



Sow Hope.Org Newsletter

"WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, LET ME SOW HOPE."
FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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Mission Statement:

"To inspire women around the world by promoting wellness, education, and economic opportunities."

Board of Directors:

Dr. Diana Sharp,
Chair Person
Doreen Mangrum,
Vice Chair Person
Bonnie Conley,
Secretary
David Crawford,
Treasurer
Timothy Beals
Chandra Colley
Jean Graham
Dr. Pamela Ogor
Hon. Thomas Pearce

President & CEO:

Mary Dailey Brown

Sow Hope.Org

P.O. Box 234
Rockford, MI 49341

616.433.1575

E-mail:

info@SowHope.org

We're on the Web!

www.SowHope.Org

Board of Directors' Update

The Board of Directors of SowHope.Org met for their third session on July 26, 2006 to review the progress of SowHope and to formulate plans for its continued growth and work. Committees are being formed for the administration of each aspect the organization's operations and board members continue to work in and through their individual areas of expertise to insure that SowHope has a firm foundation on which to build and grow. Mary Brown, with the assistance of Tim Beals, is continuing the arduous task of writing the business plan for SowHope.Org, which will become the organization's foundational document. It will define its purpose and form a blue print for the future. Dave Crawford has been working hard to set up and oversee all the accounting records while Bonnie Conley has been researching grants and working on marketing and presentation set-ups. Doreen Mangrum revised the application form that will be used for submission of project proposals and developed scoring standards for the evaluation of project applications for funding approval. Dr. Diana Sharp is providing leadership to the Board through formulation of the agendas and moderation of meetings as well as working on Fundraising. Together the Board is working to insure that SowHope moves forward in fulfilling its mission to inspire women around the world by providing wellness, education and economic opportunities.

Project Applications Continue To Roll In

SowHope has already received applications for projects totaling in excess of \$350,000 and covering five different countries. These projects include micro-loans to women in Bangladesh and Nigeria, a literacy program for temple prostitutes in India, education and literacy programs in Egypt, and a literacy program in Spain for women who are trying to escape from enslavement in sex-trafficking. Each of these worthy programs will provide measurable results in helping women overcome desperate circumstances.



Building Relationships & Sharing The Vision

Mary continues to build relationships and seek wise counsel as she proceeds in carrying out the vision and mission of SowHope.Org. The months of May and July included trips to Washington DC where she and her husband Doug met and spoke to many people with vast experience related to the U.S. and international governments, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. One particularly good outcome of the trip was that a relationship was initiated with a Nigerian who has lived and studied in the United States for several years before returning to his homeland. We at SowHope are encouraged by the ongoing development of partnerships with local leaders around the world. Plans for this fall include trips to verify projects in Egypt and Nigeria.

In addition to her travels, Mary continues to speak to small groups about the vision and work of SowHope.Org and recently made presentations to 50 people at Bishop Hills Retirement Home and a group of young people and counselors at Michawana Youth Camp and Retreat Center.

If you'd like more information about Mary's availability to speak to your group or organization, please contact her by phone at 616-433-1575 or by email at Mary@sowhope.org.