

# WOMENSTRUST



## The Arithmetic of Success

The new 2017-18 WomensTrust program year is off to a busy start, and we've got numbers on our minds.

**For starters, WomensTrust is supporting the success and achievement of nearly 200 girls and young women this year - 148 girls at the primary level, 37 girls at the secondary level, and 12 young women at the college level.**

In addition, we are excited that most of the girls will have an opportunity to increase the number of hours they spend in school this year. The "shift system" (requiring that students attend either a morning shift at school or an afternoon shift) is finally being replaced in the region with a full-school-day model.

**More hours in school + the after-school academic support that WomensTrust provides = better educational outcomes for girls!**

## You're Invited!

We have a new home on Facebook, where we'll be keeping you up-to-date on how the WomensTrust scholars are doing - what they're learning and achieving. The staff and some of the older girls will be posting directly to the page, so don't miss this opportunity to connect with them!



[Visit our new Facebook page](#) and click on "Like".

## Meet the Staff: Abigail Mettle



WomensTrust has grown and evolved significantly over the years, and Abigail Mettle, Education Program Coordinator, has been an integral part of the organization's progress. She has been helping to educate and encourage girls and young women at WomensTrust for eleven years.

Over a decade into this work, Abigail still finds it uniquely rewarding, saying **"With such encouragement from the staff and teachers, the students are empowered at all levels."** She has seen the impact that an intensely supportive program that combines academics with mentoring and scholarships can have on girls. **"This program motivates the girls to make education their priority in order to secure a brighter future."**

Abigail is ready for another year of hard work with WomensTrust, saying **"It is my hope that this encouragement translates into good grades for the kids beginning this fall."**

[Read more about Abigail on the WomensTrust website.](#)

## "When It's Personal, It's Very Rewarding"

*Marlis Branaka is a committed, long-time WomensTrust donor, volunteer and executive board member. She recently reflected on why, with all the many causes out there, she believes in WomensTrust.*

### How did you first get involved?

My involvement with WomensTrust evolved over the years, but was instigated by inspirational conversations with Dana Dakin, the founder. It is, indeed, true that there are many worthy causes that one can support, both within the United States and internationally. But when I realized that my money would make a bigger difference in girls' lives in Africa than it would in the U.S., I started supporting WomensTrust's programs. The fact that we had local staff working "on the ground," in partnership with the women we were supporting, was also appealing. As a feminist, I strongly advocate for improving education for girls across the world.



### **From that starting point, why did you choose to deepen your involvement?**

We have qualitative and quantitative evidence that we've made a positive difference in the lives of the girls and young women who've participated in WomensTrust's Scholarship Program. Girls have qualified for, and been admitted to, universities in Ghana. They are studying to be nurses, lawyers, accountants! This would not have happened without our financial support or without the encouragement of our tutors, staff and donor-mentors. The heartfelt letters of gratitude sent by our outstanding scholarship students as they have progressed year-by-year stand to confirm the success of our programs.

Being aware of the successes of the women and girls has inspired me to continue to donate because the results are cumulative. The knowledge gained builds on itself and will be useful for each woman's lifetime, unlike providing a product that can be used-up. I've been motivated to donate money and time to help more and more girls.

### **What is unique about the WomensTrust model?**

WomensTrust is a small non-profit that works "on the ground" to provide educational and financial support to women and girls. The ultimate goal is for these women to be able to better support themselves and their families. It's a simple concept but life-changing because we work together, in partnership, versus just providing money that is doled-out by a larger, more faceless institution. We know the girls' family histories, have met their parents and can see the changes in their perspective and optimism about their own futures. When it's personal, it's very rewarding.

## **Join the Trust**

# BELIEVE IN THE LIMITLESS POTENTIAL OF GIRLS.



WomensTrust girls and young women have placed their trust and confidence in us to help them continue their educations.

**You can show your belief in these girls and their limitless potential by providing a student scholarship.**

Your scholarship will provide everything a girl needs to stay in school all year - expenses that are beyond the reach of most families in rural Ghana but are within reach through your support.

**As a believer in the power of education to transform girls' lives, you are in a position of trust. Click on the button below to make a gift today!**

**DONATE NOW**

WomensTrust, PO Box 2084, New London, NH 03257

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