughters of the women enrolled in the Women's Center. These one-year scholarships include tuition, uniforms, back-packs with school supplies, books, and basic health care needs like dental care, de-worming, and vitamins.

Program Budget

DFW's grant to The BlinkNow Foundation is \$40,000.

| Women's Center Development Program DFW Budget | Total |
|---|-----------------|
| Women sponsorship (130 @ \$60 each) - six month training program includes health care checkup and daily lunch | \$7,800 |
| Daughter scholarships (30 each year @ \$300 each) - includes school fees, books, tuition, uniform, backpack, daily lunch and health checkup | \$18,000 |
| Tool kits (130 @ \$20 each) to include scissors, thread, sewing needles, tape measure, pins, in a pouch they will make as one of their first sewing projects. | \$2,600 |
| Store front rental to take orders and market and sell their goods - (24 months @ \$166.50 month) | \$3,996 |
| Local Trainer / Instructor (2 @ \$50 month x 24 months) | \$2,400 |
| Sewing machines (20 @ \$120 each) | \$2,400 |
| Chairs for center and for sewing (40@ \$5 each) | \$200 |
| Propane single burner stoves for preparing lunch, crafts and making soap to be sold with sanitary kits (3 @ \$75 each) | \$225 |
| Pots and cooking utensils for crafts and lunch | \$100 |
| Vegetable seeds to plant garden for lunch and extra harvest can be sold at Kopila Store or local hotel restaurant (\$100 year x 2 years) | \$200 |
| Supplies for center- chalk boards, chalk, paper, pens, books | \$750 |
| Spinning looms (2 @ \$300 each) | \$600 |
| Fabric (100 yards @ \$2 yard) | \$200 |
| Wool roving to make felted soap to sell in shop | \$100 |
| Beads, zippers, snaps and snap tool, sewing machine thread | \$429 |
| Program Total | \$40,000 |

Why we Love this Program

- Although the primary mission of The BlinkNow Foundation is to address the needs of orphans and at-risk children, after four years of running the Kopila Valley School, staff were frustrated that children were still vulnerable to abuse and neglect.

They came to believe that in order for the children to succeed, their home lives needed to improve. In order to solve the problem more holistically, the Women's Empowerment Center was created to target women's issues in the home.

We also love the program because Kopila Valley School is committed to sustainability - they raise, grow, or buy everything that they eat and use within a 5-mile radius.

Last but not least, we resonate with the founder's very inspirational story.



Evidence of Success: Voices

Seventy women are currently enrolled in the Kopila Women's Empowerment Center. They have become a family who support and encourage one another. With access to medical and counseling resources, they are healthier, happier, and more self-confident.



"Today I learned to look forward and trust in my ability and I should be confident. If I look backward, I will always be in the past, but if I look forward, I can improve my position."

Shanti Tolangi

"I used to cut wood and sell it, but now I am learning to sew and I want to do this as my business." Dan Rupa B.K.

"The Nepali woman's problem is that their husbands drink alcohol and beat them. All women should be united and give their brothers and husbands advice against domestic violence." Shanti Tolangi

About the Organization

The BlinkNow Foundation continues to dream big - a Kopila Valley High School is now on the drawing board. Maggie Doyne is helping to empower women in Nepal, and women around the world who see her as a role model for activism.

“I truly believe that if every child in the world is provided with their most basic needs and rights—a safe home, medical care, an education, and love, they will grow to be leaders and end cycles of poverty and violence in our world.”

– Maggie Doyne



Questions? Please share them with Education@DiningForWomen.org

Questions for Discussion

Care to share your thoughts?



Dining for Women

1. Why does the Kopila Women's Empowerment Center focus on literacy, skill building, and empowerment of women as an essential element to the success of the children?
2. How does strong community support help the causes of both the school children and the women in the Women's Center?
3. Why do you think that, in addition to learning a marketable skill, basic reading, writing, and financial literacy are building blocks for an illiterate woman's chances for empowerment and self-sufficiency?

 Changing the world one dinner at a time

Dining for Women | P.O. Box 25633, Greenville, SC 29616 | www.diningforwomen.org

March 2014