

# WFWP, USA

Where American women meet the world.



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## Inspirational Women



"Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose."

Helen Keller  
(1880-1968)  
American writer and activist

Women working together  
to establish a culture of heart  
in the family, community and world  
in order to achieve genuine and sustainable peace  
under God



Dear WFWP,

Greetings! As we enter into the fall season, our WFWP chapters are going full-force into the annual benefit season in support of our Schools of Africa. This year our goal is to raise \$50,000 for our schools in Uganda, Kenya, Mozambique,

Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea and Rwanda. Please contact your local WFWP representative for more details on how to get involved with these benefits.

In this issue, we cover our activities at the Global Peace Festival kickoff in Washington, DC and our partnership with the Communities of Peace Foundation for their Children's Cloth of Many Colors project. We also have a report from Poppy Richie, the chaperone for our Youth Trip to Zambia, a report on a medical service project in Mozambique and a report on the International Day of Peace in Houston after Hurricane Ike. From our 1% Love Share Series we have an article on Life on a North Korean Farm.

All our programs and projects are possible due to the active participation of our members. We thank you for your continued support as we work to achieve genuine and sustainable peace through creating a culture of heart and service in our families, the U.S. and the world.



## WFWP and the Global Peace Festival 2008



Women's Federation for World Peace, USA was a partner in the Global Peace Festival in Washington, DC, on August 9, 2008. Billed as the largest interfaith and

WFWP, USA  
ENews Staff  
Laura Hornbeck  
Editor  
Tamami Kawamura  
Layout Editor



multicultural event ever held in Washington DC, it brought thousands of people to the Capitol lawn for music, dance, and uplifting addresses from dignitaries.

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## The Children's Cloth of Many Colors

WFWP had the unique opportunity over the summer to involve children in our vision and activities, with a delightful result. We partnered with Communities of Peace, an organization based in Virginia, to invite children nationwide to participate in the Children's Cloth of Many Colors project. WFWP leaders and members worked with approximately 100 children to create more than sixty beautiful squares for this project.

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## WFWP Youth Service Trip to Zambia



For the second summer in a row, young women from WFWP, USA traveled to Africa to lend a hand of service. This July, five young women - Jamie Carroll, Jhiye Lascari, Jessica Mackin, Steffanie Lascari and Young Mi Ashworth - and their chaperone, Mrs. Poppy

Richie, embarked on an unforgettable journey to Zambia.

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## WFWP Houston Celebrates the UN International Day of Peace in the Wake of Hurricane Ike

After sweeping across the Gulf of Mexico and killing several hundred people, Hurricane Ike struck the United States on Friday night, September 12, 2008. Galveston Island was devastated and parts of Houston saw serious



damage. The loss of property was staggering, but the loss of human life was mercifully less than feared.



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## WFWPI Mozambique: Medical Service Project 2008

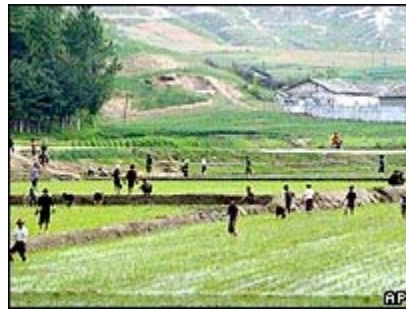


After working in Mozambique for 14 years, Akiko Hozan was diagnosed with cancer and was forced to take personal medical leave. She returned to her home town of Tokushima, Japan, for treatment. While there, she exemplified the adage, "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade."



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## 1% Love Share Series: Life on a North Korean Farm



In 2001, WFWP International and WFWP Korea started the North Korea One Percent Love Sharing Project. This is an effort to contribute to the realization of true world peace by building a foundation for the unification of North and South Korea. It asks participants to set aside 1000

won (less than 1 USD) every month to help the needy, starting with those in North Korea.

