



Your Spring News & Updates

Dear Friends,

As the winter freeze finally comes to an end, I wanted to take a minute to reflect back on the last few months and thank you for all your support, especially during the 2015 holiday season. We would not have been able to accomplish what we did without you as our partners.

2016 has been exciting, ushering in important changes here at WomensTrust. Most significantly, we have transitioned the microlending portion of our programs over to ID Ghana, a large microfinance NGO with adequate resources to handle the growing needs of our clients with a variety of loan products and training programs. WomensTrust will continue its work in economic development with a focus on women entrepreneurs who are building their businesses and are raising the prosperity of their community by employing other workers. We are also continuing to expand our educational programs for women and girls, and in this newsletter, you can read about one of the new programs that will do just that.

At WomensTrust, we know that education is a woman's fastest road out poverty, and our efforts will be much more effective and your dollars will have that much more of an impact, if we continue to focus on what we do best as an organization.

Thank you again for your support and trust in our work.

Sincerely,
Barbara Lucas, USA Board Chair

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Adult Literacy Program: Turning Dreams into Reality

Our newest project in Pokuase, the Adult Literacy Program, is designed to help illiterate Ghanaian women to read, write and understand basic English, as well as basic math. The purpose of the program is to ensure advancement for the participants economically, socially, and civically, as we have found a lack of English and basic arithmetic hinders the

women from being able to provide for themselves and their families to the fullest of their potential.

This program is targeted at women who missed the opportunity to get a formal education whether due to poverty, early marriage or cultural norms. The program was launched in January of this year with an 'information gathering session', which drew 35 participants. This meeting was attended by Nana Apt and Anthony Essel-Anderson, of the Ghanaian Board, and Barbara Lucas and Margie Herrick of the U.S. Board.

Of the 35, 29 expressed a strong desire for the class, and so far, 20 have registered formally, though we are continuing to encourage full participation. The women range in age from 22 to 65, and are mostly single mothers supporting themselves as petty traders.

This program will be rolled out in two phases: Phase One will involve literacy training in the local language, for a period of two to six months, depending on how quickly the women progress. In Phase Two, students will learn English and basic math for a period of 12 to 18 months. Classes will be taught three times a week for a duration of two hours.

Donors like you will help us to ensure this program not only continues, but flourishes and is able to expand to other communities.

We Have New Computers!



Computer illiteracy and lack of access to Information Communication Technology (ICT) are widely recognized as an increasingly powerful obstacle to the economic, civic and political development of communities and countries as a whole. Thanks to an extremely generous donor, WomensTrust is bridging the computer illiteracy gap and making access to ICT a reality. Because the schools our girls attend do not have computers, the

WomensTrust computer lab and our After-School Computer Class is the only opportunity for them to develop these skills which are vital for success academically in the world today. The gift of these computers and the education that accompanies them not only gives the girls a huge step forward and upward, it also helps to feed their dreams and open their minds to endless possibilities.

"It felt great for our young scholars to have access to ICT, but the donation of these new Lenovo laptops is historic and will take them to the next level." - Gertrude Ankrah, Programs Development Director

Change a Life, Send a Girl to School....

We all know that education can determine a girl's ability to influence her own life - promoting economic independence and healthy behavior as well as delaying the

time she decides to marry. In 2015, generous WomensTrust donors ensured 168 girls stayed in school, out of our goal of 200.

\$200 sends a girls to Junior High School for one year, equipped with uniform, books and exam fees. \$400 will send a girl to Senior High School, bringing her one step closer to a brighter future.

Meet Amanda:



Supported by a WomensTrust donor, Amanda will be graduating Senior High School in 2017. She plans on going to University and becoming a Medical Doctor.

Only 32 more donors are needed to reach our goal! Please donate today!

Welcome New Ghanaian Board Members and Advisors!

Ayesha Bedwei, Partner, PwC (Advisor to Board)

Ayesha is a leader in tax advisory, specifically in the energy sector. She is a member of the prestigious African Leadership Network, and holds multiple distinctions and awards. These include being named one of Ghana's 20 Influential Business Leaders Under 40 (2015), one of Africa's Most Influential Women in Business and Government (2014), is a United Nations AIDS Ambassador, and holds a Vlisco Brand Ambassador for Ghana Award (2014). In her spare time, Ayesha teaches Pilates.



Mansah Prah, Research Affiliate, Centre for Gender Research and Advocacy, University of Ghana

Mansah is a retired professor of Sociology and a former Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Cape Coast. She taught Sociology and Gender Studies for 29 years at the University of Cape Coast and



spearheaded the introduction of gender studies into the University's curriculum. She has served on the boards of NGO's such as the Cape Coast Centre for Women, the Third World Network and the Foundation for Security and Development in Africa. She has publications on gender and education, gender violence and gender and sexuality.

Donate

Please Note:

WomensTrust has a new phone number: (914) 999-2357

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