

Women's Global Education Project

March 2008



Women's Global Education Project

was founded on the idea that everyone is entitled to an education, regardless of gender or economic status.

UNICEF estimates that worldwide, some 117 million school-aged children do not attend school, 62 million of them girls. Attendance rates are lowest in sub-Saharan Africa, where only 57 percent of girls are in school, and just 15 percent of these go on to secondary school.

Women's Global believes that universal education, gender equality and empowerment of women are critical to a society's development. Our mission is to provide access to education and develop training program that empower women and girls to build better lives and foster equitable communities.

Our programs are currently focused on Senegal and Kenya, where we provide scholarships, after-school tutoring, summer school, mentoring, and health education programs to help girls and their families build a brighter economic future for themselves, their communities and our world as a whole.

Sisters to School adds 30 more Kenya scholars

Women's Global Education Project is pleased to announce the addition of 30 more scholars to our *Sisters to School - Kenya* program! This brings our total number of Kenya scholars to 60 elementary and secondary school girls.

Through *Sisters to School*, Women's Global partners with Tharaka Women's Welfare Program in the rural Tharaka district near Mount Kenya to help girls

from the region's neediest families attend and succeed in school.

We also address critical health issues such as malaria prevention and the eradication of female genital mutilation to



remove health-related barriers to girls' access to the education they need to build a brighter future.

"Girls ROCK!"

Women's Global speaks on girls' education for the Chicago Global Donors Network

Women's Global was honored to be part of "Girls Rock: Supporting Girls' Education," a panel on girls' education at the Chicago Global Donors Network fourth annual conference, held at The Chicago Club last Sept. 24-25. Women's Global Board Member Joan Sherman, who teaches international development and the politics of gender at Northwestern University, joined Sarah Bouchie of CARE USA and Caren Yanis of the



Left to right: Women's Global Board Member Joan Sherman, Caren Yanis of the Oprah Winfrey Foundation and Sarah Bouchie of CARE USA

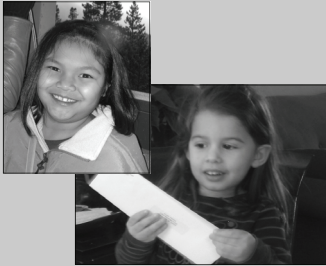
Oprah Winfrey Foundation in presenting how projects for gender equality and girls' education are key to fostering economic development and social change in developing nations.

Meeting our Kenya partners

On a trip to Kenya last year, longtime Women's Global supporter Molly Waite (below left) met Project Coordinator Aniceta Kiriga and learned all about our Kenya programs in person. Molly also hand-delivered items to Aniceta from our U.S. staff, including a donated laptop for Aniceta and our Kenya program. Thank you, Molly!



Shout out to our VOLUNTEERS!



...including our youngest volunteers, 9-year-old Jackie Merced-Ortega (left) and 4-year-old Gia Reid, who began their lifetime of volunteerism by helping with our recent mailings!

Richelle Albrecht
 Natalie Archie
 Malii Brown
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 Sandra Urban
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U.S. State Dept. Boren Fellow Helps Out in Senegal

Women's Global is pleased to have Alison PflEPSen, a David L. Boren Fellow with the U.S. State Department, working with us in Senegal! Alison will be with us for six months, working with our partner organization UDEN on program development and evaluation and on networking with potential partners and funders. Alison has a master's degree in development management and international education, served in Senegal with the Peace Corps, and has worked with several African NGOs.

Senegal Scholar Spotlight: Fatou Sarr

Boren Fellow Alison PflEPSen has met many of our 65 scholars and 40 after-school tutees during her time in Senegal. Here, she shares her conversation with 12-year-old Fatou Sarr, who comes from a very poor family but sees a brighter future for them because she is able to go to school.



Alison: How has the scholarship helped you?

Fatou: Before I would have to get up at 5 am and walk four kilometers to get to the school. I also had difficulty buying materials and supplies for school. The scholarship allows me to board with a family close to the school so I don't have to walk so far, and my school fees and supplies are taken care of.

The after-school tutoring has also helped me excel in school, especially in math, which is my favorite subject because I am good at it!

Alison: What are your dreams and goals for the future?

Fatou: I would like to become a nurse and help my family be able to buy things and have a better future!



