



Chapter Leader Talking Points July 2014

Featured Program – RAIN for the Sahara and Sahel - \$36,066 grant – Learning and Earning Program, Niger

Sustained Program – 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.

[RAIN for the Sahel and Sahara](#)

- Dining for Women will help expand RAIN's Learning and Earning Programs (LEGS) that empower nomadic women to improve their own economic status and create educational opportunities for the girls in their community. RAIN offers education, income generating activities, mentoring, and economic development training to support a vulnerable nomadic community in a poor and remote rural area of Niger.
- DFW's two-year grant of \$36,066 will pay for mentoring programs, income generating initiatives, and Saving and Loan group start-ups for five communities in desert regions where no other organization goes. The cost, per direct beneficiary, is \$153.47 for two years.
- Mentors will help girls stay in school (the average Nigerien girl leaves after third grade), start businesses and Savings & Loan groups, and gain the respect of their communities.
- RAIN believes in the right of indigenous nomadic people to preserve their traditional heritage, and the organization's programs reflect these values. They look for new ways for nomadic people to support their families, while remaining anchored in their own unique culture. Their programs are based on requests from the communities they serve.
- The RAIN program video on our website was derived partly from a longer video called [From a Deep Well](#). If your chapter likes to dig deeper into the program, you might consider sharing it. Available in two parts on YouTube – 9:13 minutes and 5:27 minutes.

Key Points

- The United Nations has declared that investment in the world's women and girls is the key to alleviating poverty, malnutrition, poor health and lack of education.
- The average person in Niger is less educated, lives a shorter life, is less likely to be literate or enrolled in school and has less income than the average person in any other country on earth. While statistics for Niger are achingly low, they are even worse for the nomadic and rural peoples who comprise of 85 percent of the total population. For example, both adult literacy rates and school enrollment rates among nomadic families is estimated to be only 10-15 percent.
- Since RAIN's beginning in 2002, more children are attending and succeeding in school, mentors are providing guidance and practical skills to round out children's education and school market gardens are providing food to the children and greater food security for all. RAIN's grassroots, integrated approach has fostered trust and galvanized community involvement across the Sahel and Sahara.

Questions about our programs?

Our education team works hard each month to provide key information to enrich our members' understanding of our featured program. But occasionally members or leaders have questions that aren't addressed in our materials.

When that occurs, leaders and members sometimes contact the organization's program director or staff directly. Some of our funded programs report they are answering the same question from more than one DFW member or chapter. These can be time consuming calls for the program. But beyond that, if one program has a question, there's a good chance others might as well.

We can turn multiple phone calls to a program director into a single phone call or email and also make the answers available to all on the website. Your questions may alert us to gaps in our documents or factual errors.

So help everyone in Dining for Women and respect the time of our funded organizations that have small staffs and critical missions. Please bring your questions to the Education Team - Education@DiningForWomen.org

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.)

We had a request from a leader a couple months ago who wanted to **include children and grandchildren** in an upcoming DFW meeting and asked for suggestions about tailoring the educational components for children of various ages. We found a chapter leader, Amy Cohen, who has a mother-daughter group in Philadelphia. She gears her presentations around engaging their middle-school daughters. **Her website** (<http://amyjanecohen.wix.com/dfw-md>) offers fabulous ideas for gearing DFW presentations to a young audience. We are grateful for the work she has done to include the next generation AND to share her ideas with other chapters.

We would love to hear about your ideas, stories and 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.*