WFWP-USA members are encouraged to send in donations for this project to the US headquarters in order to save on bank charges. There is a minimum requirement of \$12 for the year. As part of this program we include in our ENewsletter an article about life in North Korea. We hope you will actively join and lead this unique program of WFWP, in which we can truly put into practice living for others and warm the hearts of our brothers and sisters in North Korea.

[Read on about Life on a North Korean Farm](#)

Until next time...

Sincerely,

WFWP ENews



## WFWP, USA and the Children's Cloth of Many Colors

Women's Federation for World Peace Participation

Summer 2008

Reported by Gwenn Bair

WFWP had the unique opportunity over the summer to involve children in our vision and activities, with a delightful result. We partnered with Communities of Peace, an organization based in Virginia, to invite children nationwide to participate in the *Children's Cloth of Many Colors* project. WFWP leaders and members worked with approximately 100 children to create more than sixty beautiful squares for this project.



### Project Description

The Mission Statement of Communities of Peace is: "To provide a format for people to identify themselves as peacemakers at the earliest possible age, a means to evoke each person's intrinsic nature, and a platform for participants to contribute their unique positive contributions of peace into the community." Communities of Peace was founded by Gerry Eitner, an Ambassador of Peace and friend of WFWP.

One of the projects of Communities of Peace is the *Children's Cloth of Many Colors*. This gigantic "quilt" created out of the hearts of children was conceived in 2000. Each child or group of children was asked to make a 36 by 36 inch cloth square, designed to convey the idea of peace. They were asked, "What would peace look like? What would peace on earth be like for you?" The squares were to be displayed in varying configurations at public places and events, making a huge work of art.

The quilt is now about 1/3 mile long. Thousands of children, from 23 countries and many states, have participated. Children from camps, scouts, schools, Boys and Girls clubs, embassies, neighborhoods, and orphanages have added their pieces.

### WFWP's Participation

When we heard of the project, Women's Federation for World Peace USA noted that the *Children's Cloth of Many Colors* fits nicely into our own vision and mission of establishing a culture of heart under God. Gwenn Bair, WFWP District Coordinator for Ohio, coordinated the project, with the intention of displaying cloth pieces from children throughout America at the



August 9<sup>th</sup> Global Peace Festival at the Capital Building lawn in Washington DC.

WFWP leaders and other volunteers quickly got on board and organized children of all ages to work on the quilt. Summer was a great time to work on this project because of the abundance of summer camp programs going on. Instead of just doing craft projects for fun, now the kids could do a craft project with the component of service to others, knowing their work could have an impact on many people.

### Children imagining peace bring sweet results



The project was met with great enthusiasm by the young people who took part in it, from ages five to seventeen. They had a lot of fun working together, making something so beautiful and meaningful. A child imagining peace brings very sweet results. Kathleen Sometani of Chicago wrote, "The children were all excited to be part of something that was bigger than themselves."

Betsy Bonini of the Pocono Family Camp wrote: "We finished three pieces of the quilt. One quilt with

hand prints and felt hearts was done by the special needs children. The second one was done by the youngest kids at camp. It shows footprints leading to a beautiful dove with a branch between them. The last was done at our art cabin. I hung them the night of the talent show and had everyone do a moment of Peace Meditation so the quilt would be full of peace!"

Robin Ashley of Chesapeake, Virginia, organized a few families of her young son's friends to join in "painting party" at her home. Robin said, "All the moms were so inspired that they want to have another painting party with the theme of peace." Robin would like to see all churches organize their children to make more pieces for the quilt. "They loved working on it."

WFWP in Seattle Washington had outstanding participation and completed 24 cloth pieces. They put a tremendous amount of work into it, and had a gratifying experience. Friederike Buczyk, WFWP chairwoman for the State of Washington, with the help of Eva Maria Taylor and Julie Bridges, organized the children of Camp Tongil and the SiView Community Center Summer Camp. Friederike also organized three families from the Providence Hospitality House to work on the





project. This organization helps families in transition to permanent housing. Sara, from the staff, reported, "We had a great time talking about peace, drawing our thoughts and discussing what we drew with each other. Thank you for giving us this opportunity."



