

Schools of Africa Project WFWP, USA Benefits for 2009



Since 2001, WFWP, USA has been financially supporting schools in seven countries in Africa. These schools are located in Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, and Uganda. WFWP, USA has raised more than \$250,000 for these schools.



Equatorial Guinea students



Rwanda

Among the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) established by the United Nations in 2000, is Goal Number Two: ***To Achieve Universal Primary Education***. This MDG aims to ensure that all children complete a full course of primary education. School enrollment in Sub-Saharan Africa continues to be the lowest in the world, so WFWP supports the second Millennium Development Goal through the schools it maintains in Africa.

The 2009 benefit season ran from November 2009 until the end of February 2010. Benefits were held around the country and included such programs as dinner dances; a fashion show; African drumming; poetry readings; raffles; and silent auctions.

In Dallas in November, an international buffet and entertainment, a raffle and silent auction was attended by about forty guests and WFWP members. In the San Francisco Bay Area, one hundred and ten people came to the November 8th dinner and dance.



Dallas, TX benefit



Washington, DC benefit

Among the eighty guests at the Washington, DC, benefit on December 12th was the Mozambique Ambassador Amelia Matos Sumbana. A thank-you letter was read from the founder of the WFWP School in Mozambique, Mrs. Akiko Hozan.

Columbus, Ohio held their benefit in December also. Their program included a fashion show, as well as a lesson in African head-wrapping. The Westchester County, New York chapter held a luncheon in December that included a silent auction and a talk given by WFWP, USA President Alexa Ward.

In Milwaukee on February 27, guests enjoyed a buffet and presentation about WFWP's activities. The preliminary total for the season of benefits is slightly more than \$36,000, with some results still coming in.



Columbus, OH benefit



Westchester County, NY benefit



Editor's Note:

As editor of the WFWP ENewsletter for the past 3 ½ years, I have learned a lot about the vast reach of our organization. To write an article about, for instance, a WFWP eye-surgery project in **Mozambique**, one must do background research on the history of that country and the women who traveled there in 1994 to establish WFWP's activities. (Click here for article: [MZMedProject.pdf](#))

Or here in the USA, in reporting on the **Columbus, Ohio** chapter's adoption of an immigrant family from Burma, I learned about the suffering of that land. WFWP members took responsibility for a destitute family of four and today it is a thriving family of five. The parents asked WFWP members to name their new addition, so baby Luke joins his siblings, who are in school. His parents are now employed and all are making the most of the opportunities of our great country. (Click here for article: [Ohio Adopts A Family.pdf](#))

WFWP has held **Bridge of Peace Sisterhood Ceremonies** throughout America bringing women together across the boundaries of ethnicity, religion, (and even politics)! WFWP has sponsored local service projects, including outreach to the victims of **Hurricane Ike** in the Galveston area, Cheryl Honey's Family Support Network in **Seattle**. (Click here for article: [CherylHoney.pdf](#)) We have reported on literacy programs, glittering galas at the United Nations and Washington, DC, youth service programs to Haiti, Kenya, and Zambia, an International Women's Peace Conference in Dallas, and too many other activities to mention here.

I urge you to visit the WFWP, USA website: www.wfwp.us and click on the "**Archives**" heading. All ENewsletters since 2005 are there and you, too, can be amazed at the depth and scope of our WFWP activities. I have been honored to work closely with former WFWP President Alexa Ward and her staff in Bridgeport, and I've been inspired by Alexa's quiet determination to lead this organization "**One Step Higher**" each year.

As you will read in this issue, WFWP, USA leadership has changed. Headquarters offices have moved to New York City and a great new, energetic beginning is at hand. Angelika Selle has great talent and heart, and she will lead this national organization to even greater accomplishments. My focus now will be writing articles for the website rather than creating a bi-monthly ENewsletter, so keep checking the website for the latest information. Thank you for reading our ENews, and thank you for your own efforts to make this a better world!

Bringing Relief to Haiti

by Evelyne Drake, WFWP Tampa Director

[Editor's Note: Beginning in the summer of 2008, WFWP, USA volunteers went to Haiti to participate in service projects, along with volunteers from the International Relief Friendship Foundation (IRFF). That year, they painted a high school in Port-au-Prince and helped a medical project in Cap-Haitian. In the summer of 2009, they helped with a tree planting project in a rural area, as well as with medical assistance activities. Sadly the devastating earthquake of January 2010 destroyed the school in Port-au-Prince previously restored by WFWP volunteers.]

Evelyne Drake, WFWP Tampa chapter leader, a native of Haiti, was the motivating force behind WFWP's Haitian service projects. Desperate to do something for her native land, she traveled there in February with a team from the Christian Disaster Response. Following is Evelyne's report:]



Evelyne Drake, L, stands next to Cap-Haitian Mayor Fritz Joseph, June 2009

I left Miami on Monday, February 1st, together with Dr. Ron Patterson, executive director of Christian Disaster Response, and fourteen volunteer doctors and nurses who were giving two weeks of their time to help victims of the earthquake. My main role was as a translator for the team.



