Featured Program Monthly Theme:

Vulnerable Refugee to Confident Girl through Protection & Education

“Girl’s Empowerment Project” – Heshima Kenya

Heshima Kenya’s Girl’s Empowerment Project is an informal education program for refugee women and girls between the ages of 13 and 23 years old. The curriculum consists of four transitional components encompassing basic education, life-skills training, vocational training, and income-generation support. Heshima Kenya provides opportunities for basic education, livelihood options, and human rights education while cultivating leadership within a safe and supportive community.

Please be sure to check out the beautiful scarves made by some of the women supported through Heshima Kenya – information to purchase scarves through the Maisha Collective can be found in the Fair Trade, Books, Films and Music link on the program web page.

Grant requested: $50,000 over 2 years

Sustained Program Funding

The BOMA Project - Kenya

The BOMA Project was supported by DFW as a Featured Program in December 2010 with a grant for $27,473, and also in May 2009 with a grant for $18,124, launching Rural Entrepreneur Access Project (REAP) micro-enterprises and a micro-savings program for Loiyangalani businesses.

With sustained funding of $45,000 from DFW, BOMA will launch 36 more REAP micro-enterprises per year, over three years, for a total of 108 new businesses. Each new business provides a diversified income for three women, and our data shows that each woman cares for an average of five children.

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. Many of these micro-enterprises will be launched near Archer’s Post in the Samburu District of Northern Kenya, a new region of expansion for BOMA.

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

Member Choice Funding: Vote Projected for 2013

Our grant obligations for our Featured and Sustained Programs are for specified grant amounts each month. These obligations are our priority prior to funding any other types of grants. We have begun building a reserve fund in the event that monthly net donations are not sufficient to meet our future grant obligations. Once excess funds up to $30,000 in addition to our reserve have been accrued, our members will be given an opportunity to vote on a Member Choice Funding grant.

Please look for information about Member Choice Funding in 2013 that will be posted on the DFW website, Facebook, Twitter and in newsletters!

100% Participation – DFW has raised over $90,000 with member participation of 15.3%

To those of you who have participated, asked your friends to participate, encouraged your family to participate, and engaged so many others in the 13th Month Campaign...thank you!! If you haven’t made your gift, please help us reach 100% participation and donate now. Please refer members to the link:

http://www.dininaforwomen.org/Donate/opex
DFW “A Decade of Dining” Cookbook – Orders Extended Until March 1st
Chapter Leaders, please collect orders from your members during the month of January. The orders must be received at DFW headquarters by March 1, 2013. Orders will only be accepted from Chapter Leaders (no online or telephone sales this time).

The $20 price is a bargain for this collection of great recipes and stories from our members and representatives of funded programs. What a great way to begin our 10-year celebration of changing the world one dinner at a time!
For more information, please see http://www.diningforwomen.org/cookbook

Follow-up Report
Thanks to a $30,902 grant given to Emerge Global in 2011, http://www.diningforwomen.org/node/765, 124 Sri Lankan girls between the ages of 10 and 18, all survivors of sexual abuse, have been equipped with the critical life and business skills needed to live healthy, self-sufficient lives. Through Emerge Global’s work, these young women were able to generate $29,701 of savings through jewelry design, receive training in business development, financial management, reproductive health, community action, job readiness and more, and were connected to inspiring local women to build a network of support.

Emerge was able to leverage their grant from DFW to garner further support for their work, including partnering with new retail outlets to sell Emerge jewelry, securing their first major local funding, partnering with Miss Sri Lanka as their celebrity spokesperson, and being selected by the US Ambassador to Sri Lanka as her charity of choice for International Day of the Girl.

Please remind your members to take a look at the follow-up reports, as it truly is rewarding to learn about the women whose lives have been changed by our collective giving.

Next Month’s Featured Program “Midwives Saves Lives” – Haiti
Midwives for Haiti seeks to reduce both maternal and neonatal mortality by training skilled birth attendants. Graduates of the 10-month training course are taught to identify and treat many complications of pregnancy and birth. These birth assistants attend to births at home and in hospitals and clinics. Graduates are in very high demand in rural villages and local hospitals and they are the healthcare providers of the mobile clinics operated by Midwives for Haiti, which serve 400+ women a month.

Meeting Ideas
• Suggest fair trade, books, films, and music to your chapter members
• Present program briefly using the PowerPoint presentation. Can show presentation file or just use for your own notes!
• Expand further on the issues women face using the Food for Thought, including the discussion questions.
• Announce the January Sustained Program Funding and a brief summary - see links on the DFW webpage.
• Connect with a program speaker contact to attend or call into your meeting.

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 where you will also find a list of speaker contacts. 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 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 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.