### Thanks to all our participants

A lot of time and effort went into each piece of cloth, as the project leaders in each state will attest to. The requirements were for each cloth to have a backing sewn onto it. Quite a few ladies burnt the midnight oil on their sewing machines and by hand to complete the project by the deadline of August 1.

WFWP Headquarters would sincerely like to thank each and each child who participated in the Children's Cloth of Many Colors project. A colorful sampling of the squares was displayed on the stage of the Global Peace Festival on August 9<sup>th</sup>, held up by international young people dressed in their cultural attire. This was a visual expression of the universal innocence of children and their desire for peace. We are grateful they had this opportunity to make a small contribution to peace in this way.

### Comments from our project partner

Communities of Peace founder Gerry Eitner writes:

"It was a great pleasure to partner with the Women's Fed organization in anticipation of the August 9<sup>th</sup> Global Peace Festival in Washington DC. The combination of the protective love of the mother and the pure, innocent love of children represented in the Children's Cloth of Many Colors is a powerful one. Women's Fed instinctually understood this!

I appreciated the immediate response, the clarity of execution, and the thoughtfulness of all who were involved. Special thanks go to Alexa Ward and Gwenn Bair, who made this an exceptional partnering experience!"





## WFWP and the Global Peace Festival

August 9, 2008

Women's Federation for World Peace, USA was a partner in the Global Peace Festival in Washington, DC, on August 9, 2008. Billed as the largest interfaith and multicultural event ever held in Washington DC, it brought thousands of people to the Capitol lawn for music, dance, and uplifting addresses from dignitaries.



Grammy winners Yolanda Adams, David Phelps, and Latin singer Juan Fernando Velasco delivered high-quality entertainment, along with local church and youth choirs. Native American and Hispanic dancers kept up the lively pace.

WFWP members worked with festival organizers to gather women from the DC area and around the country, including educators, businesswomen, and former legislators. Norma Foster, long-time UN Association leader in Los Angeles, attended with several guests representing UN-affiliated organizations, such as the United Nations World Food Program and the UN High Commission for Human Rights.



*Children's Cloth of Many Colors*

Interfaith representatives hosted by WFWP included women from the Islamic Relief organization; Brahma Kumaris; Vedanta Interfaith Society; and the Vipassana Meditation Society.

As profiled in another article in this issue, the Children's Cloth of Many Colors, a project of WFWP and Communities of Peace, was a



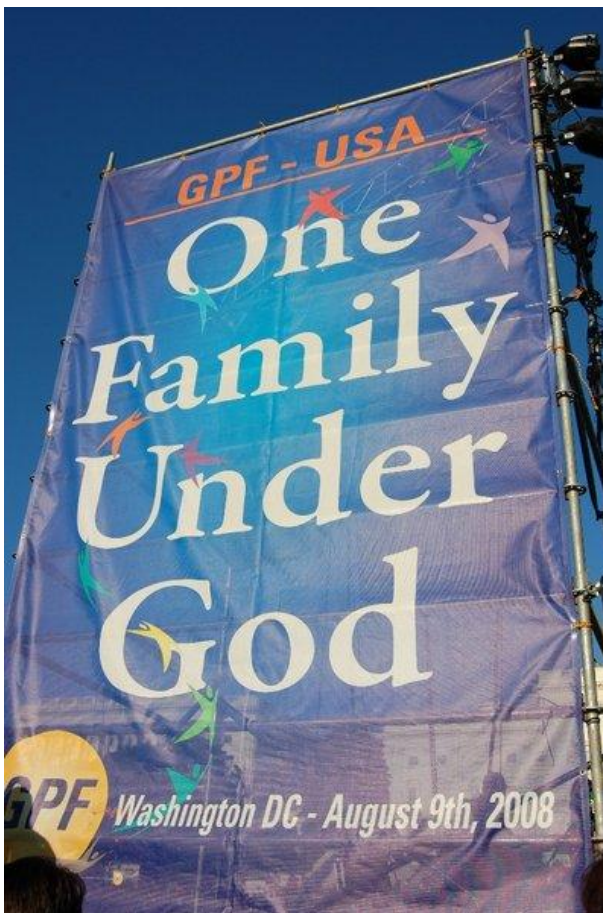
highlight of the festival.

