



Changing Lives...

Building Futures



UPDATE

Vol. 15 No. 2 June 2008

***“Women, Water, and
Food Security”***
**VGIF 40th Anniversary
Conference**

November 2009, Calcutta, India

With VGIF’s 40th Anniversary year fast approaching in 2009, plans have commenced for a very special opportunity. A conference in Calcutta in collaboration with the Indian Federation of University Women will be held with a pre-conference tour of Agra and selected sites in Rajasthan in November 2009. If possible, we will visit some of our recently funded projects. All travel and accommodation arrangements will be handled by Friendship Ambassadors Foundation in New York, a non-profit cultural service agency with international affiliations, which provides customized tours to a host of non-governmental organizations.

The conference, entitled “Women, Water, and Food Security,” will start with an inaugural dinner on the evening of November 18, 2009. The next day will feature three to four plenary sessions, workshops, and a panel summation. Participants will include several women experts in the field along with project directors from previously funded VGIF grants. The final half day will include a visit to Project Five-0 in Calcutta, one of VGIF’s first funded projects.

More information will be provided in upcoming months. If you are interested in finding out more about the trip and wish to be added to an informational mailing list, please contact us at vgif@vgif.org.

Salute to Barbara Carey

It is indeed difficult to put into a few words proper thanks for the leadership, dedication, commitment, and guiding spirit that Barbara Carey brought to her six-year tenure as President of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund.

Barbara focused her considerable talents and energies into the Gildersleeve Fund from 2002-2008, a period which began with our move from the AAUW-NYC headquarters to our own offices at Marble Collegiate Church. This was also a period that saw our annual grants double from approximately 12 to 15 to an anticipated 30 in the final year of her presidency. She worked tirelessly to represent VGIF at state, regional, and national American Association of University Women events and at two International Federation of University Women Triennial Conferences (2004 in Perth and 2007 in Manchester). She also attended Canadian Federation of University Women Annual General Meetings and University Women of Europe (UWE) Conferences.

With an eye to detail yet a breadth of vision, hers is a unique ability to organize, inspire, articulate, and initiate consensus – all done in a manner so efficient that it belies her ever gracious and generous spirit. In countless meetings, conversations, and correspondence we were impressed by her insight, entertained by her witticisms, and prodded by her challenge to further the mission and work of the Gildersleeve Fund. We will miss Barbara at the helm but trust that she will continue to be an important part of the heart and soul of VGIF.

Thank you, Barbara, for your valued leadership through the past six years and even more for the spirit of friendship, cooperation, and collegiality that you have infused in VGIF during your presidency.

***1969 to 2009... 40 years of VGIF support
for women and children in developing countries.***

We need your ideas and involvement in planning the celebration year.

Contact vgif@vgif.org or call 212-213-0622.



The President's Perspectives

by Eileen Menton, President, 2008-2011

Warmest greetings to contributing members and friends of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund. During the next three years, I look forward to meeting those of you whom I haven't met and to working with all of you.

Little did I know when Jean Colburn asked me to join VGIF that I would be following in her footsteps as President. Under the tutelage of Jean, Wes Cady, Sema Faigen, Barbara Carey, Ginny Palmer, Virginia Maynard, Carrie Gallagher, Fay Kittelson, and many others, I have come to appreciate how, with your generous contributions and volunteer participation in its work, VGIF changes lives and builds futures of women and children worldwide, one community at a time.

This has been a banner year for VGIF. The Board approved 30 grants for a total of \$144,283 and set aside \$5,000 for the International Federation of Universtiy Women (IFUW), a record for grants and US dollars spent. Because our annual income (donations and investment income) has exceeded 250,000 USD, this year our finances will be audited for the first time. Fay Kittelson has been appointed Executive Director and we now have a second, part-time employee. We published our first annual report which can be viewed at www.vgif.org. A pilot project that expands our on-site evaluations program is underway. We have expanded our presence on the Internet with a Facebook page and the ability to donate on-line through JustGive.Org. Our outstanding Web site includes a project grants library and on-line applications for grants. And, we have filed our first quadrennial report to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on our activities at the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO) with consultative status.

I am confident that with your help we will be able to continue to expand the number of grants given and improve our post-grant evaluation process. Encourage others to become VGIF members. Know that ALL contributions will go toward Project Grants, as the Virginia Frese Palmer Fund covers all of our administrative expenses. Get involved by joining a committee or visiting funded project sites. While committee members are encouraged to attend the New York meetings, it is not a requirement. Let Fay Kittelson know how you would like to be involved.

As we prepare for our 40th anniversary, we will be looking at how to build the capacity to support an expanded

grant-making role. Karen McKee will be leading the effort to do a major update of our strategic plan, which will include a Board retreat on October 23, 2008, the day before our mid-year meeting.

I hope to see you at the University Women of Europe (UWE) conference in September, at our October Board meeting, or whenever you can join us in New York to participate in this rewarding work.

