

Featured Program

ASSET - Allied Solutions for Sustainable Education & Trust - Women's Higher Education Program - Uganda

- **ASSET's Women in Higher Education program recruits and supports young Ugandan women to attend universities**, partnering with communities and universities to select, enroll, and support promising women to complete higher education.
- **Women in Uganda face disproportionately higher levels of poverty and illiteracy.** While Uganda has a universal free education system for primary through secondary school, university enrollment levels remain low, especially for women. This is partly because of widespread poverty within the country, but when family resources exist boys are often sent to school while girls are held back to help with chores and begin domestic life.
- **DFW's grant of \$45,000 over two years** will provide two years of university scholarships for 20 young Ugandan women along with leadership training, mentoring, and internship support. Our grant will also enhance ASSET's Bead 2 Read program by providing training and support to improve business and entrepreneurship skills of artisans who create and sell jewelry to help fund scholarships.

Key Points – Also see Discussion Questions in Program Fact Sheet

- *“When women in a community are educated, they are more likely to stay in that community, to work in that community, and to contribute to that community. They become an **asset** to that community.”* – World Bank, 2010 – Gender Equality as Smart Economics
- When women actively work toward their education, either through a struggle to find funding or work-study, they tend to be higher achievers and are more likely to graduate.
- Without continued guidance and mentoring, women college graduates from non-educated families may struggle to find suitable employment.

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

Sustained Program – Rubia, Afghanistan

We are in the second year of a three-year, \$15,000 annual grant that supports Rubia's *Sewing Lasting Threads of Change* program, empowering 500 Afghan women and girls to exercise their rights and decision making-power at the household and community levels which will improve their well-being and that of their families.

While participating in guided discussions with the aid of a skilled facilitator, the women will learn how to embroider illustrations of the lessons promoting family health and hygiene, women's rights to education and voting, banning child marriage, and women as conflict resolvers. The program combines civic participation and health and hygiene education with practical skills enhancement through refining women's marketable embroidery skills. Embroidering these images introduces basic information that seclusion and illiteracy have blocked from the women's lives.

Learn more about Rubia at <http://diningforwomen.org/node/2834>

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

The past two featured programs supported women and their daughters and our chapter wants to know what has happened to their sons? Are they not to benefit? It was always my understanding that DFW helped women and children, not women and daughters. The criteria for receiving funding from DFW is that programs must focus on women and girls exclusively. When women benefit, all of their children benefit; boys and girls. However, as DFW has evolved, we've recognized, as thought leaders have said and studies have shown; gender discrimination is a root cause of global poverty. Consequently, several years ago, the focus of our funding has narrowed to women and girls. Some of the organizations we fund DO include men and boys in their programming. For example, Maasai Girls Education Fund includes fathers and tribal leaders in their community education classes, and Rubia's work is successful because they realize they must have the village elders' and husbands' participation to be successful. There are other examples, but the projects we fund are for the advancement of women and girls. When gender inequality is diminished, everyone benefits.

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.)

From the Best Practices Brainstorming List - <http://www.diningforwomen.org/chapter-refresh>:

- Play music from Uganda - You'll find our recommendations for November on the *Shop! Read! Watch! Listen!* web page.
- Scatter relevant questions on the tables as conversation starters.
- Submit an article about your November meeting to your local newspaper. Include information about your chapter, this month's program, and DFW. You'll find 'boilerplate' paragraphs on our Press Resources page - <http://www.diningforwomen.org/PressResources>

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.

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

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.

419 Chapters