Prior to the festival, more than 242 partner agencies organized a Day of Service throughout the DC area. This was part of the initiative called, “A Million Acts of Service and Kindness,” conceived by the Points of Light Institute, a founding partner of the GPF.



The Day of Service activities included outdoor cleanup at senior housing projects, invasive plant removal in various public parks, and teen education on AIDS prevention.

“Our message is that it is not just governments who are going to bring peace,” says volunteer Somiya Chapman, from New York. “Peace depends more on the kind of people we are.”



“A Million Acts of Service and Kindness,” is collecting testimonies from people telling about small, daily acts of service or kindness. It is a simple activity designed to elevate daily acts of goodness to the status they deserve, as well as to illustrate how these acts are the “glue” of society that we all depend on.

The website of WFWP, USA ([www.wfwp.us](http://www.wfwp.us)) offers a place to record your acts of service and kindness, or go to [www.millionacts.org](http://www.millionacts.org).

The goal of the Global Peace Festival is to promote the awareness that all people are part of “One Family Under God.” With



*Thousands gathered on the Capitol lawn for the Global Peace Festival*

that rallying cry, participants were told that the United States must play a leadership role as a model of inter-religious harmony.

WFWP, USA President, Alexa Ward, stated, “This message harkens back to what made America great: the fundamental ethos, principles and values etched in the words of the Declaration of Independence; recognizing the sovereignty of God. We all have a common heritage from God, and our true human rights come from God.”

The rostrum of speakers at the festival included Bishop Jim and Pastor Debye Swilley from *Church in the Now* of Atlanta, as well as civil rights leaders Dr. Joseph Lowery and Dr. William Fauntroy. Dr. Lowery was one



of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s closest aides, and he reminded the crowd of another great gathering in Washington 45 years ago. In August 1963, Dr. King delivered his immortal message, “I have a dream,” at the nation’s capital. Dr. Lowery declared that it was time to become One Family Under

God and make Dr. King's dream a reality.

Members of the audience were inspired by the messages and the inter-ethnic unity of the event.

Here are some of the testimonies from WFWP participants:



Margaret Buhrmaster,  
Saratoga Springs, NY  
Former New York state  
legislator and former  
Director of Health Care  
Reform for New York

One person really can make a difference! That is a lesson I learned from my parents and have practiced all of my life, but never has it been as obvious to me as that August afternoon in Washington DC. As I sat there surrounded by thousands of smiling people representing all ages, colors, cultures, religions, professional and economic diversities, I realized that each one of us is making a difference in our own way. We are learning how to share our differences and discover our common goals. And, on that very special day, "the silent majority" who are so often ignored, came together with one voice and spoke to the rest of the world.

*Margaret Buhrmaster from upstate New York*

Another testimony:

Being a part of the Global Peace Festival was truly an honor and an inspiration. It was amazing to see so many people of such diverse backgrounds and faith join together with the shared mission of World Peace, and to see so many of our youth involved in community service projects such as A Million Acts of Service & Kindness and the beautiful work of the Children's Cloth of Many Colors. It was a day filled with hope, peace and prayer that moved my heart and inspired my soul!

