



**Women's Global
Education Project**

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Literacy to Legacy

**Women's Global Education Project
Annual Report 2015**

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Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself. –John Dewey

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Annual Report 2015

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Dear Friends,

This has been an exciting year for Women's Global Education Project! We have made important progress and continue to work towards creating opportunities for young women to pursue education and, in turn, lead more successful and fulfilling lives with the support of their families and communities. WGEP is so grateful for the passionate support we receive from so many people—our friends and family, supporters and sponsors—and it is because of your support that thousands of young women have been able to receive an education, providing new possibilities for them and their families.

Over the past year, WGEP has expanded a new reading initiative in Kenya! Modeled off our successful program in Senegal, we launched *Our Sisters Read Kenya*, helping students build their skills and confidence in reading and access books through a mobile library to cultivate a life-long love of reading. *Our Sisters Read Kenya* is providing unprecedented access to story books to thousands of elementary school students, fostering an appreciation of learning that is beginning to spread throughout these students' families and their communities. It is amazing to see the enthusiasm on students' faces when they are able to select a book from our library to take home!

Our Sisters Read Senegal has also grown dramatically. Through our partnership with USAID, this year we opened two new library and computer centers in Senegal! These centers provide over 8,000 students across the region access to vital educational materials and technology that they previously lacked. The addition of these centers is creating a focal point and anchor for reading and literacy within the wider community. Community members are also able to make use of these centers and their resources, inspiring an eagerness for education and knowledge that reaches beyond the students to their parents, neighbors, and village leaders.

In addition to these developments, our *Sisters to School* program continues to assist over a thousand girls with scholarships, helping them to overcome the financial burden of attending school. Through our complementary support programs, community support for women's rights and education continues to gain momentum. We still have a long way to go, with a desire to expand programming to more remote villages where high dropout rates persist. As we expand and reach these young women we look to you for continued support and thanks.

On my trips to Senegal and Kenya, I continue to meet many inspiring and hard-working women who now have new opportunities because of our program. Graduates of our program are enrolling in higher education, inspiring their younger siblings to remain in school and the even achieving new careers! We deeply appreciate your commitment to this project and are looking forward to this coming year and what we will accomplish, together.

Yours,

Amy Maglio
Founder & Executive Director



A Real Impact for Real Girls



WGEP graduates attend our panel discussion on higher education.



Kenyan students learn about health and gain life skills at WGEP clubs.

2015 Scholar Report Card

100%	retention rate in both Senegal and Kenya
90%	of Kenyan 3rd-year high school scholars earn computer training certificates from a local university
53%	of Kenyan high school scholars qualify for university entry compared to 31% nationally
48%	of Senegalese high school scholars pass their final exam, compared to 36% nationally
40%	of Kenyan high school scholars qualify for public university scholarships due to good grades

2015 WGEP Impact

Access

**1,000
SCHOLARS**

Success

- 350 After School Club members
- 178 Alternative Right of Passage graduates
- 67 Safe Male Circumcision graduates
- 60 scholars in Adolescent Health Workshops
- 22 post secondary scholars

Lasting Change

- 8,000 community members reached through community outreach
- 1,350 parents in Adult Literacy classes
- 78 graduates pursuing post-secondary education for future careers

Turning Dreams Into Realities



WGEP graduate Nancy smiles about her future.

Nancy Kenya graduate

My parents taught me the value of hard work and education. Now I help my younger siblings with their studies and encourage them to work hard.

Nancy earned the second-highest grade in her graduating class and qualified for a public university scholarship. She loves reading and math and hopes to continue her education to become an accountant.



WGEP graduate Caroline pictured with her grandmother (left) and her mother (right).

Caroline Kenya graduate

My mother has always told me to put my education first. She and my grandmother supported my studies and acted as role models for me by participating in adult literacy classes to learn to read and write. I am so happy that I have made them proud.

Caroline performed well in school and qualified for a public university scholarship. She hopes to continue her education to become a doctor.



WGEP reading competition winner Fatou, embraced by her proud mother at the awards ceremony.

Fatou 4th grade Senegal scholar

I am proud to say I was the winner at both the 2014 and 2016 reading contests put on by the Our Sisters Read program. I won because I work hard and enjoy reading. Whenever I have free time, my favorite thing to do is read a book. I used to have to read tattered textbooks, but now I can enjoy story books that I borrow from the program library. My advice for fellow students is to work hard, study and devote yourself to your studies.

Fatou is excited about continuing her education and hopes to be a librarian when she grows up.

Our Sisters Read (OSR) Senegal



Librarian Safietou at the new WGEP library in Senegal.



Students gain literacy skills using tablets.



Senegal Ministry of Education and USAID inaugurate WGEP's new literacy center.

Launched in 2013, in partnership with USAID

This year, one of our proudest achievements was the opening of two new library and computer centers in Senegal. These centers are the first of their kind in the Fatick region of Senegal, offering unprecedented access to books, computers and materials for over 8,000 students from 52 schools in the region. These centers include conference and exposition rooms for the community's use, making the centers focal points that generate widespread enthusiasm for and commitment to the program.

Focusing on literacy is important because children who have a strong foundation of literacy skills are more likely to succeed throughout their education, break the cycle of poverty and be better equipped to realize their full potential. OSR engages students and the entire community through lending libraries, computer labs, reading competitions, literacy activities, technology and community events.

