



SowHope 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."

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SowHope is a 501(c)3
Nonprofit Organization

Partnering with local leaders, using local solutions, to solve local problems



Bangladesh micro-loan group treasurer collecting loan repayments from recipients at their weekly accountability meeting

While visiting SowHope's micro-loan partner in Wazirpur, Bangladesh, Mary Dailey Brown was honored with the gift of a finely woven tablecloth made by one of the women who had received a micro-loan. This successful entrepreneur used her loan to purchase a handmade, bamboo loom and started her own weaving business. She graciously demonstrated for Mary how she sits on a rock for nine hours each day while she weaves two tablecloths with intricate patterns that she keeps track of in her head. The cost of materials for each tablecloth is \$.50 leaving her a net profit of \$1 per day when she sells the tablecloths for \$1 apiece. Her generous gift to Mary represented her entire day's wage. Mary said of this micro-loan recipient, "She is a business woman at heart with vision and goals. Her goal is to pay off the loom, buy another one, and hire an employee so she is able to double her production. She has been so successful that she used a portion of her profits for a tin roof on her house; a major improvement by Bangladesh standards."

Speaking Availability

Looking for a speaker for your group or organization? Mary Dailey Brown, founder and CEO of SowHope.Org, is available to speak at conferences and seminars on topics such as: "Sharing SowHope", "Slavery, Human Trafficking and Oppression of Women in the World", "Cross-cultural Sensitivity in Leadership", "Effective Leadership That Makes a Difference", "Global Impact; Leadership of Women in the World", and "Why Improving the Lives of Women Improves the World". For availability dates and pricing please contact SowHope.Org at 616-433-1575. Please visit our website at www.sowhope.org to learn more about SowHope and to find out how you can help.

The Bangladesh micro-loan project got underway in early 2007 and will provide 2,400 women over the next three years with funds to start or improve small entrepreneurial businesses. Studies show that these loans not only help the recipients start and succeed in their own businesses but the benefits extend to the entire community as these women provide needed goods and services as well as create jobs for others. Micro-loan programs include peer supervision and accountability groups that meet on a regular basis with a trainer who coaches them in skill development and education. Loan repayment rates within the micro-loan projects consistently exceed 97%.



Bangladesh micro-loan recipient and entrepreneur weaving at her loom

Do Women of the World Need SowHope?

Experience has shown that Third World conditions complicate life beyond what people in the United States can imagine. Life for women in these areas of the world is brutal. SowHope seeks to serve the most basic needs of deserving women in developing nations by funding outcome-based projects in three general areas of need; wellness, education and economics, thereby helping to alleviate their suffering. Does the world need SowHope? You decide:

- 30%-40% of the population in the developing world has never received an immunization. Diseases that can be prevented with medicine are the leading cause of death in the developing world.
- Over 900 million females, most between the ages of 15 and 44 are infected with Tuberculosis, the #1 killer of these women worldwide; 2 million will die and 2.5 million more get sick each year.
- The overwhelming majority of AIDS victims are women. An estimated 78% of women with AIDS contracted the disease through forced sexual encounters such as rape. Women are often further victimized by their family and community by being ostracized or even killed.
- More than 500,000 women die annually while giving birth.
- Over 1 billion people in the developing world consume water that is contaminated resulting in an estimated 40,000 deaths each day.
- Women and girls in Africa must walk an average of six miles per day just to haul water. This arduous yet necessary task prevents them from being able to participate in education or work.
- Annually over 2 million girls, some as young as three years old, undergo female circumcision, also known as female genital mutilation. 500,000 of these girls die due to the un-sterile conditions under which the procedure takes place. Many who survive suffer other serious complications resulting in lifelong pain and health problems.
- Amnesty International estimates that 1 billion women (one in three) have been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused, usually by a family member or someone they know. Besides being psychologically traumatized, abused women and girls are more likely to suffer from a long list of physical, emotional and psychological illnesses and disorders.
- An estimated 640,000 women and girls are trafficked across borders with most ending up trapped in the commercial sex trade.
- Every year, from 1.5 to 3 million women and girls lose their lives as a result of gender-based violence or neglect.
- An estimated 508 million women in the developing world are illiterate. Worldwide, women account for 64% of adults who are unable to read or write with understanding, resulting in extreme poverty and vulnerability to exploitation.
- 3 billion people (1/2 the world's population) live on less than \$2 per day. One billion people live on less than \$1 per day. Women in the developing world are very impoverished and make up the majority of these sad statistics.

Women in the developing world are in desperate need of hope and help. SowHope seeks to work cooperatively with service providers, donor alliances, and partners in the field to provide unique and needed services that contribute to the overarching goal of improving women's lives in the poorest areas of the world. SowHope intends to live up to its name and sow hope where there is despair.

Thank you for your interest. For more information, visit www.sowhope.org.



L to R: Mary Dailey Brown, SowHope founder and President, Dr. Nargis; Egyptian physician who treats women living in a garbage dump and SowHope Board Secretary, Bonnie Conley



Woman in Bangladesh washing cooking pots in putrid water



Young girl in Nigeria where 25% of girls undergo FGM commonly practiced under unsanitary conditions, often resulting in death

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