To get to Haiti, we first had to fly into the Dominican Republic and then travel by car for seven hours. At the Haitian border, we were met by Lunise Perard, secretary to the mayor of the city of Cap-Haitian, who helped us gain entry into the country. After we paid for our exit visas from the Dominican Republic, Ms. Perard, the mayor's son, and Mr. Fritz, member of the mayor's staff, accompanied us on a passenger bus that had been sent by the mayor for our two-hour journey into Cap-Haitian.



Once in Cap-Haitian, we were met by the mayor, Mr. Fritz Joseph, with whom I had worked in 2008 on our first WFP service project. Since we knew each other well, I was able to make this personal connection for the medical team.

The next morning, Mayor Joseph briefed us over breakfast on the situation in Cap-Haitian. As many as 150,000 people had streamed into the city from Port-au-Prince and they were overwhelming their resources. The mayor said they didn't have enough food and water for these people, nor adequate doctors, nurses or medicine to tend to their needs. He expressed his deep gratitude for our volunteers.

After breakfast, we met with the United Nations Chief of Police for Cap-Haitian, and he and two other U.N. officers offered their full support for our work. From this encouraging meeting, we went to the Cap-Haitian airport to pick up the medical supplies that had been sent from the USA.



With a truck loaded with medical supplies, our team drove to the Sacred Heart Hospital which was caring for some of the most seriously ill people, many with life-threatening injuries. Mayor Joseph joined us in the delivery of the much-needed medicines and supplies.

After visiting the Sacred Heart Hospital, the team drove to a large gymnasium where many people had gathered for medical care. Utilizing the remaining medical supplies, our doctors went to work treating the patients. It was not so easy; there were many people with great need, and there were not enough medical professionals to do the job. Still our team did a fantastic job comforting the people and tending to their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

What I learned through this is that the food, water, and medical supplies were not necessarily reaching those who were the neediest. Many of the donations were tied up by organizational bureaucracies. We were fortunate to have the trust of the mayor of Cap Haitian, and through him and his contacts we could do a lot to alleviate suffering.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to help my people in their difficult and challenging situation and look forward to returning soon to continue the work.



Women's Federation for World Peace, USA Inaugural Luncheon



The Womens' Federation for World Peace, USA's Inaugural Luncheon was both bitter sweet and full of hope for the future. On the afternoon of Sunday, March 21, 2010, WFWP, USA said farewell to its president of the past 10 years, Mrs. Alexa Fish Ward, and welcomed its newly appointed president, Rev. Angelika Selle.

The Grand Ballroom of the Manhattan Center was filled with people even before the tables were set up that afternoon. Everyone was there to honor not just the outgoing and incoming presidents, but Mrs. Nora Spurgin, WFWP, USA's founding president, and all the women who have worked hard to make WFWP, USA the organization it is today.

The afternoon began with welcoming remarks by Mrs. Heather Thalheimer and an invocation before the start of lunch. Afterward, Mrs. Elizabeth Aihe, a WFWP, USA member from Washington D.C., recited a poem to Mrs. Ward that she had written for her own mother, as well as Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who have both inspired her with their hearts.

A Power Point presentation, titled "A Decade of Service," that highlighted the activities of WFWP, USA both nationally and internationally, was given by Mrs. Caroline Betancourt. Pictures documented activities of local chapters, fundraisers for projects and programs, international conferences with world-wide WFWP members and leaders, and events with top VIPs.

Mrs. Ward's speech was brimming with gratitude and appreciation for the opportunities she experienced, and for each her who had supported her during her mission throughout the last ten years. After first thanking HSA-UWC President and CEO, Rev. In Jin Moon, for her support, she made a special mention of those who took care of the nitty-gritty daily work that made WFWP, USA run, the friends that she made among the WFWP leadership, and her family who supported her even when it meant sacrifice for them. She also expressed a great deal of respect for Rev. Selle as the new WFWP, USA president and faith in both her and Rev. In Jin Moon's leadership.



Rev. Selle then sincerely acknowledged the strength of Mrs. Ward in her building of WFWP, USA. “[WFWP] needed a strong woman who could go through the jungle with a machete and blaze the trail in a world where there was little support for women.”

Rev. Selle expressed her excitement to work with In Jin Nim, daughter of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, WFWP's founder, sharing that In Jin Nim is a woman of few words, leading through action. Rev. Selle said that by just watching, she could get her clues for where WFWP, USA needed to go in order to enter and prepare for this new level of growth. She thanked In Jin Nim for putting on such a wonderful celebration for all sisters.

Rev. Selle also brought her husband on stage, noting that women sincerely want to work together with their husbands and other men. To be successful, she said, WFWP members need men in order to impact the world through the testimony of their good families and relationships. “There is also a lot of help and support coming from Mother God at this time,” Rev. Selle affirmed, “and together with God, True Parents, In Jin Nim, and each other, nothing is impossible.”

Rev. Joshua Cotter, HSA-UWC's Executive Vice President, gave the keynote address, stepping in for Rev. In Jin Moon who could not be there but sent her well wishes through Rev. Cotter.