It Happened at the Board and Annual Meetings April 2008

- Approved conducting an annual audit beginning with our 2007 financial statement.
- Approved 29 grants and one grant conditionally.
- Presented the 2007 Annual Report.
- Renamed the On-Site Committee the Funded Grants Evaluation Committee with responsibility for post-grant evaluation processes, including on-site visits.
- Established a pilot project to run from May to October 2008 to fund transportation and room and board for women living abroad to visit newly-funded projects.
- Voted to hold a planning retreat on the Thursday prior to the October 2008 meeting (October 23).
- Modified the bylaws to eliminate the Global Network Committee and expand the Membership Committee.
- Elected to first terms, Eileen Menton President, Dagmar McGill, 1st Vice President, and Dana Wright, 3rd Vice President.
- Elected Judy Whitelock, Secretary, and Margery Sullivan, Treasurer, to second terms.
- Elected Lois Abromitis, Susannah Dhamdhere, Marta Groisman, Marion Kilson, and Margery Sullivan to second terms and Myrna Brown, Carolyn Cowgill, Rebecca Fairchild, Shireen Lee, Anita Miller, Terry Oudraad, Linda Sekiguchi, and Jacki Shahzadi to first terms on the Board.
- Appointed Marion Kilson, 2nd Vice President and Convener of the Project Grants Committee, Shireen Lee as Convener of the Development Committee, Virginia Maynard as Convener of the 2008-2009 Nominating Committee, and Linda Sekiguchi as Convener of the Funded Grants Evaluation Committee.

On-site Pilot Program

Zoë Kelly-Nacht, Grants Assistant

In April the Board voted to provide up to 2,000 USD in funding for transportation and minimal living costs for selected young women living abroad. These young women will report on the initial state and eventual progress of specific VGIF 2008 projects during the first half of the project year in order to improve the assessment of the legitimacy of funded organizations and the quality of the projects. At the October Board meeting, the pilot program will be evaluated to determine whether it will help ensure an appropriate level of “due diligence” in a fiscally responsible manner. If this approach is successful, we will investigate expanding the project to applicants February through April 2009.

Three development studies majors from Brown University, (Evan Pulvers, Alison Fairbrother, and Brenna Carmody) will visit projects in India, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Liberia. Leah Whitman-Salkin, a recent graduate of Bard College, will visit a project in Serbia. Everlyn Olouch-Suleh, a Kenyan IFUW member, will visit projects in Kenya. In addition to visiting new projects, they will visit projects funded in prior years. By providing minimal subsidies to young women for their travel expenses, we can obtain the information we need while furthering the education of young women in the details of the betterment of the health, education, and economic security of women globally. It will also increase the involvement of younger women in VGIF.

While much of what these women have been asked to report on has been tailored to the projects themselves — the marketing potential of sanitary napkins in Tamil Nadu, India; the significance of a 5,000 USD anti-drug education program in Belgrade, Serbia, within a heavily funded worldwide war on drugs; the progress on the construction of a water harvesting structure in Kampala, Uganda — each report will address the legitimacy and competency of the funded organization, impressions of participant enthusiasm, potential obstacles in the achievement of the projects’ ultimate goals, how those obstacles might be addressed, and the relevance of the reporter’s on-site presence to the success of the projects and strength of VGIF.

Deaths Noted

Gwen Hawthorne, Australia
 Shirley Feneley, Australia
 Joan Jacobson, NY, USA
 Beverly Pavey, Australia
 Betty Shwabsky, Australia

MEMBERSHIP

Claire Stein, Convener

The VGIF Membership Committee worked hard this past year to increase the number of VGIF contributing individual and group members. The Committee members made numerous presentations about VGIF. Any VGIF member has access to presentation materials by contacting Fay Kittelson, Executive Director and asking for them. The list of what is available can be found at www.vgif.org under the “Recruitment Materials” tab. Please help to increase our organization’s visibility, especially overseas. We all belong to other organizations that share our mission. Talk to them about VGIF.

Yes, we would very much like to have everyone contribute 50 USD to VG, but realize that for many this is not a possibility. This is why there is an “Other” category box on our brochure. We appreciate any contribution! Know that the entire amount will go toward the Project Grants and make a better world for those who are the recipients.

Our reporting year shows that we have 954 individual contributing members and 102 group contributing members. We would like to see more members coming from South America, Central America, Europe, and Asia. If you are traveling and/or attending meetings in any of these parts of the world, take our VGIF brochures, talk about VGIF, and encourage people to join our efforts.

At the Annual Meeting in April 2008 a Constitution and Bylaws amendment was adopted, increasing the number of people who can serve on the Membership Committee. It is hoped that this Committee will be more global in membership and more diverse. The following people are now serving: Reiko Aoki, Japan; Carolyn Cowgill, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.; Rebecca Fairchild, Vermont, U.S.A.; Shirley Randell, Rwanda; Esther Scher, Arizona, U.S.A.; Jackie Shahzadi, California, U.S.A.; Rita Skillman, California, U.S.A.; Fay Weber, Montana, U.S.A.; Joy Williams, Canada; Leslie Wright, New York, U.S.A.; and the Convener, Claire Stein, Arizona, U.S.A.. We can add up to four more members. We would very much like these to come from our overseas membership. If you live outside the USA and would be interested in serving VGIF on the Membership Committee, please let this Convener know of your interest: crsparl@comcast.net.



