

# GIRLS FOR THE WORLD



## Lesotho Girls Step Into Leadership

Rethabile Lipholoana, the translator of our first GFW workshop in Lesotho and administrative assistant at St. Camillus Centre, was excited to build on the momentum generated by a GFW program last November and asked for our long-distance advice in creating it. This was music to our ears!

Our hope and goal after the workshops is that young women will be inspired to assume leadership roles and take the initiative to offer opportunities for girls to continue to meet. This provides ongoing support and community for each other and encourages them to practice the skills they learned.

Rethabile crafted her program with help from Katie Walker, a Peace Corps

*Continued on p. 3*



*GFW at Institution Unvers, Ounaminthe, Haiti, June 2017*  
 Question: "What did you learn about yourself from our time together?"

*"To seek my own wisdom, to know my own value, to be brave to overcome obstacles."*



Rising HB senior Ela Passarelli presenting GROW Foundation award to Karen Hanson.

## Hathaway Brown's Grow Foundation Funds GFW Programs for Fourth Year

.....

Girls for the World was presented with its fourth grant from the GROW Foundation, a student-led grant making organization which seeks to teach about and promote philanthropy at Hathaway Brown School in Shaker Heights, Ohio. The program promotes economic and social empowerment with its awards.

"We are so inspired by the work that Girls for the World does to build self-esteem in girls and women. We are confident that this year's workshop will be transformational for the participants."

Major criteria for the grant awards included empowerment potential, impact, reach of the program, and sustainability.

GFW is delighted to count Hathaway Brown School as one of our partners.

## Only with Your Help...

We are pleased to share with you this update covering some of our work over the past six months and, as always, a smattering of photos showing the happy faces of girls participating in our empowerment programs. The smiles of joy are because of your generosity.

Behind the smiles however is the reality that we witness with every trip—widespread poverty, rudimentary housing often without electricity, clean, running water or toilets. Family survival in these areas forces young girls into domestic work and out of school. Violence, gender inequality, lack of support and health care are everyday challenges.

**These workshops are the highlight of their lives.** The girls often wear their best clothes one day, go home, wash them, and wear them again the next.

GFW works with girls and women to build community that is supportive and safe, where their voices are strong and heard. They learn to value themselves and their thoughts and bodies. We offer health programs and tuition assistance to keep them in school. We give them hope. Together, we give them hope.

We ask for your continued partnership in this mission, always grateful for the many ways you have supported us in the past. The funds needed for just one girl to attend a workshop is \$150, but that one girl takes what she learns and changes not only her life, but the lives of her family as well. Only through your support can we continue to reach the people in the most need of these life changing programs and **make a real difference in the world.**

Enjoy these smiles. They are there because of you.

Karen Hanson, Executive Director



## Lesotho Girls Circle Up *(from p. 1)*

volunteer, and the blessing of Sr. Juliana, director at St. Camillus orphanage.

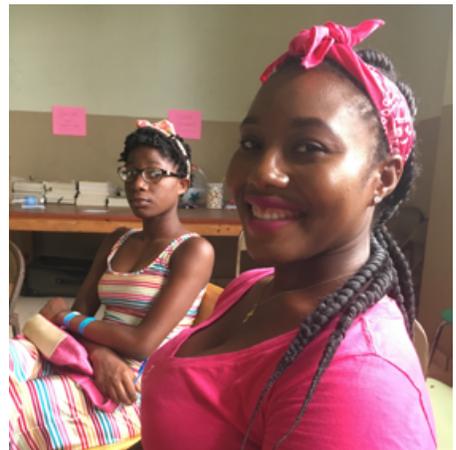
Rethabile shared with us that the workshop went very well and that the girls learned a lot and had fun. They discussed the mission and vision of Girls for the World and the stories they heard about girls from other countries. The girls reviewed concepts we covered in the workshop and explained to new girls attending the importance of what they learned.

The girls had lively discussions about relationships, examined both healthy and unhealthy ones, and determined that it is important to build relationships that are positive and based on gender equality, where they are not afraid to speak up for themselves. They considered what their futures could look like and created "vision boards" to remind them of their goals. They played soccer and painted. The take-away from their program was that "they as young women are strong."



Many thanks to our partners at St. Camillus Centre and The Lesotho Connection for inviting GFW to Lesotho and supporting follow-up programs with the girls.

## Facilitator Trainings and Community Partnerships



We continue to offer facilitator training and guidance to girls and women so that the circles we initiate are sustainable without us. The circles are community centered and offer opportunities for continued growth and mutual support.

*"I drew a river on my power mask. A river goes many places and is very strong. A river finds its way. I am the river."*

Muskan, Age 16



## Help Make a Difference!

- Share this newsletter and our stories!
- Create a Girls for the World support circle with family and friends!
- Plan a fundraiser!
- Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/girlsfortheworld](http://www.facebook.com/girlsfortheworld) or follow us on Twitter!
- Please donate now! Go to [www.GirlsForTheWorld.org](http://www.GirlsForTheWorld.org).



Your tax-deductible donation will help change a young woman's life with the remarkable transformation that comes as a result of knowing, loving and trusting oneself. Thank you for your generous support of our work!

Girls for the World  
PO Box 662, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44022 | 440.667.3504  
[info@girlsfortheworld.org](mailto:info@girlsfortheworld.org) | [www.GirlsfortheWorld.org](http://www.GirlsfortheWorld.org)

*Karen Hanson, Executive Director*