



# 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."

## Board of Directors:

Dr. Diana Sharp, Chair  
Doreen Mangrum, Vice Chair  
Bonnie Conley, Secretary  
David Crawford, Treasurer  
Timothy Beals  
Chandra Colley  
Jean Graham  
Dr. Virginia Hodgkinson  
Ainur Nurtay  
Dr. Pamela Ogor  
Hon. Thomas Pearce  
Diane W. Powers

## President & CEO:

Mary Dailey Brown

## SowHope.Org

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SowHope is a 501(c)3  
Tax- Exempt  
Nonprofit Organization

**SOWHOPE PRESENTS...**  
A PHOTO EXHIBIT TO BENEFIT  
DESERVING WOMEN IN  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

# Beauty *and* the Burden

WOMEN OF THE THIRD WORLD

PHOTOS WILL BE  
FOR SALE AS WELL AS  
CREATIVE GIVING  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
INDIVIDUAL WOMEN

Friday, March 14, 2008  
7:00 p.m.  
The Top of The B.O.B.  
20 Monroe Ave NW  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Tickets: \$45

- Heavy Hors d'oeuvres
- Cash Bar
- Live Jazz Music followed by  
DJ and dancing

For more information, to purchase tickets for this event, or if you would like to be part of organizing an event like this in your city, please contact us. If your business or corporation is interested being a corporate sponsor of SowHope or in providing funding for event sponsorship please contact Mary Dailey Brown using the contact information listed at left.

## International Women's Day – March 8, 2008 SowHope at the Grand Rapids Women's Expo

SowHope will be participating in the **Grand Rapids Women's Expo** at the DeVos Center, Friday through Sunday, Mar. 7-9 which is also during **International Women's Day**. Stop by our booth to introduce yourself and find out how you can partner with SowHope to help inspire women living in developing nations.

## 2007 Posts 50% Growth

The annual financial review of SowHope reveals more than a 50% growth in revenues for 2007 over 2006 and the initiation of three more projects. The projects made possible by this increase in funding are:

- a **wellness** project serving *1,000 women* in Egypt who will receive vital training regarding women's health and AIDs prevention as well as self-esteem issues. *(Total project cost: \$5,000)*.
- an **education** project through which *150 women* in India will gain literacy by learning to read and perform math computations at a fifth grade level in one year. *(Total project cost: \$4,500)*.
- an **economic** project providing *1,000 women* in Bangladesh with micro loans, enabling them to start or expand businesses that allow them to provide for their families. *(Total project cost: \$20, 000)*.

By partnering with known, local leaders who have demonstrated their ability to produce results, SowHope projects impact not only the lives of the women they assist but the families and communities in which they live.

## Egyptian Women Learn About Health and Family Planning



SowHope board member Dr. Pamela Ogor has traveled extensively in the Third World as a medical volunteer over the past 30 years. She accompanied CEO Mary Brown on a trip to Egypt in October where Dr. Ogor conducted a Women's Health Care and Family Planning Seminar. Women attending the seminar received a wide variety of valuable health care information about birth control, pregnancy, AIDS/STD prevention, and measures for dealing with the effects of female genital mutilation (FGM, also called female circumcision). It is estimated that every year 2 million girls undergo FGM, resulting in the deaths of 500,000 girls due to infection and complications. While some of the seminar attendees had themselves undergone FGM, they were advocated to protect future

generations from this dangerous practice. Seminar discussions also included the topic of spousal abuse and revealed a natural, cultural acceptance of its perpetration. Upon hearing about "safe houses", places where women escaping spousal abuse can find safe shelter, Dr. Nargas, a SowHope partner who provides health care and training to women living in garbage dump communities, expressed the desperate need of safe houses in Egypt. While well received by the attendees, the health care seminar and the overall experience of her trip triggered in Dr. Ogor a firm commitment to return to Egypt where she hopes to continue to work collaboratively with Dr. Nargas in addressing the healthcare needs of Egypt's poorest women.

## SowHope Board Adds Three New Members

At the board meeting held on Saturday, January 19, 2008 Virginia A. Hodgkinson, PhD., Diane W. Powers, MBA, and Ainur Nurtay, a graduate student in Non-Profit Sector studies, were unanimously affirmed as the newest board members, rounding out the SowHope board to a team of 12.

Dr. Hodgkinson brings extensive experience in the non-profit sector, having served on various executive and advisory boards and was a founder of both the Center for the Study of Voluntary Organizations and Service as well as the Center for Democracy and the Third Sector at Georgetown University. She was a founding vice president at Independent Sector and is a former executive director of the National Center for Charitable Statistics (NCCS) and currently serves as an adjunct professor of public policy at the Georgetown University Public Policy Institute.

Diane Powers is a long time friend of SowHope Founder and President Mary Brown, having met when they worked together in the White House photo office in the early 80's. Diane is the Principal and Co-Founder of Ansal Strategies, LLC, where she assists entrepreneurs in conceptualizing, implementing, and financing their business. She brings to the SowHope Board her broad marketing expertise as well as extensive work in the non-profit sector.

Ainur is currently a student in the MPA program at Grand Valley State University. From Kazakhstan, Ainur has served with USAID there. She has also served as program officer for the Eurasian Foundation, which funds programs that build democratic and free market institutions within the twelve New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union.

Along with their passion to help women in developing nations, these three new board members bring academic strength, a wide variety of experience in the non-profit sector and practical third world experience to the SowHope Board. SowHope's Board of Directors welcomes Virginia, Diane and Ainur and looks forward to serving with them to realize the SowHope mission of partnering with local leaders, using local solutions to solve local problems in ways that change lives and sow hope.