



We sow hope... and hope is growing!

NEWSLETTER

AT RISK WOMEN IN THE MIDDLE EAST

"Our dream is to become a center for all of the poor in the city", said Bassem, one of the local leaders who has become integral in partnering with SowHope to support women in the Middle East. Bassem's team took Mary Dailey Brown, President of SowHope, and several SowHope volunteers to meet with women who take refuge in a rehabilitation center run by Bassem's team. All of these women have been abused and discarded by their families or those close to them – some sold or forced into prostitution, while others, like Abia (her name changed for security purposes), were exiled from their homes because they were no longer "useful". Abia shared her story, describing how her brother physically and sexually abused her from a very young age. When she became pregnant, Abia's family disowned her while defending her brother for fear of bringing shame on the entire family. Before she heard about the rehabilitation center that SowHope supports, Abia had nowhere to go. She felt worthless and destitute. Now, she has a sense of community, a sense of self-worth, and is working hard every day to overcome her lifelong trauma.



Abia receiving support at the Women's Rehabilitation Center

SOWHOPE EXISTS

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

Another life-changing project created by Bassem's organization is a conference and vocational training center, situated on a 100-acre farm. Many women are able to take advantage of free vocational training in skills such as sewing and hairdressing. They find safety in this remote location while gaining expertise that empowers them, making them less vulnerable to kidnappings and human trafficking.



Young women in the hairdressing vocational class.

Continuing in the pursuit of his dream, Bassem has begun construction on a 9-story rehabilitation center for abused women, including living quarters, physical and emotional healing, and vocational training. Your continued commitment to sowing hope in the developing world is crucial to our support. We thank you, but more importantly, these women thank you.

HAITI - BIRTHING CLINIC

On December 25, 1492, Christopher Columbus' ship, the Santa Maria, ran aground near the present site of Cap-Haitien in Haiti. A little over 525 years later, Beth Leeson and Mary Dailey Brown landed safely in Cap-Haitien to visit SowHope's new partner, Ninotte!



Local leader, Ninotte, and Beth

Haiti, with nearly 11 million people, is the most populous country in the Caribbean Community and has the lowest Human Development Index (HDI) in the Western Hemisphere. HDI measures average life expectancy, education, and per capita income. Two years ago, Haiti lost approximately 3000 people to Hurricane Matthew and sustained widespread damage throughout the impoverished nation. There is a great deal of work to be done and our partner Ninotte works tirelessly to help make life better for poor women in Haiti.

Ninotte, a well-respected midwife, serves her community by providing training sessions to women and young people about maternal healthcare and sex education. She has visited women and has seen the unsafe and unsanitary conditions of their dirt-floor houses, where many give birth now. She dreams of building a birthing center in which babies may be safely delivered. She also hopes to use the center for women in the community to access pre- and post-natal care so that both the women and infants can survive childbirth. Although these aspirations are within reach, Ninotte is still in need of support. With your help, Ninotte will be able to achieve her dreams.

SPONSOR THE BIG EVENT!

SowHope's 4th Annual Fundraising Dinner

Friday, September 28, 2018, 6:30PM
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

**Five Levels of Corporate Sponsorships
or Gold & Purple Level Table
Sponsorships Available**

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

SowHope's mission statement is: To inspire women around the world by promoting wellness, education, and economic opportunities.

Here are some of the highlights of 2017, our 12th year of existence:

--SowHope's income for the year 2017 was \$366,432, with ending net assets of \$232,777.

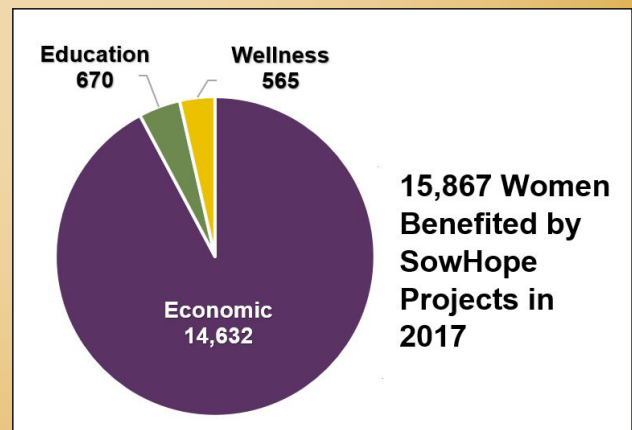
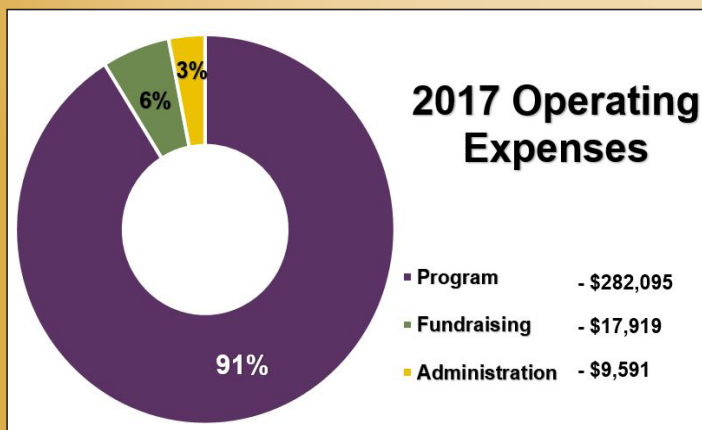
--SowHope's 2017 operating expenses totaled \$309,605, with 91% of expenses going towards programs, 6% toward fundraising, and 3% toward administration.

--During 2017, SowHope funded 27 projects in 10 countries, which are impacting 15,867 women.

--Since SowHope began, 164 projects have been funded in 18 countries, impacting a total of 81,609 women.

Program Accomplishments

Country	# of Projects	# of Women
Afghanistan	2	8
DRC	1	300
Egypt	2	62
Haiti	1	100
Jordan	2	450
Kenya	2	14,000
Nigeria	12	799
S. Sudan	3	135
Thailand	1	12
Uganda	1	1
2017 Total	27	15,867



SowHope's incredible global impact is only possible through your generous support. Thank you!

SAVE THE DATE!

SowHope's 4th Annual Fundraising Dinner

Friday, September 28, 2018, 6:30 PM

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

NEED A SPEAKER FOR YOUR GROUP?

Several years ago, Mary Dailey Brown founded one of the only global organizations dedicated to the basic holistic care of women. Her dream was to inspire impoverished women around the world by promoting good health practices, literacy and simple math, and small businesses training and education. This organization, SowHope, has changed the lives of thousands of women in some of the most difficult places in the world to be a woman. Want to hear her story and be inspired? You'll be amazed! To book this dynamic storyteller, contact the SowHope office: 616.433.1575 or email info@sowhope.org.

Follow SowHope
on social media:



BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Diane Joppie - Chairperson
Katie Kirouac - Vice Chairperson

Benjamin Borisch - Treasurer
Ndeye R. Ndao - Secretary

Kathy Crosby
Kimberly Gill

Robert Cunningham
Kathy Muedder