*Joanne Watkins from Connecticut*



Joanne Watkins,  
Connecticut  
Businesswoman,  
film producer and  
volunteer leader for  
American Red  
Cross

The Global Peace Festival is an ongoing effort around the world, with a total of 18 countries planning festivals in 2008. They promote compassion, family and peace, and work through the "Million Acts" initiative to further the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals, which address poverty, hunger, education, equality, health, the environment, and development for all the world's peoples. For more information, go to [www.globalpeacefestival.org](http://www.globalpeacefestival.org)

*Report compiled by Laura Hornbeck*



## Houston WFWP Celebrates International Day of Peace in Wake of Hurricane Ike



*Woman surveys damage  
in her Galveston  
neighborhood after  
Hurricane Ike*

After sweeping across the Gulf of Mexico and killing several hundred people, Hurricane Ike struck the United States on Friday night, September 12, 2008. Galveston Island was devastated and parts of Houston saw serious damage. The loss of property was staggering, but the loss of human life was mercifully less than feared.

Joy Theriot, the Houston WFWP Chapter leader, had evacuated the city with her family before the storm hit. They drove to the Dallas area and stayed with a friend. Joy and her husband, John, were grateful when they learned that their home had been spared major damage, but the storm left a huge swath of destruction that prevented them from returning right away. Electricity was out in many areas; roads were clogged with flood debris; and the streets of downtown Houston were covered with broken glass from windows blown out from high rise office buildings. The Theriots and their four children were forced to stay away from their home for over a week.



*Flooded Interstate exit*



*Glass from broken  
office windows,  
downtown Houston*

Joy was worried about the WFWP Houston meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, in observance of the United Nations' International Day of Peace. An interfaith Prayer for Peace had been planned at the Gloryland Missionary Baptist Church, together with the Universal Peace Federation of Houston. Yet she had to wonder whether it would be impossible to observe the Day of Peace, now that Ike had done his damage.

Watching news reports from Mrs. Kimie Stana's house in north Texas, Joy and her family decided not to sit helplessly but to organize a relief effort from their "command post." They created flyers and contacted local grocery stores, businesses and churches to get food donations. Through their church friends in Houston, Joy and John learned of neighborhoods that had not yet received help from anyone, and many people were growing desperate. John met a man with the Southern Baptist Convention, who put him in touch with executive organizers of the Red Cross. The Red Cross took the addresses John gave them, but they couldn't promise how soon relief might arrive.



*Joy Theriot (right) serving meals  
with her daughter in Houston  
after International Day of Peace  
service*

On Friday, September 20, Joy left Dallas with her family, determined to organize the Houston Day of Peace event, no matter what. As they reached the outskirts of Houston, they

received a call from Rev. Bennit Hayes, pastor of the Gloryland Baptist Church, stating that the Red Cross had just delivered a truck full of 13,900 ready-to-eat meals to his church parking lot! The Theriots took a detour by Gloryland to assist Rev. Hayes in handing out the boxes to hungry families waiting in line.



*John Theriot hoisting a box of ready-to-eat meals from Red Cross trailer*

The next day, the International Day of Peace prayer ceremony was held in the Gloryland sanctuary. Without any electricity for air conditioning in the hot humid climate, using candles for light, more than eighty people gathered at Rev. Hayes' church to pray for peace. With utmost sincerity, those in attendance

celebrated their blessings and thanked God for the limited loss of life from the storm.



*Joy Theriot speaking at International Day of Peace service*

After the event, the participants worked with a group called Christian Disaster Response ([www.cdresponse.org](http://www.cdresponse.org)) to serve several hundred meals, and gave out baby diapers and other critical items to the community. Even in the wake of a terrible storm, peace can be found when people help one another. Members of the Houston WFWP were glad they could be there to serve others during some of their city's darkest days.

