



September 27, 2012

Dear Friends,

This week's Newsflash highlights the important work of one of our grantee-partners, **Zimbabwe Partners of Handicapped Children Association, Bulawayo Branch (ZPHCA)**. ZPHCA, initially a small group of parents of children with disabilities, has developed into a nationwide membership organization. Their Bulawayo branch is a self-help organization for parents of children with disabilities offering caregiver training and support, small loans for income-generating projects, and vocational training for youth with disabilities.

ZPHCA recently trained a group of Firelight partners in the Bulawayo area of Zimbabwe on disability mainstreaming. This newsflash was inspired by our partners and is a compilation of material shared during the network meeting and resources provided on disability mainstreaming. We hope you enjoy this week's edition of the Newsflash!

Sincerely,

The Firelight Team

(Call for Applications) Dining for Women grants to support women and/or girls in developing countries
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(Call for Applications) Dining for Women grants to support women and/or girls in developing countries

Dining for Women (DFW) is an educational giving circle: Our members meet monthly, learn about our featured program, then donate to grassroots international programs empowering women living in extreme poverty. DFW funds programs that foster good health, education, and economic self-sufficiency in developing countries. We are devoted to educating and inspiring individuals to make a difference and fight global poverty through the power of collective giving.

Based on our educational mission, the issue areas to be considered for this grant cycle are:

- Education
- Women's Healthcare, Reproductive Rights and Family Planning
- Food and Water Security
- Policy, Law, Advocacy, Property Rights
- Environmental Sustainability

Application Criteria

Please note that your organization **MUST** meet ALL the following criteria to be eligible for a grant from Dining for Women.

- Support women and/or girls who face extreme challenges in developing countries
- Promote self-sufficiency, economic independence and/or good health for women and girls being supported
- Tie funding to direct impact on individuals' lives
- Provide evidence of long-term sustainability and program success
- Provide prompt and specific reporting about DFW funded program
- Effectively manage a variable DFW grant that could range from \$20,000 - \$50,000 and be distributed over a two-year period if requested.
- Direct a minimum of 75% of expenses to programs
- Be a public charity 501(c)(3) US nonprofit organization or foreign organization operating with a US nonprofit sponsor
- Operate independent of religious or political affiliation
- Provide informative organization web site in English
- Provide relevant educational resources; includes providing a digital video clip of population served

Dining for Women does NOT support:

- Programs that are not specifically targeted for women and/or girls
- Organizations solely focused on US domestic issues
- Organizations that do not exhibit a co-investment strategy with those being served
- Organizations that cannot demonstrate fiscal responsibility and future sustainability of their programs
- Donations to group trusts, foundations or other consolidated funding activity
- Governmental, political or religiously affiliated organizations

Priorities

- We prioritize funding for organizations that:
- Focus on the UN Millennium Development Goals as pertaining to women and girls
- Are located in a region or country with both extreme need and limited funding resources

- Are organized and led by women from particularly marginalized populations
- Demonstrate ownership and direction by the women being served by the programs
- Indicate community involvement in problem solving
- Can provide support material and information for the education of our members on critical issues women face around the world. This can be personal stories, photos, program materials, on-line resources, regional and cultural information, etc.
- A digital program video and photographs are required for all selected programs, at least 4 months prior to the assigned feature month.

Our next grant application cycle will open on **October 1, 2012** for funding starting in Q4 2013. For more information and to apply, please visit: <http://www.diningforwomen.org/Programs/grants>

(Funding Opportunity) Save Africa's Children Upcoming Grant Cycle

Save Africa's Children (SAC) provides direct support and care to orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS, poverty and war throughout Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. SAC partners with individuals, churches, grassroots organizations, government and corporate sectors, endeavoring to build a dynamic, diverse movement to restore hope and a future for Africa's children.

In order to be considered for a grant, interested organizations must submit a Letter of Intent including the following: Organizational Introduction, Mission Statement and intended use of funds. If you meet Save Africa's Children's requirements you will be contacted by a SAC staff member for follow up.

