



SowHOPE Newsletter

"Where there is despair, let me sow hope." FRANCIS OF ASSISI

PHOTO EXHIBIT - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3RD!

Plan to attend the photo exhibit fundraiser event at 7pm at the Goei Center, 818 Butterworth St SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504.

Mary Dailey Brown, president and CEO of SowHope, will give a brief talk about some "amazing coincidences" and an inspiring update on both past and new potential SowHope projects.

There will be over 30 captivating photos on display depicting the beauty and the burden of the women SowHope supports in the Developing World.

Join us for an evening of live jazz music, hors d'oeuvres and drinks; valet parking is included. **To order tickets that help cover the cost of the event, go to sowhope.org.** To positively change the lives of impoverished women, their children and their communities, there will be an opportunity to donate at the event.



DISHA - Ruth Posthumus, Mary Brown, Vinita Shaw, and Beth Leeson with young women students who are learning tailoring & cosmetology.

Beauty *and* the Burden



SOWING HOPE IN INDIA

India's treatment of females, especially those who are young, has been making global headlines as the facts have become apparent. Rated by the United Nations as the fourth worst country in the world for a girl to be born, it is clear that what has existed for centuries is still true – there is a mindset that considers the birth of a girl as bad news.

A country addressed lovingly as Mother India, where the feet of little girls are washed as worship to goddesses, the masses, in general, favor a male child due to three main reasons: the religious belief that the son lighting the funeral pyre of his parents will help them attain salvation, the fact that the son carries on the family name, and third, the still continued practice of a dowry makes a daughter a financial burden.

Vinita Shaw's message to her country is "Save the Girl Child." The disappearance of millions of girls from the wombs of the mothers has resulted in skewed sex ratios, bringing it down as low as 714 girls to 1,000 boys in some areas. This ratio indicates an underlying belief that girls are not as valuable as boys.

Moved by all this bad news and to counter these beliefs, Vinita Shaw has begun the Disha Foundation. Disha, the Hindi word for guidance or direction, is engaged in changing the country's beliefs and practices, emphasizing the preciousness of females, and a need for any family desiring future additions. Vinita has 5 weekly radio programs that are reaching an estimated 80 million listeners with her message.

The foundation actively prevents females from trafficking schemes, or from choosing prostitution to survive, by educating young girls and by offering vocational training to older girls and women. SowHope partners with Disha, supporting their positive message for women, by providing funds for vocational training in skills such as sewing or cosmetology. On October 4th, CEO Mary Dailey Brown and Beth Leeson, SowHope board member, will be going to India to address the students at the graduation ceremony of two vocational schools.



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ANNE KENDRA - ARTISTIC SUPPORTER



From the inception of SowHope, Anne Kendra has been volunteering. Her concern for women worldwide is genuine, but how could she help? Her response was to use her Marketing background to lead the Public Relations Team and use her graphic design and photography skills. She traveled to Africa with a SowHope project evaluation team, taking her camera with her to help capture the beauty and the burden of the women who are supported by grants from SowHope.

Several of the photos you will see at the upcoming photo exhibit were taken by Anne. Note the joy revealed in their faces – the delight of new feelings of self-esteem, as the women succeed in learning to read or starting a small business.

“I love volunteering at SowHope because I believe in the mission of SowHope to inspire women who then help their children, their families, and their communities. That ripple effect of positive change is inspiring and it’s an honor to be a part of it.”

Photo by: Anne Kendra



SOWHOPE EXISTS

TO INSPIRE
WOMEN AROUND
THE WORLD
BY PROMOTING
WELLNESS,
EDUCATION, AND
ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITIES

Little boy pours water for Anne to wash her hands before dinner



A DOCUMENTARY FILM EVENT

WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR

LET ME
SOW
HOPE

“Let Me Sow Hope”, is a documentary film exposing the overwhelming challenges and vulnerabilities faced by impoverished women in the Developing World and the transformational effect of hope.

Photo by: Anne Kendra



SOW HOPE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

How do you introduce SowHope to your community? **Carol Washburn** found a way to do it inexpensively and with support from others. She contacted a local group called Lake Shore Women for Peace who sponsor educational events in Holland, MI and asked them if they would like to sponsor a showing of the SowHope documentary. After hearing more about SowHope and seeing the film for themselves, they gave her a definite YES! So on September 23rd, the film will be shown in their city library’s auditorium.

Are there groups in your town that are oriented to the needs of women? Or organizations that support human equality? Can you find a public place that is free or very inexpensive in which to meet? If so, contact SowHope to schedule a showing of the documentary to the members. Whether the group is large or small, this short film demonstrates the effectiveness of SowHope to help women worldwide in a powerful way.

Anne Kendra's favorite Africa Trip photo



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