*Based on a report from John Theriot*

## Vision Restored to Dozens in Mozambique

Thanks to WFP Medical Service Project  
Summer 2008



*Background information: Mozambique, on the southeastern coast of Africa, is one of the poorest countries in the world. The end of Portuguese colonial rule in 1975 brought an era of socialism, chaos and civil war. Finally in 1994 general elections were held and the Republic of Mozambique was born.*

*Project Director Akiko Hozan and several volunteers, dispatched by WFP-Japan, entered Mozambique that year. They launched a middle school program in Beira, the second-largest city of Mozambique.*

*Starting with 44 students in 1995, the school is currently serving more than 640 students. The **Sun of Mozambique Secondary School** now educates students all the way through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.*

After working in Mozambique for 14 years, Akiko Hozan was diagnosed with cancer and was forced to take personal medical leave.



She returned to her home town of



Tokushima, Japan, for treatment. While there, she exemplified the adage, “When life hands you lemons, make lemonade.”

During her treatment, Akiko met Professor Naito at the Tokushima University Medical School. For several years, this man had been traveling annually to Nepal with a team of eye doctors to provide free treatment. Recognizing a compassionate individual when she sees one and knowing that only about six eye doctors per million people work in Mozambique, Akiko asked the professor and his colleague, Dr. Arai, to see what they could do to help people there.

Obviously impressed by Akiko’s dedication, Professor Naito and his group officially established the *Association for Ophthalmic Support in Africa* in May of 2008. With this legal status, they became eligible for financial donations and necessary surgical supplies.



Akiko corresponded with the Mozambique Minister of Health and he suggested the Cabo Delgado province, which has no eye doctor at all, as the site of their first project. Located in the north on the border with Tanzania, Cabo Delgado has a population of 1,630,000. The minister made arrangements with the Mueda Rural Hospital for the eye surgeries.



The village of Mueda is famous as the site of a massacre by Portuguese forces in 1960, which spurred the fight for independence. The region is also noted for beautiful carved ebony products by the local Maconde tribe.

Akiko went to Mueda in the spring of 2008 to arrange for this first-ever eye surgery project by Japanese doctors. There she took possession of a specialized surgical microscope which had been airlifted from Japan. Finally in June, Professor Naito, Dr. Arai, and Assistant Professor Nagasawa from Tokushima University arrived in Mozambique.

The doctors immediately went to work interviewing prospective patients, but out of 109 people who had been chosen from neighboring villages, only 47 were determined to have a chance at sight restoration.

There are various causes of eyesight deterioration, but a common one in Africa is malnutrition, which causes the nerves of the eye to atrophy. Once this happens, there is no surgical way to restore vision. The only patients who could be treated by the Japanese doctors were those with cataracts, removable with a simple operation. The others, 62 in all, had to return to their homes without hope of vision restoration.



Using the surgical microscope, the three doctors performed cataract operations using replacement lenses donated by medical equipment



companies in Japan. These expensive, high quality lenses are expected to last for fifty years. The doctors began their surgeries at 9:00 each morning, and for three days they worked straight through until 5:00 in the afternoon, without taking lunch breaks.

The hard work was worth it when, the day after their operations some of the patients were wild with joy, saying, “I can see children playing ball outside!” Akiko and the doctors were very moved by the passionate appreciation of the villagers. However, their happiness was tinged with apprehension since there are no eye doctors to provide follow-up care, if it is needed.

Amazingly, there is no running water or electricity at the Mueda Rural Hospital, which relies on generators and rainwater, so Akiko purchased enough diesel fuel for the generators. The doctors couldn’t take a shower or shave for an entire week.

After the eye surgeries, Akiko drove the doctors in a rented car out of the mountain village of Mueda and down to Pemba, a beautiful city by the emerald green ocean. The doctors were delighted to come back to a modern city after experiencing the primitive life of Mueda.



Later they went to the capital city of Maputo and gave a PowerPoint presentation about their medical service project to Japanese Ambassador Miki. He invited them to dinner at the embassy, where they discussed eye treatment issues with Mrs. Yolanda, director of the Mozambique Department of Eye Medical Treatment.