Resources to date

- 18 fun & engaging literacy activities
- 7,000 books
- 40 computers
- 50 tablets
- 4,000 solar lanterns

Our Sisters Read (OSR) Kenya



Scholars enjoy new books and lanterns.



Mothers learn to read and write in our Adult Literacy classes.



Students participate in reading activities.

In partnership with the Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation

This year, we launched *Our Sisters Read Kenya*! Like OSR Senegal, this program aims to advance literacy and promote a lifelong love of reading and learning among primary school students in rural Kenya, particularly girls. The program has received the full and enthusiastic support of Ministry of Education officials, local leaders, parents, teachers, school directors and students!

A community survey conducted prior to the start of the program found that 72% of our target students completely lacked access to a library. The unprecedented access to books and activities OSR offers is making these children excited about reading and learning. In its first year, OSR Kenya reached 3,700 primary students from 11 schools in the Tharaka region of Kenya. 2,100 books are available for students to select from and solar lanterns are provided so that they can read after dark.

Scholars to Tutors: The Sustainable Impact



Aminata working at her desk.



Fridah at her new job.

Aminata

Former Sisters to School Senegal scholar who is now an Outreach Officer for OSR Senegal

Hi, my name is Aminata and I was a WGEF Sisters to School scholar from 2011–2014. I come from a conservative village and a poor family, but I always worked very hard in school. Then the program came to my aid and took away the heavy burden of school fees. It also gave me supplies and provided me with everything I needed to succeed in school.

I am so happy to be working for the Our Sisters Read program. It has been my dream to help my sisters do well in school and achieve great things.

Fridah

Former Sisters to School Kenya scholar who is now the Outreach Officer for OSR Kenya

Hi, my name is Fridah and I was a Sisters to School Kenya scholar from 2007–2011. After graduating from high school, I went on to receive a teaching degree from Mount Kenya University. I worked for two years as a teacher in another region, but I always wanted to return to Tharaka to assist my own community. I was thrilled when I was invited to interview for the role of OSR Outreach Officer.

Teaching is my passion and I am so happy to be giving back to the program that helped make my dreams come true.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

January–December 2015

Revenue

USAID	\$463,806
Foundations & Corporations	215,498
Individuals	19,354
Events	122,456
In-Kind	120,106

Total Revenue \$941,219

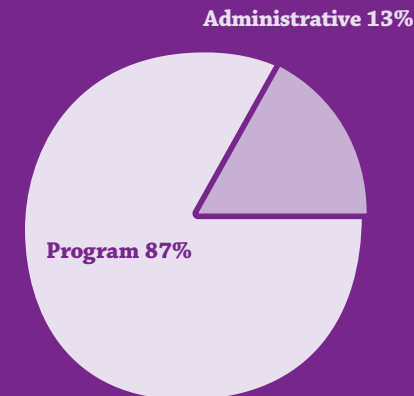
Expenditures

Programs	\$676,993
General & Administrative	76,217
Fundraising	21,873

Total Expenditures \$775,083

Net assets, end of year = \$246,005

Breakdown of Expenditures



Revenue by Year

2015	\$941,219
2014	\$540,589
2013	\$289,147
2012	\$205,845
2011	\$175,960
2010	\$246,712
2009	\$105,860
2008	\$46,406
2007	\$98,886
2006	\$60,632

Supporter Spotlight

Government Awards

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Corporations, Foundations and Organizations

Grants & Contributions \$20,000 & Above

Chicago Community Trust, Donor Advised Fund
Anonymous
Thanksgiving Fund
The Stone Family Foundation
Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation

\$10,000–19,999

The Lohengrin Foundation
Manaaki Foundation

\$3,000–\$9,999

Earth and Its People Foundation
Rubens Family Foundation

\$1,000–\$2,999

Country Financial
The Hickey Family Foundation
JRG Capital Partners, LLC
Leinenweber, Baroni & Daffada LLC
Nova Catholic Community
Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest
Sandbox Studio, Inc.

\$300–\$999

Ardelle Baroni Charitable Fund
Amicus Fund, Donor Advised Fund
Community Bank of Oak Park-River Forest
Evanston Community Foundation

Highland Mills Foundation
Mortgage Resource Group

\$299 & Under

AmazonSmile Foundation
DePaul University
Gail L. Mathews & Associates, LLC
iGive
Lou Malnati's Pizzeria
Martin J. and Susan B. Kozak Fund, Donor Advised Fund
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In Kind Gifts

Adler Planetarium
Alliance Francaise De Chicago
The Art Institute of Chicago
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Zoological Society
Catch 35
Chicago Bears
Chicago Bulls
The Chicago Council on Global Affairs
Chicago Cubs
Chicago Pizza Tours
Cooper's Hawk
Element Collective
Feast
The Field Museum
Frontera Grill
Goodman Theatre
Hotel Palomar
Hubbard Street Dance Chicago
Joffrey Ballet
Lou Malnati's Pizzeria
LuminAID
Merrill Pilates
Moto Restaurant
Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago

Olive and Well
Otter Box
Power Performance (John Hayley)
Qelasy
Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel
Shedd Aquarium
The Skincare Company and Spa
Skydeck Chicago
Vertical Endeavors
Vie Restaurant
Whirly Ball
Women and Children First

Matching Gifts

BMO Harris Bank N.A.
Illinois Tool Works Foundation
MacArthur Foundaion
Qualcomm Foundation
Silicon Valley Community Foundation

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\$10,000 & above

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Leaders' Circle

\$5,000 – \$9,999

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Sisters' Circle

\$1,000–\$4,999

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