



SowHOPE Newsletter

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



Dr. Pam Ogor

Mary G.

Mary Dailey Brown

PEACE-MAKING TRAINING IN SOUTH SUDAN

SowHope is pleased to announce a new partner, Mary G, in South Sudan. Mary Dailey Brown and Dr. Pam Ogor travelled to South Sudan, which has the highest maternal mortality rate in the world, with a team from Partners in Compassionate Care who started a hospital there. Fox 17 News reporter Cassandra Arsenault accompanied the team and put together a five-part series titled "Saving South Sudan", one part of which focused on SowHope's work among impoverished women.

During the initial visit Mary G. organized group meetings in two villages so Mary and Pam could interview local women. Mary Brown observed that these were very despairing women and that even their singing was mournful and absent of the typical lively African drumbeats. This was not surprising considering that these women live in an area devastated by war, where everyone lives in constant fear of their ability to survive even another day.

Mary and Pam listened to the women and many emphasized a need for "PEACE". Then they asked the women what their dreams were for improving their lives. Both groups decided that community gardens would be very helpful to everyone, as food is lacking. Grants were given by SowHope to both groups for this purpose. After receiving the news of the grants, one group grabbed some barrels and sticks and broke into celebratory dancing and laughter. This is the beginning of what we envision to be a long and fruitful partnership.

SowHope recently began a fundraising campaign to raise \$100,000 to fund community development/microfinance trainings in both Kenya and South Sudan. Donations made toward this campaign will be matched. To date we have raised a total \$31,280. If you are interested in contributing to this campaign, you can donate online at sowhope.org/donate and write "matching gift" in the comment line or mail a check in the enclosed envelope. We believe that these trainings will make life better for women in South Sudan and will literally save lives by helping to bring peace to troubled areas.

SOWHOPE EXISTS

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

BUY TICKETS NOW!

SowHope's 1st Annual Fundraising Dinner

HARVEST of HOPE

Tuesday, October 6th, 6:30pm

Frederik Meijer Gardens, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Tickets are \$100 thru 9/15, then \$150 (if available)

Buy online at www.sowhope.org

or mail payment & RSVP to

P.O. Box 234, Rockford, MI 49341

PAKISTANI WOMEN LEARN NEW SKILLS

Impoverished women in Pakistan are benefiting from a Vocational Training Project. SowHope has partnered with Height of Humanity to provide tailoring, embroidery, cosmetology, and basic computer training to 200 women. Most of the women are housewives who would have no other way of getting an education or earning money.

Almost three-quarters of the people in Pakistan live on \$2 or less a day. Over 40% of school-aged children do not go to school. We have seen the positive effect of providing vocational training to women of other impoverished nations.

Mothers in the developing world overwhelmingly have the desire to see their children go to school. They use what little they have earned that is left over after buying food for their families to pay school fees for their children. By giving mothers the chance to learn an income-producing trade, not only do they and their children benefit financially and educationally, the women report greater self-esteem and dignity.



A mother in Pakistan learns to sew while her young son looks on.

PARTNERS FROM AFRICA & ASIA VISIT SOWHOPE

SowHope's strategy is to PARTNER with LOCAL LEADERS who use LOCAL SOLUTIONS to solve LOCAL PROBLEMS. In July, the SowHope Program team hosted visits at our Grand Rapids office with local leaders from two nations where we have supported projects.

ISAAC AND SEPIRANZA B. FROM UGANDA

Isaac and Sepiranza gave an impressive presentation to members of SowHope's Program Team reporting on the progress of community development in their rural Ugandan village. Over the past five years, SowHope supported their projects which include: microfinance, literacy, farming projects, and maternal healthcare.

Isaac explained that he has found that many women benefit both economically and emotionally from a sustained relationship with the microfinance group versus a short interaction only for the purpose of obtaining a small loan. He says, "I would like to see them benefit from this group throughout their lives."

They also shared about the difficulties they have encountered and their vision for the future. Their growing microfinance group, maize mill, literacy programs, and new maternity clinic all require increased staff and professional workers. They want to add leadership skills, agricultural practices, health education, and advocacy and information about women's rights to their programming. Isaac added, "Thank you for all of your assistance, support, and love for Ugandan women. We are very grateful."



Ruth Posthumus, Beth Leeson, Isaac B, Sepiranza, Isaac Jr., Doreen Mangrum

NELSON S. FROM BANGLADESH



SowHope staff members Mary Dailey Brown-CEO, Dr. Sylvia Jutta-Projects Director, and Amy Lindholm-Administrative Director meet with Nelson S. from Bangladesh

Nelson is one of the first SowHope partners dating back to 2007. Together we have impacted nearly 9000 women through microfinance. During Nelson's visit, he detailed the great economic progress that has been achieved in his country over the past decade. Much of it is a result of successful microfinance programs directed toward women, such as those funded by SowHope. He also enlightened the SowHope staff to many continuing issues for poor and underprivileged people in Bangladesh, such as human trafficking that often results in death, or land-grabbing experienced by minority groups.

We have experienced tremendous results through our partnerships with local leaders. They anticipate the cultural implications of the delicate task of effectively inspiring women.



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INTRODUCING NEW SOWHOPE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

As SowHope grows, we are seeking to spread the word to new regions in order to enhance our capacity to support more projects benefiting women in developing nations. We have recently started a 'Regional Representative' position with our first two Regional Reps based out of South Carolina and Colorado.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION - KATELYN BROWN



Katelyn serves as our Marketing Team leader. She is inspired by hearing stories from SowHope project visits. If you are located in her region, Katelyn would love to get in contact with you. Email her at katelyn@sowhope.org. Fun Fact: Katelyn started writing a travel blog (www.thesuitcaseblonde.com) after studying one year in Spain.

SOUTHEAST REGION - ROBIN PATT



Robin has been a long time supporter and friend of SowHope. This new role will be a natural transition. If you are located in her region, Robin would love to get in contact with you. Email her at robin@sowhope.org. Fun Fact: Robin is an avid sewer and crafter. She loves to make personal gifts for family and friends.

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