



NEWS RELEASE

March 30, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Any Woman Can Make A Difference:
Dana Dakin and the story of Women's Trust***

New York – On Wednesday, April 13, 2011, entrepreneur and philanthropist Dana Dakin will speak to Anglican Women's Empowerment about Women's Trust, the microlending program in northern Ghana that she started with no special contacts or skills - just an idea.

Dakin will provide an update on the eight-year-old program that lends amounts as small as \$22 to women in the village of Pokuase, enabling them to start such businesses as food kiosks, textile sales, hairdressing and baking. Women's Trust has expanded to include scholarships for girls, business training, computer classes and healthcare support.

Dakin's fire and enthusiasm for Women's Trust has led residents of the town where she lives, Wilmot, N.H. (pop. 1,400), to "adopt" Pokuase (pop. 20,000) and support the villagers' efforts to improve their lives. The local Rotary Club provided grants for a generator, vitamins for pregnant women, textbooks for the scholarship students.

It all started when Dakin, who had built a career in the financial industry, turned 60 in 2003 and, inspired by an acquaintance who celebrated turning 60 by founding an orphanage and by the work of Nobel Peace prize winner Muhammad Yunus, decided to follow Yunus' principles and start a microlending program.

Dakin, who started the project on her own and had no specific training in founding a non-profit organization or in African culture, will talk about how she arrived at Pokuase, the challenges she met, the insights she gained and the milestones achieved by the people of the village.

Anglican Women's Empowerment (<http://anglicanwomensempowerment.org/>) is a membership movement of Episcopal/Anglican women and girls with a broad diversity of backgrounds, interests and skills. AWE works for gender equity and social justice around the world. It gathers and connects women from the Anglican Communion to share resources and opportunities.

Further information about Women's Trust is available here: www.womenstrust.org

Where: Episcopal Church Center, mezzanine room, 815 Second Ave., New York, NY

When: Wednesday, April 13, Noon

Contact: Kim Robey

PHONE NUMBER: 631 754 8982

Please RSVP by April 8 to: awetoday@gmail.com

A suggested donation of \$20 includes lunch.

Proceeds will be equally shared by Women's Trust & AWE.

Reservations are required for entrance to the building.



A computer class in Ghana, supported by Women's Trust



Dana Dakin