



Women Inspired NEWSLETTER

AN EDUCATION TRAILBLAZER IN PAKISTAN



In the heart of Pakistan, a remarkable woman has dedicated her life to transforming the lives of women through the power of education. Sister Zeph's tireless efforts have not only earned her numerous awards but have also paved the way for many women to step into the workplace, breaking barriers and redefining possibilities.

"For me the women's work is the most important thing because if you want your children to be educated, if you want them to be healthy, if you want to give them a better lifestyle, mothers should be financially empowered. And this is why I started giving them trainings," she explains passionately.

By integrating computers into her teaching methods, she has opened doors to opportunities that were once out of reach. Sister Zeph's journey started with learning on her own and teaching her sister, which then transformed into a small school. "And then I met Mary Dailey Brown of SowHope and now the change is bigger. Before we had places for ten or fifteen students, now you will visit our vocational center, and you will see that over 70 women are completing their training from there."

The impact of her work is profound. Women who once had limited prospects are now excelling. Her students are now contributing to their communities, and inspiring others to follow in their footsteps. "They are hopeful for the future, and they know that even if there is no one by their side, they are their own supporters. They are empowered by themselves. Just imagine how beautiful it is, and it is because of SowHope."



Sister Zeph works with students in the computer lab.

SowHope
exists
to inspire
women around
the world
by promoting
wellness,
education, and
economic
opportunities

REMEMBERING MONIQUE IN THE DRC



Mary first met Monique in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2009, at a gathering shown in the photo above, where the women shared their stories of surviving rape. As a visionary leader, Monique was eager—almost impatient—to share the document on her lap: A proposal to fund a birthing center for her village. She had united 900 women from four warring tribes, all weary of conflict and determined to foster life, not death, in their communities. Their shared dream for a birthing center to serve all tribes became a reality, and that first clinic inspired eight more in neighboring villages.

We deeply regret to share that Monique recently passed away from natural causes, though some believe her death was hastened by a broken heart following a devastating massacre in her village.

Monique was not present that night, but tragically, two of her sons were among those killed. A tireless servant of her community, she had just begun work on a new SowHope-funded birthing center in her relocated village. Her passing is a profound loss to her community and SowHope, yet her legacy of peace and healing endures through the lives she touched and the centers she inspired.



EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

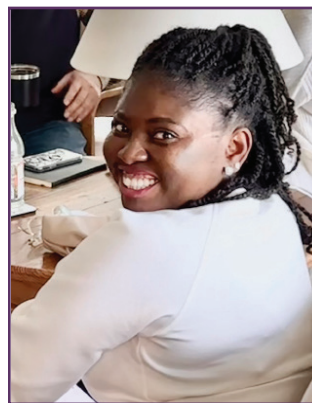
Your generosity can go twice as far!
Check with your employer to see if they offer a matching gift program and maximize your support for SowHope.
Need a receipt for your gift for your employer to match?
Contact us at info@sowhope.org or call (616) 433-1575

MEET SOWHOPE BOARD MEMBER CHRISTIE UNAKALAMBA

Christie's journey with SowHope began with a deep admiration for its mission. "What drew me to SowHope was its deeply intentional and empowering mission—to holistically invest in women's wellness, education, and economic opportunities in underserved communities," she explains. Witnessing firsthand how access can shape a woman's life, Christie was moved by SowHope's strategy of partnering with women rather than speaking for them.

Born and raised in Nigeria, Christie grew up surrounded by vibrant community and visible disparity. "Those early experiences gave me a deep appreciation for grassroots leadership and the strength women possess when given even a sliver of opportunity," she says. SowHope's mission reminds her of the women she grew up with and still carries in her heart.

Christie's expertise in strategic communications, cross-cultural engagement, and community development positions her to support SowHope through storytelling, advocacy, and strategic



thinking. "I aim to amplify the voices of the women we serve and help translate the beautiful work happening on the ground into compelling, actionable stories for our supporters and partners," she notes.

We at SowHope are very grateful for Christie's deep commitment to our mission and the women we serve and echo her sentiment, "I hope the seeds of hope we sow blossom into gardens of leadership,

resilience, and transformation — for generations to come." We are honored to have you as part of our family, Christie. Thank you for being a partner of hope and change.



To help celebrate our upcoming 20-year anniversary in 2026, we are overjoyed to announce the release of our documentary, *Charity Redefined™*, featuring inspiring stories of hope from the developing world. It highlights our gold-standard strategy of empowering women and partnering with local leaders to create sustainable change beyond initial SowHope funding. Stay tuned for the 2026 premiere —it will change how you think!

Required Minimum Distributions

SowHope donations save on RMD taxes!

If you're 73 or older, you can donate your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement accounts to SowHope.

This "qualified charitable distribution" (up to \$100,000) isn't tax-deductible, but you won't pay federal income taxes on the donated amount. You save, women benefit! Consult your tax advisor for details.



Join us on Friday, September 26 for SowHope's annual fundraising gala, "Next Generation." The Pinnacle Center in Hudsonville, MI will host the event again this year, which begins at 6:30 pm. Come and meet the next generation of leadership, including staff and board members who are helping take us into the future. You'll hear compelling stories of hope, rooted in the power of women supported by local leaders and grounded in sustainability.

The evening will be filled with excitement, live music, wine, delectable dinner, and the opportunity to purchase SowHope merchandise. Doors open at 6 pm.

Table of 8 sponsorships are available, including \$5,000 Platinum Level; \$2,500 Gold Level; \$1,000 Green Level; and \$500 Purple Level. Platinum and Gold Level sponsorships come with the option of filling a second table. Sign up for a table sponsorship at www.sowhope.org/gala2025. Corporate sponsorships are also available, starting at \$1,000.

For more information, please contact Jen Frank Brenton: jen@sowhope.org or 616-433-1575. We hope to see you there!

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