



SOWHOPE Newsletter

"Where there is despair, let me sow hope." FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Mother's Day Brunch

**Sunday, May 3rd or
Saturday, May 9th**

11:00am-1:00PM

**Location: JW Marriott
six.one.six**

Tickets \$100 each

**Visit our website
to order your tickets
& for more info.**

www.sowhope.org

Limited seating so purchase your tickets now!

Celebrate a woman in your life with a delicious brunch. She doesn't have to be your mom – or anyone's mom! But if she has been a special influence in your life, take this opportunity to thank her and at the same time offer support to moms in poverty. This event, held in the prestigious JW Marriot's *six.one.six*, will be held on two dates to accommodate your schedule. Tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased online at: sowhope.org. Proceeds benefit women, their families and their communities through SowHope projects.



WALL OF HONOR

Do you have a mother, daughter, wife, girlfriend, sister, niece, grandmother, aunt, or anyone who you would like to honor? Is there someone who has made this world a better place for women? Honor that special person by inspiring lives of impoverished women around the world.

From now until May 15, please visit our website at sowhope.org/wallofhonor, make a donation, and then you can make a certificate to print and frame, or e-mail, (post to Facebook, Instagram or Twitter) for that special someone.

At our website be sure to include the name of the person you would like to honor and any short message. We will post the name and your message to our Wall of Honor. We would love to have our Wall of Honor filled with many names of influential people!

300 WOMEN BENEFIT IN DRC



Beneficiaries of SowHope In Democratic Republic of Congo

300 women in the Democratic Republic of Congo were recently the beneficiaries of a project funded by SowHope. Our partner, Claudalina, along with a small development team, conducted a comprehensive project that included giving goats, piglets, and chickens to raise for food and profit. She also rented about 5 acres of land and provided seeds and hand farming tools so the women could plant and harvest food.

Claudalina and her team were overwhelmed with all the needs they saw in this rural village where many are sick and children suffer from distended stomachs caused by malnourishment. "Many women registered for the project and were so happy, as this was the first project they have gotten since they were born! Other women, who did not register for the project, were crying when they saw all the rewards the women were getting."

Claudalina wants to go back to the village to do more projects. She sees a great need for wellness projects to help the sick and to address the need for literacy, since the 300 women cannot read and write.



Mothers thanking SowHope

KIMBERLY GILL - ARTIST



Kimberly Gill first discovered SowHope when a friend urged her to attend a SowHope photo exhibit. Kim, a portrait artist, was fascinated by the captivating faces of women and children. She was then introduced to Mary Dailey Brown, and like so many of us, was deeply impressed with Mary's passion to help others. When Kim asked if she could create paintings from her photographs for the next exhibit, Mary's immediate response was, "Great idea!" Later that evening, Mary introduced Kim to Loralee Grace, another talented artist, who wished to do the same.

It was SowHope's success that helped Kim devote her talent to support this effort, in addition to her agreement with its mission. She says, "SowHope projects have helped over 50,000 women around the world since 2006. How great is that?"

You may not be an artist who can capture the joy on a face, but you can, like Kim, make a difference in the lives of women and children who are in extreme poverty. Kim's paintings make an emotional connection between the viewer and the subject. Each SowHope painting she sells includes a 75% donation to SowHope.

How can you use your talent to support SowHope? Kim encourages us to take a risk, suggest your unique way to raise funds, and hear Mary say, "Great idea!" Your life may never be the same.

Note: From March 1 – April 29, the artwork of Kim Gill and Mary Dailey Brown will be featured at the Keeler Gallery at Fountain Street Church. Don't miss it!

SOWHOPE
EXISTS

TO INSPIRE
WOMEN AROUND
THE WORLD
BY PROMOTING
WELLNESS,
EDUCATION, AND
ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, MARCH 8TH

All over the world International Women's Day is celebrated annually on March 8th. The first International Women's Day was celebrated in 1911. The purpose for celebrating this day is to recognize economic, political, and social achievements of women around the world. It is a time to reflect on the accomplishments that ordinary women have made to shape the history of their countries and communities and to focus greater attention on the need for equality for all. You can celebrate International Women's Day by running an event that celebrates women and raises awareness for gender equality. You can participate in local activities and campaigns, or donate to organizations that help women. This year, SowHope will be celebrating International Women's Day by participating in two events:

On Wednesday March 18, 2015, SowHope President, Mary Dailey Brown, and SowHope board member, Dr. Sylvia Juta, will be sitting on a panel for the documentary *Girl Rising*, hosted by Grand Valley State University in the DeVos Center, 122E - Loosemore



Auditorium, 401 W. Fulton Street, Grand Rapids, MI 49504. The event kicks off with a reception at 6pm, followed by the presentation of the documentary. Immediately following, there will be a Q&A session to discuss the documentary and other issues that concern women around the world.

On Monday, March 23, 2015, 6:00pm, SowHope will be showing their documentary, "Let Me Sow Hope," at the Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain Street NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Kimberly Gill, artist (featured on left column) will be showcasing her art showing some of her SowHope paintings. Also, in honor of Women's History Month* they are presenting an exhibit from March 1st - April 29th. For more info see <http://www.fountainstreet.org/keeler-gallery>.

Note: "Women's History Month*" is an annual declared month that highlights the contributions of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8..." Wikipedia.

YOU'RE INVITED - SAVE THE DATES!

Wednesday, March 18, 6pm-Girl Rising Documentary
Begins with reception and refreshments.
Grand Valley State University, Loosemore Auditorium,
401 W. Fulton Street, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Monday, March 23, 6pm-SowHope Documentary,
"Let Me Sow Hope." Fountain Street Church,
24 Fountain Street NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Sunday, May 3, OR (See article on Page 1)
Saturday, May 9th, 11am-1pm: Mother's Day Brunch
JW Marriott's six-one-six, 235 Louis Campau St. NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan. Tickets \$100/Person.

A DOCUMENTARY FILM EVENT

WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR

LET ME
SOW
HOPE

"Let Me Sow Hope",
is a documentary film
exposing the overwhelm-
ing challenges and
vulnerabilities faced by
impoverished women in
the Developing World
and the transformational
effect of hope.

SowHope Documentary: Monday, March 23, 6PM

Photo by: Anne Kendra

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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