



# Women Inspired NEWSLETTER

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SCREENING OF CHARITY REDEFINED

International Women's Day is a global celebration of women's achievements and a call to accelerate dignity, opportunity, and equality for women everywhere. At SowHope, this pursuit has guided our work for 20 years. We partner with local leaders around the world to create sustainable change, as we fulfill our mission of inspiring women around the world by promoting wellness, education, and economic opportunities. This year's International Women's Day theme, Give to Gain, resonates deeply with our approach: when we invest in women, the entire community rises.

Join us on **Sunday, March 8 at 5:30 pm** at **Celebration Cinema – Grand Rapids North**, off the beltline, for a special International Women's Day screening of **Charity Redefined**. Tickets are just \$10 with complimentary popcorn and pop, and this exclusive event also marks SowHope's 20th birthday.

**Charity Redefined** confronts conventional ideas of charity and development by showcasing a model built on empowering women, maintaining dignity, and partnering with local leaders solving local problems using local solutions. Through exclusive access to SowHope's partners and field work, the film redefines how to combat poverty in the developing world—not through handouts or funder-led initiatives, rather local leader ownership, empowerment, and sustainability.

To make more showings around the country possible, we're offering several sponsorship opportunities.

**Seats are limited and filling quickly!** Please secure your tickets in advance to guarantee your spot. Don't wait.

**Get your tickets or learn how to be a film sponsor today at [www.sowhope.org](http://www.sowhope.org) or by scanning the QR code.**



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

## CHARITY REDEFINED: THE STORY



Filmmaker Chad Kremer captures video and audio in Kenya

**C**harity Redefined was created to spark a shift in how we think about charity and to clearly share SowHope's strategy of partnering with local leaders solving local problems using local solutions. These partnerships are built on trust formed over time—a key to SowHope's success. Too often, outside organizations design solutions for communities they don't fully understand. This film highlights a different path, one where local leaders invent, initiate, and implement their own projects. When solutions come from within, they are authentic, culturally grounded, and sustainable.

A second message runs through the film: when women thrive, their families and communities thrive with them. Education, income, decision-making power, and dignity all contribute to cultural transformation. The stories in Charity Redefined illuminate this truth in powerful ways.

As we celebrate SowHope's 20th year, our goal is to share this film across the country: in theaters, places of worship, community spaces, and homes. To make that possible, we need partners who believe in this purpose.

You can get involved by:

- Hosting a screening (large or small) at your home, church, organization, or other community space
- Helping coordinate community events, including venue support, logistics, or guest lists
- Volunteering on-site at any one of the events

If you're interested in helping bring **Charity Redefined** to your community, call 616-433-1575 or email [info@sowhope.org](mailto:info@sowhope.org).

### Support The Film

Make a donation to support the creation and impact of *Charity Redefined*. Your gift helps bring this film to more audiences and supports the storytelling that celebrates dignity-centered empowerment and the power of **local** leaders solving **local** problems using **local** solutions. Support the costs associated with the film at [www.sowhope.org](http://www.sowhope.org).

## FROM BEANS TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE



*Women work on their barista skills* and church servants, but they share a common hope: the chance to build a future with dignity.

Through a SowHope-funded coffee project, these women are learning far more than organic farming and barista skills. They're engaging in honest conversations about gender roles, stereotypes, and the barriers that have long kept them from contributing to their family's income. For many, it's the first time anyone has told them their voices matter.

The training opens doors that once felt unimaginable. Women are mastering coffee processing techniques — roasting, filtering, pressure brewing, and more — giving them the ability to sell finished products or even open cafés of their own. Already, three women have launched coffee shops, each with the support of their families. Others are cultivating their crops, saving for equipment, or working to gain their husbands' encouragement.

Every step forward chips away at generations of marginalization. With each bean roasted and each cup poured, these women are claiming space as earners, entrepreneurs, and leaders. What began as a farming project is becoming something deeper: a movement toward equality, confidence, and brighter futures for entire families.



*Organic coffee plants being cultivated*

### Rounding Up

Did you know that you can round up all of your everyday purchases to the next dollar and share that spare change with SowHope? It really adds up over time, allowing us to focus on delivering impact. How it works:

1. Scan the QR Code
  2. Enroll your credit card
- That's it! It takes less than 1 minute.  
Thank you for your support!



In a remote region of Indonesia, where patriarchal traditions often limit women to cooking, childcare, and silence in economic decisions, thirty women are rewriting what's possible. They come from many walks of life—indigenous women, with disabilities, farmers, women living with HIV/AIDS,

## MEET SOWHOPE BOARD MEMBER ARNALDO (ARNY) RODRIGUEZ



*Arnaldo (Arny) Rodriguez*

When Arny speaks about SowHope, his admiration is unmistakable. As a longtime business owner who understands what it takes to build something sustainable, he was immediately drawn to SowHope's economic projects when he first attended the fundraising gala in 2016. What stood out most were the microloans—"brilliant," he says, because they allow women to generate their own income, become entrepreneurs, and "meet their needs again and again."

As a father of three daughters, Arny has always emphasized health, strength, knowledge, and financial wisdom to them. The idea that women around the world can gain those same tools through SowHope-funded projects resonates deeply with him. He sees wellness, education, and economic opportunity as "equally important...a triad that are all intertwined with each other," and the stories of women who have succeeded continue to inspire him.

Arny's professional background in staffing, leadership, and business management naturally shapes his contributions. Serving on the SowHope Finance and Human Resources teams, he offers insight to help ensure that the "highest percentage of funds contributed to SowHope go to projects and not in support of overhead and operations." His philosophy is simple and deeply lived: "I'm not successful unless those around me are successful." It's a belief that mirrors SowHope's mission and forms the heart behind his service.

Even with a full life that includes hunting and fishing, he's most happy when he's doing something that lifts someone else up. Contributing to SowHope gives him a sense of purpose that goes far beyond his own interests.

Thank you, Arny, for all you do!

### Tax Advantage: QCDs and RMDs

Donations to SowHope can help reduce taxes.

Beginning at age 70½, you can donate directly from your retirement account by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)—up to \$111,000 per individual—which will be excluded from your federal taxable income.

At age 73, a QCD can be used to satisfy your IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

**You save, and women benefit!**

Please consult your tax advisor for details or call former Board Member Al Longtin, 800-683-2987, and mention SowHope.

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