



November 2016

"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement." - Helen Keller



A Win for Women, Girls, and the Environment!

Village Volunteers' Empowering Women Periods sanitary project in India, Mukti Women, won the Project Inspire People's Choice through UN Women and the Singapore Committee for UN Women. The race to the end was shared by family and friends all over the world who have watched this project develop for the last eight years from Kenya to India. The \$10,000 award will give us support to expand and grow to support more women and girls.

Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all of the people who stepped forward and were relentless to see the project succeed. The camaraderie we felt was filled with laughter, heart pounding heroism the last few hours, and finally victory.

We will be in Singapore on the 22nd to find out whether we will be awarded the full grant providing the comprehensive support for the Mukti Bicycle Brigade and micro-enterprise program for more women liberated from the red light district.

" The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity."
- Amelia Earhart

Opportunities Abound for Empowering Women Period

As UN Women Project Inspire finalists we were given the opportunity to apply for the annual INSEAD Social Entrepreneurship Program (ISEP) in Singapore (Nov 27 - Dec 3, 2016). Empowering Women Period has been given a FULL SCHOLARSHIP for a one week intensive at INSEAD, ranked higher than any business school in the world that sets the standard for top-tier impact business education.

Amita Sall is representing us and will be bringing back contacts and knowledge for us to be able to scale our work to support more girls around the world.



Invasive Aquatic Weed, Water Hyacinth, in Lake Victoria

"Wealth is not new. Neither is charity. But the idea of using private wealth imaginatively, constructively, and systematically to attack the fundamental problems of mankind is new."

- John Gardner



**Wassa Dance and Village Volunteers'
13th annual Thanks-Giving Morning Dance-by- Donation in Seattle**

Bring your friends and families and join us for a tradition that gathers people together to dance in community with some of Seattle's finest percussionists and led in easy-to-follow African-inspired moves by Lara McIntosh.

This year we dance to raise money for a posho (flour) mill to be installed in Khalwenge Village in Kenya. The mill will bring a milling industry to an impoverished village and will be operated by the 27 members of the Tasamana Women's Group. Having this resource in their community will be a source of revenue that will help them to care for their families, send their children to school, and raise the standard of living in the village.

In addition, $\frac{1}{3}$ of the profit provides the members with no-interest loans for other income generating projects or for unexpected expenses such as medical care. The project also provides employment for individuals including a security person and machine operator.

Village Volunteers donations are tax-deductible and eligible for company matching funds. If you can't attend, you can still donate online or send a check made out to Village Volunteers with Wassa Dance on the memo line.

Village Volunteers
5100 South Dawson St
Suite 202
Seattle WA 98118

For more information about the project:
shana@villagevolunteers.org
For more information about the event:
lara@wassadance.com



Dzidefo - There is Hope, Women's Cooperative

Adorable toddler dresses for holiday gifts from a small textile cooperative of women from the Volta Region of Ghana.

- Hand dyed
- traditional Ghanaian patterns
- 100% cotton.

A \$25 donation covers shipping within the US.
Contact: christine@villagevolunteers

Village Volunteers - 206 577 0515 - www.villagevolunteers.org

STAY CONNECTED:

