



WFWP USA 2016

Compassionate, Sustainable Leadership

2016 SUMMARY

Under the theme of “Compassionate, Sustainable Leadership”, WFWP USA chapters across the country held numerous projects and activities throughout this past year of 2016. The table below outlines the total number of programs in each focus area.

LEADERSHIP OF THE HEART	14 leadership and women’s empowerment programs
FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION	8 family life education programs
SERVICE	17 local service projects 16 projects for international service (11 Schools of Africa)
PEACE & RECONCILIATION	10 Bridges of Peace 27 peace, intercultural, and health/healing programs

Throughout 2016, WFWP USA continues to support the Schools of Africa project. In addition, there were several initiatives to support countries in need after humanitarian crises. See the table below for the total amount raised in 2016 by both local and national fundraising programs and campaigns.

SCHOOLS OF AFRICA (amount sent)	\$40,650
LOVE SHARE/NORTH KOREA FLOOD RELIEF	\$4,509.87
ECUADOR	\$968
CAMBODIA FOSTER CARE PROJECT BY NEW JERSEY	\$7,850
FUNDS FOR HAITI COLLECTED AT ASSEMBLY	\$1,330

Other notable new developments for WFWP USA in 2016 include:

- Increased **involvement from young women**, especially in planning, executing, and participating in the Leadership Retreat in Tampa, Florida and the 24th National Assembly
- Development of new support materials and resources for WFWP Chairwomen, through the creation of **Monthly Leadership Training Webinars**
- Efforts to develop a more **engaged and active Board of Directors** and **expanding WFWP USA’s fundraising capacity**, through working with a non-profit consultant, Network for Good
- Several **new chairwomen** stepping into leadership in Ohio, Maryland, Illinois, Maine, and Georgia
- A very successful **collaboration between national HQ and local chairwomen**, especially volunteers in New Jersey, to create a beautiful and unprecedented National Assembly
- Creation of new promotional pieces, including a detailed **WFWP USA Portfolio**

2016 DETAILED OVERVIEW

LEADERSHIP OF THE HEART

This year, WFWP USA began developing a Leadership of the Heart educational three-part series, and have featured the first seminar called “Finding the Leader Within” in several states as well as during our leadership retreat in Tampa, Florida in July. The Florida retreat brought together 40 women—including 10 young women—as both new and incumbent WFWP leaders, to reflect, goal set, and gain spiritual and practical tools for the field based on the theme of “Compassionate, Sustainable Leadership.”

The Leadership of the Heart series highlights the importance of leading by example, and provides insights on the importance of women initiating positive change in their own lives, families, communities, and beyond. In 2017, we plan to continue to develop the series to be used in chapters throughout the country.

This year, WFWP USA hosted 14 leadership and women empowerment activities.



Finding the Leader Within Seminar - Ohio



Leadership Retreat Participants - Florida

FAMILY LIFE EDUCATION

The most notable development in WFWP USA’s focus on promoting strong family values in 2016 was the launching of the Education Committee of the National Board of Directors. The committee set out to develop WFWP USA’s own character education curriculum for youth called “The Truth About Love,” a series of four 2-hour sessions, including one session for parents. The first session was presented at the Florida retreat and much valuable feedback was given. Unfortunately, due to some unforeseen circumstances, development was stalled. Thus, in 2017, we plan to re-launch and complete this curriculum to make ready for the field.

Despite these setbacks in curriculum development, chapters continued to hold Family Life Education seminars, a total of 8 for this year.



Winner of Miss Love IQ Essay Contest for High School Students - Pennsylvania



Parenting Skills Seminar with Certified Montessori Teacher - Las Vegas

2016 DETAILED OVERVIEW

SERVICE

This year has certainly been a year of serving and caring for others and the community. Here in the United States, we held our fourth annual “Day of Service” in the District of Columbia with 40 participating students from surrounding schools. It was a community affair, teaching future leaders that leadership begins with service with the support of the D.C. Mayor and Councilman, Lieutenant and Officers of the 4th Precinct Police Station, and many local businesses. One of the local food donors expressed, *“It is such a joy to see students come out to clean the streets, giving back to the community! As a business owner, it feels good to donate food for these students who are out here. It is all about giving back to our community.”*



Students cleaning the streets - Washington, DC



Receiving Proclamation from DC Mayor's Representative

Our WFWP USA chairwoman in Arizona, Rhia Nkulu, initiated a service project this year called “Women Helping Women,” in honor of Women’s History Month. Participants collected gently used purses from friends and family, and filled them with essential items to give to homeless women, shelters, and students. This project spread from Arizona to Seattle, New Jersey, Virginia, and Maryland. Through this simple project, we were able to touch many lives. The director of one of the women’s shelters in Arizona responded, *“Thank YOU! I just had all of the moms pick out the different purses they wanted - and they had a blast!! It totally made all of their nights. Thank you so much for your generosity and loving heart. It is beautiful knowing how deeply people of the community care about our moms!”*



Donating filled bags to Streetlight USA, shelter for victims of sexual trauma - Arizona



Items collected and donated to women's shelter - Elizabeth, New Jersey

2016 DETAILED OVERVIEW

This year we not only invested in our own communities, but also sent our love abroad. Thanks to our creative and enthusiastic chapters, we were able to send \$40,650 to the 9 WFWP-founded schools in Africa consistently supported by WFWP USA. Throughout the year we collected and sent relief to those hit by natural disasters such as in Haiti with Hurricane Matthew and Ecuador with their 7.8 magnitude earthquake. This year, through the 1% Love Share Program, we collected over \$4,500 to support children in North Korea with sweaters after the extensive flooding that took place this winter season.