Roughly \$3,000 was spent on each cataract patient, with a total cost of about \$141,000. It is clear that the success of this project lies with cooperation among the two governments, the private sector, and WFWP-Mozambique. The Association for Ophthalmic Support in Africa intends to continue this project every year. Along with the support of WFWP, USA and others, a brighter future is hoped for the people of Mozambique. And odds are very good that Akiko Hozan will continue to make lemonade out of lemons at every opportunity.

## **WFWPI 1% Love Share Project**

In 2001, WFWP International and WFWP Korea started the North Korea One Percent Love Sharing Project. This is an effort to contribute to the realization of true world peace by building a foundation for the unification of North and South Korea. It asks participants to set aside 1000 won (less than 1 USD) every month to help the needy, starting with those in North Korea.

US WFWP members are encouraged to send in donations for this project to the US headquarters in order to save on bank charges. There is a minimum requirement of \$12 for the year. As part of this program we include in our ENewsletter an article about life in North Korea. We hope you will actively join and lead this unique program of WFWP, in which we can truly put into practice living for others and warm the hearts of our brothers and sisters in North Korea.

### **Life in a North Korean Farming Village**

Jaesung Lee

Peace Women Magazine

Volume 55, Autumn 2007

Autumn, the season of ‘high skies and plump horses’ is really here. However, the fields of North Korea, which should already be colored with gold, seems to be gloomier than ever due to the flood damage this summer (Autumn 2007). In spite of this, North Korea has recently been striving to increase its agricultural production.

### **Collective farms are 90% of total cultivated land**



In North Korea, most farming is done collectively. From August 1953 until August 1958, the agriculture cooperation policy began to include farmers in a cooperative union formed by villages. From that time on, individual farmers no longer possessed the land that they farmed. Later on, these units were combined to ‘ri’ units, and its name was changed to “cooperative farms” in 1962.

At present, there are over 3000 cooperative farms in North Korea. This makes up approximately 90% of the total cultivated land in North Korea. The rest is owned by the state.



An average 350-400 families work on each of the farms. The number of union members on each farm ranges from 700 to 900. These families and union members are divided into 15 to 20 different working groups that manage the various types of agriculture and livestock.



### **More pay than in the cities**

Although the work is hard, the income is quite surprising. The monthly average income of Cheongsan cooperative farm workers is 40,000 won, which is eight times more than the living expenses (5,000 won) of office workers in Pyongyang. Also, it is two to three times more than factory workers (15-20,000).

### **Information-oriented agriculture to increase productivity**

The North Korea government initiated agricultural improvement programs in order raise the food production to 8 million tons by 2007. Improvements were made in eight areas including: crop arrangement, breeding, farming techniques, thinning out vegetables for the right kind of soil, efficient use of chemical fertilizer, raising soil fertility, establishing a science technology supply system in farm villages, and correcting production plans. About 30 scientists and specialists in the areas of ecology and environment protection, forestry and land development areas gathered and worked directly at the sites.



The National Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology is in charge of a land arrangement project. This project started in Gangwon-do in September 1998, Pyonganbuk-do in 1999, and then Hwanghaenam-do in 2000. It has subsequently been promoted in Pyongyang, Nampo, and Pyeongannam-do from March 2002. When the land arrangement project is finished, the government hopes that the new agricultural land will be energized. Canal construction and irrigation improvements are also actively supported by the government.

These projects are needed in order for the North to maximize their agricultural productivity and break away from financial difficulties resulting from the flood damage earlier in the year.

## Second Annual WFWP, USA Youth Service to Africa Zambian Soy Nutrition Project



For the second summer in a row, young women from WFWP, USA traveled to Africa to lend a hand of service. This July, five young women – Jamie Carroll, Jhiye Lascari, Jessica Mackin, Steffanie Lascari and Young Mi Ashworth - and their chaperone, Mrs. Poppy Richie, embarked on an unforgettable journey to Zambia.