During this important ceremony of appreciation, Mrs. Ward was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award for her work with WFWP, USA, as well as a very special achievement award from WFWP's founders, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her husband Rev. Sun Myung Moon. The afternoon concluded with all three presidents, Mrs. Nora Spurgin, Mrs. Alexa Ward, and Rev. Angelika Selle coming onto the stage, flowers in hand, leading the audience in the singing of the WFWP Celebratory song, “Let There Be Peace on Earth.”



Written by Nari Stephens, Administrative Director for WFWP, USA

International Women's Day Celebration Washington, DC Chapter

By Susan Fefferman



In 1911, the United Nations designated March 8th as International Women's Day (IWD) in honor of the economic, political and social achievements of all women. The Washington, DC chapter of WFWP has held a program to commemorate International Women's Day for the past six years. This year's program was held on the evening of March 25th at the majestic United Federation of Churches Conference Center on 16th Street, NW in Washington, DC.

The program was entitled: "***Human Rights are Women's Rights, and Creating a Culture of Peace through North-South American Cooperation.***" It was co-sponsored by the DC chapters of LULAC, (*League of Latin American Citizens*), the oldest Hispanic organization in the United States. Ada Pena, president of the LULAC DC chapters, led their effort. Through the planning of this WFWP, USA program, a great friendship between the two organizations was developed.

Newly appointed WFWP, USA president Angelika Selle greeted the fifty guests and testified to the founding spirit behind WFWP. Two speakers were invited: **Ambassador Carmen Moreno-Toscano**, Executive Secretary for the Inter-American Women's Commission for the *Organization of American States* in Washington, DC representing the South; and **Blanquita Walsh Cullum**, a well-known radio broadcaster and governor on the Broadcasting Board of Governors represented the North.



Blanquita has worked on many projects in Latin America through *Women of our Hemisphere (WHO)*, founded by the late Ambassador Holland Coors, to empower Latin American women. Unfortunately, Ambassador Moreno-Toscano developed bronchitis and lost her voice the day

before the program, but Blanquita Cullum added more of the work of *WOH* and it seemed as if both North and South America had been represented.

She related how not only a non-governmental organization (NGO) such as WFWP or WOH can bring change and development to the women of the South, but also how individual women are important. She told stories of singular, humble women who made a difference in the lives of others. One in particular was the “cookie lady” who discovered that pregnant mothers were missing essential vitamins in their diet causing more cleft palates in newborns. She created cookies with the necessary vitamins and reduced this problem in her area.

The guests represented both North and South America, from Brazil to Mexico, and also Japan and Europe. Many were dressed colorfully in their native costumes. The food reflected the nations within the audience, but the favorite dish was definitely the variety of empanadas from Chile, Nicaragua, Mexico and Jamaica.

A moving *Bridge of Peace Ceremony* followed the meal, where partnerships between North and South America were created. Women and several pairs of men began friendships that cross over national barriers to strengthen the ties that will benefit all.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Greetings to all! Spring has most definitely arrived and is in full bloom everywhere. New life is coming forth. This time also marks a new beginning for WFWP with a change of leadership and a new focus. It's been one month since I was inaugurated as the President of WFWP, USA at the Manhattan Center in New York, quite a moving occasion. (See article in this issue.)

I am very honored and humbled by this great task, especially as the world needs more than ever the heart and wisdom of women to be able to usher in an age of spirituality and lasting peace. We do believe peace is possible, and we know that women must play a leading role.

My deep gratitude goes to former President Alexa Ward, whom I also cherish as a friend. She has faithfully and masterfully led this organization together with an outstanding board, vice-presidents and chairwomen, who have given so much and have made WFWP what it is today. Also, our Japanese WFWP members in their own quiet way have powerfully under girded the activities with their heart and service.

A new board and new vice-presidents have been elected and their names will be published on the WFWP website. Our commitment is to cherish the foundation of WFWP and build on it to achieve even greater heights. The next phase and level of WFWP is now also under the spiritual leadership of the Founder's daughter, Rev. In Jin Moon, and we will be focusing on three major areas:

- 1) Marriage, Family, Values Education**
- 2) Human Rights, Women's Rights**
- 3) Bridge of Peace (Reconciliation and Healing of Relationships)**

During these next three years we want to be practical and relevant to our families and communities here in the United States as we also continue supporting WFWP, International. Most of all we encourage young women to share in the great vision and cause of WFWP and bring your energy, talents and gifts as well as professionalism to the table.

This being our last edition of WFWP ENews, we will be posting all news and reports on our website (www.wfwp.us). On behalf of our national office, I would like to express to Mrs. Laura Hornbeck our deep gratitude and appreciation for her heart and investment in producing the ENewsletter for the last three and a half years. All past articles are archived on the website and will serve as a resource as well as a historic record.

Again, thanks to all. I look forward to working together with you and the many new women who will be joining our ranks in the near future.

With warm wishes,

Rev. Angelika Selle
President, WFWP, USA