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: The \$10 Club

Is it really possible to save the world just by giving up a couple lattes at Starbucks, buying a cheaper bottle of wine, or forgoing a night at the movies? That's the idea behind The \$10 Club, a community of individuals who each donates \$10 every month to be pooled together to fund poverty alleviation projects around the world.

Since being founded in 2002, The \$10 Club has raised \$138,000 to fund nearly 60 projects in 48 developing nations!

Last October, 372 members of The \$10 Club

joined together to donate \$3,720 to Women's Global for our *Sisters-to-School* Senegal program. This funding will support our elementary and secondary school scholars in Senegal with their school fees, books, knapsacks, notebooks, pens, pencils, and personal health supplies.

Women's Global would like to thank The \$10 Club for their support of our sustainable programs for girls' education in Senegal!

For more information about The \$10 Club, visit www.thetendollarclub.org.

Thanksgiving Fund awards \$25,000 to Women's Global!

Women's Global would like to thank the Thanksgiving Fund for their generous grant of \$25,000!

The Thanksgiving Fund is a donor-advised fund of the American Endowment Foundation dedicated to fostering change and progress in collaboration with organizations like Women's Global whose impact is designed to support individuals and communities in the creative resolution of the root causes of the issues they face.

THANK YOU TO OUR RECENT DONORS! Sept.—Dec. 2007

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Special Thanks!

Women's Global thanks IBM for their donation of two laptops through their OnDemand Community Program. IBM also recently announced its Global Citizen's Portfolio, a broad effort in partnership with non-governmental organizations to place employees in developing nations to build relationships and work on some of the world's toughest problems, such as enhancing global economic opportunity and access to education resources, and which includes an emphasis on supporting the role of women in the economic development of Africa.

Women's Global also thanks retired Oakton Community College Professor of Political Science Bill Taylor, who donated a new laptop for our Senegal program and asked friends and colleagues to donate their used laptops to us. Bill first heard about Women's Global two years ago when we were featured on Chicago Public Radio global affairs show *Worldview*. After host Jerome McDonnell promoted our 2007 fundraiser, Bill decided to attend—and got hooked on girls' education. Since then, Bill has become a class sponsor and joined our advisory board. Many thanks also to Connie Porteus who donated a laptop for our Kenya program through Bill.



Thank you, Troop 255!

Girl Scout Troop 255 of Evanston, Illinois, held a 5-kilometer walk as a service project to raise \$750 for Women's Global! It was a great way for the girls to raise awareness about the importance of girls' education. Thank you!



The Kenya Elections Crisis:
Letter from Aniceta Kiriga
Women's Global Kenya Project Coordinator

I would like to thank everyone for your concern for our safety here in Kenya during the elections crisis.

We are thankful that here in Tharaka we were mostly untouched by the violence. Except for students who go to school in one of the affected areas, we have been able to go about our normal business in the community. But we have been sorely grieved at the atrocities that have claimed the lives of so many of our fellow Kenyans. We have been very sad to see Kenya divided so violently by these riots and to

see so many homes burned and so many families and communities torn apart, especially in the Nairobi area, the towns of Kisumu and Eldoret, and the Rift Valley.

As I write to you, I am happy to report that the situation has cooled down a little, and that life in Kenya is starting to go back to normal. Both the government and the opposition have told their constituents to stop the riots and not to seek revenge. Strong police forces patrol the affected towns and roads to allow schools and businesses to reopen and to allow displaced families to begin traveling back home.

Hopefully, the worst of this crisis is over so that Kenya can begin to rebuild.

More than ever, I believe in the importance of our work here in Kenya to promote education and to build a more peaceful society. Through education, we are able to bring people from different ethnic backgrounds together to learn from one another and to begin to break down the barriers that divide. Education exposes our youth to people from different backgrounds and gives them ways to work together for the common good. Education gives people tools to build a better future for their families. Education gives people hope.

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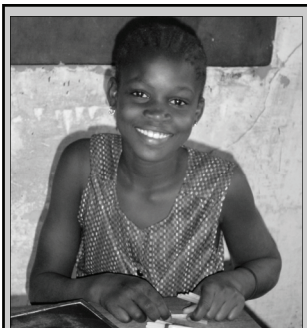
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