*Back Row: Poppy Richie, Jessica Mackin, Steffanie Lascari, Jaime Carroll, Jhiye Lascari, and seated is Young Mi Ashworth is seated in the center.*

The primary focus of this trip was to help the WFWP Soy Nutrition Project in a joint effort with a Japanese team of four women. The founder of this project, Mrs. Kimura, was the project leader. She organized other activities as well, including a service visit to a hospice; a tour of the main hospital in Lusaka; a visit to a neighborhood medical clinic; a visit to the US Embassy and USAID; and an opportunity to meet many NGOs at the annual agricultural fair in downtown Lusaka.

The Soy Nutrition Project is an outstanding example of what a few women can do to make life bearable for others who are suffering. It began in Zambia in 1994 with the provision of soybean powder for malnourished children under five years old. At that time, Mrs. Kimura, a nutritionist and WFP member, came from Japan to set up nutrition guidance classes and distribution of soybean powder at medical clinics in Lusaka, the capital city.



Mrs. Kimura has continued all these years to work with doctors and nurses to carry out this project. More than 15,000 children have been helped through this service.

The WFP volunteers visited and worked at two different clinics. Their responsibilities included holding the beautiful Zambian babies and weighing them, which the young women especially enjoyed. They also charted the weight of each baby. They learned to make soybean vegetable porridge and distributed soybean powder to the mothers.



The program is not yet 100% effective in helping babies gain enough weight, so Mrs. Kimura is planning to create a home visitation program to further educate young mothers. However, part of the problem is poverty and the inability of mothers to buy enough good food to feed their families.

The young women then went on to work at the nearby Ballastone School, doing spackling and painting with supplies donated by WFP. Some of the students



who had just begun their summer break got inspired to join in.



Poppy Richie, the chaperone, presented a set of character education curriculum books, which she co-authored, entitled *Discovering the Real Me*. She also trained teachers at the school how to use the books in their classes.

The interns presented a lesson from one of the books to a group of children as part of their service to the school. Finally, WFWP donated scholarships for two orphans whose families couldn't afford to send them next year to the school.

One unplanned service project happened as a result of a chance meeting with a man named Mr. Kalumba, who had founded an organization serving orphans in a very poor section of Lusaka. He invited the WFWP women to speak to a gathering of about 60-70 children. They shared in the singing and dancing, and they spoke in support of the message, which was HIV awareness. They also were able to give out gifts they had brought from the U.S., mostly school supplies. The children were very happy that young women had come all the way from America to spend time with them!

None of the women had ever been to Africa before. They learned a lot about Zambian culture, and were saddened by the widespread poverty. As one of the world's poorest nations, Zambian life expectancy is only 37 years. HIV affects 17% of the population. The infant mortality rate is 102 deaths for every 1,000 births, and malaria is still a serious health problem. Government services are few, with no garbage collection, poor quality roads, and virtually no plumbing or electricity. Even if an area has electricity, there are blackouts every night.





Conditions at the local hospital were most shocking to the visitors. It was dirty and crowded with very little sanitation or equipment.

Many Zambian children don't have access to education and have to work to support their families. Young school-aged children are seen helping their parents at roadside family businesses -- little shacks selling produce, clothing, and other things.

In spite of all these hardships, the people of Zambia get through it somehow. They are busy, walking everywhere, dressed in bright colors, trying to make the best of the situation they were born into. The Americans said, "We enjoyed meeting the Zambian people, and we learned about the importance of keeping hope alive, even in the midst of such poverty."

The interns, all young women between the ages of 17 and 23, expressed sympathy for the people they met. However, the girls were impressed by the Zambians' strong sense of community and how friendly everyone was. By contrast, they commented on how unfriendly Americans often are.



In summary, they said, “Perhaps we Americans can learn something from this nation. We all felt so welcomed and appreciated in Zambia, and are grateful to WFP for organizing this wonderful opportunity to serve in Africa!”

*From a report written by Poppy Richie*