This year WFWP USA held 17 local service projects, and 16 projects supporting those overseas, for a total of 33 service activities.



Schools of Africa Silent Auction - Northern California



Schools of Africa Black Tie Gala - Connecticut

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

The 20th Anniversary Bridge of Peace in 2015 reignited the flame for reconciliation throughout the country in 2016, from the nation's capital to Texas, California, Florida, Las Vegas, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Oregon, and New Jersey. Unique this year was the "Black Lives Matter" bridge in Pennsylvania, and the "Mothers of Healing and Forgiveness" bridge ceremony, which exemplified mothers who have forgiven "unforgivable" cruelty against their own child, and live as an example of ending the cycle of retaliation. This year of 2016, WFWP USA held 10 bridges of peace, and a total of 27 peace, intercultural, and health/healing programs.

In 2017, to continue the momentum, we plan to create a Bridge of Peace brochure which can be used for outreach and a Bridge of Peace manual which can be used by chapters to create a meaningful ceremony and project in their community.



Mothers of Healing and Forgiveness - Washington, DC



Reconciling Police and Citizens - Arizona

2016 DETAILED OVERVIEW

24th NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Each of these major components of WFWP USA's activities, Leadership of the Heart, Family Life Education, Service, and Peace & Reconciliation, came together and made for an integrative experience at this year's 24th Annual National Assembly. Under the theme of "Compassionate, Sustainable Leadership: Women Making an Impact" over 220 guests gathered at the Crowne Plaza Hotel to empowered by our Founder's vision of leadership based on "reconciliation, compassion, love, service, and sacrifice."

"The theme of the Assembly was perfect for the climate of our nation and it was carried throughout the event and beyond. The new guests, young and old, were very inspired and each of the speakers expressed their viewpoints dynamically."

The Assembly this year opened with a moving display of peace and reconciliation by a special Bridge of Peace in honor of American veterans on Veteran's Day. Fourteen veterans from various wars—WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, and others—were honored with special awards. The Bridge of Peace was so moving that many in the audience were inspired to spontaneously cross the Bridge.



Honoring World War II army nurse



Christian and Muslim Bridge crossing

This year's Assembly featured amazing Global Women Peace Network Panelists who shared about topics relating to Leadership of the Heart and Family Life Education. For example, talk show host and author, Aimmee Kodachian, spoke on becoming a leader of compassion and Vice President of the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, Dawn Hawkins, spoke on combatting the ills of pornography in our homes and communities. These themes were carried into the hands-on breakout sessions on such topics as healthy sex in marriage, turning passion into a sustainable project, and virtues and vibrancy in relationships from a husband's perspective.



Global Women's Peace Network Panel



Virtues and Vibrancy in Relationships Breakout

2016 DETAILED OVERVIEW

The component of service was also displayed in the first ever national Schools of Africa Gala Benefit on the closing night of the Assembly. Participants heard testimonies from one founder and two students of the schools, bid on many beautiful items in the silent auction, and enjoyed lively music and delicious food. Funds were also raised in support of Haiti for a project which will be launched in 2017.

Several were also honored during the Assembly for their service to the community: Patricia Lofton with the HerStory Award for her service for children in need and the WFWP Arizona Chapter as the Exemplary WFWP Chapter for 2016.



African drumming during Schools of Africa Gala



WFWP Exemplary Chapter Award 2016 - Arizona

Finally, WFWP USA honored strong and healthy marriages and families as the cornerstone of peace with a Celebration of Marriage program following the Assembly in which 4 couples rededicated their marriage. In 2017, we hope to create specific guidelines for how to collaborate with FFWPU on the Marriage Blessing.



Couples who rededicated their marriage with WFWP volunteers and staff



WFWP volunteers from New Jersey and New York

Notably, this year's Assembly saw an unprecedented collaboration between the national headquarters and local chapters. At the Florida retreat in July, several planning committees were formed and met to begin laying the groundwork for the Assembly. Many chairwomen jumped on board to help with fundraising, recommending speakers, planning program components, and other areas.

Volunteers, supporters, and Chairwoman Denneze Nelson of the New Jersey chapter in particular made a tremendous contribution, in unity with our national leadership team, to make the Assembly a success. Several young women also joined the planning committees to give their unique input and contribution.

We are currently working on a strategic plans of engagement for 2017 for the many new volunteers and contacts made during the Assembly.