All submissions will receive an email confirming receipt of Letter, however only organizations selected to advance to the next round of consideration will be contacted. If you applied for a grant and have not received a response within 8-12 weeks of the grant cycle closing, you may not have been considered for a grant at this time.

The 2013 grant cycle will open **October 1st- December 31, 2012**. For more information, please visit: <http://www.saveafricaschildren.org/pages/apply-for-a-grant>

(Resource) ZPHCA: Definition of Disability and Disability Mainstreaming

Over the course of two days, ZPHCA trained the Bulawayo network of Firelight partners on types of disabilities, causes and management of common disabilities, with an emphasis on mainstreaming disability into their programming. The training covered the following areas:

Definition of Disability-A condition in which someone is not able to use a part of their body or brain properly; it is any restriction or lack of ability to perform a function in a manner or within the range that is considered normal for a human being.

Disability mainstreaming- Mainstreaming is defined as taking ideas, methods or people often considered as “extra ordinary/abnormal” and helping them to become accepted by most people considered “normal”.

Mainstreaming disability is a process of assessing the involvement of disabled people of any planned action, including legislation, policies and programs, in all areas and at all levels. The ultimate goal for mainstreaming disability is to achieve disability equality.

(Resource) Importance of Mainstreaming and Steps in Mainstreaming

ZPHCA also shared with the network on the importance of mainstreaming. Their summary of the discussion is as follows:

Importance of mainstreaming

Mainstreaming should not just be about inclusion; it must be about the exact nature of that inclusion. It is absolutely essential that the broader, more radical goals of disability mainstreaming, that is self-empowerment, self-determination and equality are not taken lightly.

Mainstreaming should also consider training on program-specific strategies, such as Early Childhood Development, to incorporate disability into all program areas. As disability is a cross-cutting issue, mainstreaming is successful when it's a focus of an organization's programs overall.

ZPHCA reports that, *"In Zimbabwe, disability mainstreaming has not really taken off, it is an issue that we address day in and day out but not much action is being taken, though recently, the Ministry of Higher and Tertiary education announced that "teachers' colleges will be restructured and their curriculum adjusted to meet the needs of special children. This new system is to enable those living with disabilities to train as teachers and also allow pupils living with disabilities to learn in one class with their able-bodied counterparts."*

Steps in mainstreaming in education

As ZPHCA was born out of a recognized need among parents of children with disabilities, they have become experts in mainstreaming disability within education and the classroom. ZPHCA reports:

Mainstreaming can be successful to the extent that both parents and educators are committed to it. If it is forced by legal action, or if a teacher is unwilling or unprepared, it may be worse for a disabled student than better. Successful mainstreaming is a team effort involving teachers, parents, the school principal and specialists such as the speech pathologist and psychologist.

Regular classroom teachers are perhaps the most important part of this team. For mainstreaming to work, these teachers must become knowledgeable about students with disabilities. They also must be provided additional resources such as regular in-service training, lower class sizes, and help from special education specialists.

Mainstreaming disability in the education sector thus needs government and relevant stakeholders to work together in not only including people with disabilities in mainstream schools but to also provide specialist equipment in order to enhance adaptability and ensure that all children learn in an inclusive environment where they are respected and recognized.

Next steps

Several Firelight partners have shared that ZPHCA's training was helpful in providing a basis to bring the idea of disability mainstreaming back to their organization and community. One Firelight partner, Basilwizi Trust, provided a training to their community in mainstreaming disability and through this process was able to identify children who were in need of additional support. Now that organizations are aware of ways to identify and provide services to children with disabilities they have started referring cases to ZPHCA for assistance. This is a great example of people and organizations working together to ensure that the needs of children are met!

For more information on ZPHCA, visit their website: <http://irenebanda.tripod.com/>

As part of the Firelight Foundation's Capacity Building Program, Firelight provides "Newsflashes" to share relevant resources and information with our active grantee-partners via weekly emails and via post on a monthly basis. We hope that by facilitating access to information for grassroots, community-focused organizations, programming for children and families, as well as organizational

development, is enhanced. Past editions of the Firelight Newsflash can be found on our website: <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.php>. We welcome your comments, feedback and ideas for upcoming Newsflashes at newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.

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