



Featured Program – HOPE Foundation - \$45,000 grant – Obstetric Fistula Team, Bangladesh

Sustained Program – Prevention International – No Cervical Cancer - \$15,000 grant – El Salvador

HOPE Foundation for Women and Children

- Obstetric fistula is a devastating injury caused by obstructed or prolonged labor. Nearly eradicated in the developed world, fistulas occur mostly in developing countries where many women give birth at home with untrained assistance and little or no prenatal care.
- Fistula repair surgery is well understood and ever more widely practiced. Even women who have been living with the physical, social, and emotional consequences of obstetric fistula for many long years can benefit from surgery. Their confidence as well as continence can be restored, allowing them to return to society and live out their lives with dignity.
- The DFW grant will help pay for the establishment of an Obstetric Fistula Team – physician, nurse, social worker, outreach coordinator, and training program coordinator – so that their hospital in Cox’s Bazar can perform fistula repair surgeries year-round. The grant also provides expenses for outreach efforts to prevent fistula through education and to locate those who need surgery.

Key Points

- In countries like Bangladesh, maternal and sexual health education is not widely available because it is taboo to discuss.
- Women will choose prenatal care and safer birth with a trained midwife if they understand the risks of using traditional, untrained birth attendants and have access to care.
- Obstetric fistula can be eradicated in Bangladesh if current obstetric fistula sufferers receive corrective surgery, if affordable maternal and obstetric facilities are widely available, and if all women in their child bearing years are educated about their bodies, pregnancy and birth risks.

Prevention International – No Cervical Cancer (PINCC)

This is the second year of a three-year grant. With sustained funding of \$45,000 over 3 years from Dining for Women, Prevention International will continue to screen and prevent cervical cancer in El Salvador. PINCC has empowered a network of doctors and nurses by teaching a cost- and time-efficient, single-visit method of finding and eliminating cervical cancer in its pre-invasive stages. As a result, the cervical cancer treatment hospital in San Salvador has reported a decreasing number of advanced cervical cancer cases.

Cooperation with Ministry of Health (MINSAs) doctors in implementing the Train the Trainer program resulted in over 60 medical staff being trained. The Train the Trainer program is highly effective and in high demand.

Reminder – DFW does not fund sustained programs in the months of June, July or August. Many of our chapters do not meet in the summer months, and for those that do, attendance is lower due to vacations and such. Naturally, this lowers the amount of program donations available for grants. We suspend the sustained funding to ensure that we are able to meet the commitments that we have made to organizations.

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

We have a request from a chapter who wants to include children and grandchildren in an upcoming DFW meeting, and wants suggestions about tailoring the educational components for children of various ages. If your chapter has experience with this, please share your thoughts with education@diningforwomen.org. We'd love to hear what worked best for you!

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.)

DFW naturally focuses on the most impoverished and underprivileged members of developing countries. They are women and girls, of course, but it's important to remember that we are only telling one story about the women, the men, and the country. It's important that we do not see everyone through just one lens. We do not develop a relationship with 'those poor women in developing countries', but with 'women who share our hearts' desires: to care for our children, our community, and our environment.'

Sharing some of the books, films, and music we recommend each month may help to generate discussion among your members about the other stories. On this month's Shop! Read! Watch! Listen! web page you'll find a wonderful collection of stories – *Lifelines: New Writing from Bangladesh*. This collection of short stories presents new work by young female writers from Bangladesh. Their stories portray multifaceted characters trying to take control of their own destinies, challenging stereotypes that cast the complex country as nothing more than poor and underdeveloped.

We would love to hear about your discussions. Please share in the Online Meeting Evaluation Form.

Check your Chapter Leader Newsletter
for upcoming Google Hangouts!

Please mail chapter donations within
five days of meeting.

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

Please remember to complete your Meeting Evaluation
Form. It doesn't have to be completed by
the Chapter Leader. Each month's Presenter can
complete the form.

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.*