GRANTS FUNDED 2008

Fay Kittelson and Zoë Kelly-Nacht

Grant #3122 Miroi Growers Cooperative Society, UGANDA
1,200 women from rural farming communities will study literacy and household economic manuals in order to increase their income. Groups of 2-12 women will receive instruction from an outside facilitator on women's rights and responsibilities. VGIF funding will provide for the literacy and economic participation manuals. 4,890 USD

Grant #3124 Tutulane AIDS Organization, MALAWI
Tutulane proposes a three-part project in the Chitipa district (on the border of Tanzania and Zambia) to develop an empowered approach to HIV/AIDS and rights advocacy among vulnerable youth and women. 30 girls and 30 boys will attend computer literacy classes with specific attention paid to researching health education and career development online; 90 orphan-headed households will participate in a Goat-for-Goat Project to improve household income and food security; and 30 women will be trained on women's rights advocacy as it relates to HIV/AIDS and community development. Funding will provide five computers, 30 goats, and advocacy training. 4,936 USD

Grant #3137 Charity Group Association (CGA), RWANDA
The Charity Goat Project aims to supply goats to a group of 80 impoverished women and 60 girl orphans devastated by HIV/AIDS and the civil war in hopes of improving their access to nutrition and income-generating activities. CGA plans to purchase goats from South Africa superior to local breeds to provide milk, meat, and manure for fertilizing soil for legumes, bananas, roots, tubers, and cereals. The women will receive education on nutrition. Girl participants will receive scholarship fees, medical care, and education in women and children's rights. Funds go toward purchasing the goats and workshops on nutrition and gender issues. 5,000 USD

Grant #3167 Volunteers to Support International Efforts in Developing Africa (VOSIED), LIBERIA
Women leaders – community elders and human rights activists – along with local women's organizations and local law enforcement agencies from the Fuimah District of the war-devastated Lower Bong County will be trained in the formation of a local anti-rape network. This network will address the implementation of existing laws at the local level and encourage community participation in fighting violence against women and girls in rural Liberia. They will conduct awareness training in 75 villages. VGIF funding will be used for transportation, training supplies, training room rental, and volunteer allowances. 4,985 USD

Grant #3179 Social Transformation and Educational Prosperity (STEP), PAKISTAN

A non-formal primary school for 250 girls and boys (72% girls) will be set up in northwest Pakistan near the industrial town of Faisalabad where there are no schools. STEP is working to bring these children into a non-formal educational environment that will motivate parents to focus more on their children's education, while providing a greater guarantee of employment opportunities for their children once they finish school. The VGIF grant will fund school stationery, furniture, computers, a printer, and activities that encourage community involvement. 4,501 USD

Grant #3180 Kenya Association for Empowerment of Disabled People (KADEP), KENYA

This project will train 40 leaders among women with disabilities from three rural communities, to sensitize women who are deaf, blind, intellectually challenged and/or physically disabled. Prevention, care, and management of HIV/AIDS are on the training agenda. VGIF funding will go toward workshop expenses and transportation. 3,400 USD

Grant #3187 Bogiakumu Village Women Group (BVWG), KENYA

30 members of the BVWG intend to hold an anti-Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) campaign at the Ekerore Primary School. For four months, Sunday forums will include dances with anti-FGM messages, discussions among men, women and girls' groups, speeches by medical workers, and testimonies by FGM victims. BVWG hopes to convince 100 girls and their families to forsake the practice of FGM. VGIF funding will provide printing, phones and computer use, stationery, transportation, a public address system, and costumes. 5,000 USD

Grant #3225 Silverline Development Initiatives, NIGERIA

Silverline intends to reduce the level of maternal mortality rates among women who use the services of traditional birth attendants (TBAs) in Assang Clan of Nsit Ibom Local Government Association (LGA) of Akwa Ibom State. 15 TBAs will be provided with essential medical kits and supplies, and training in basic obstetric care. In addition, the project will build the capacity of TBAs to carry out community education on child spacing and family planning and also facilitate the referral of clients to health facilities for appropriate family planning services. 4,971 USD

Grant #3237 Child Rescue and Welfare Organization, SIERRA LEONE

Child Rescue is working to construct a community-based educational institution to provide free, high-quality formal elementary classes for 200 vulnerable children. These

children either lost their parents in the Sierra Leone Civil War or were affected by it. VGIF funding will provide office and classroom furniture, learning materials, teaching materials, library resources, and miscellaneous expenses. 5,000 USD

Grant #3246 Rural People's Welfare Organisation (RPWO), INDIA

This project aims to improve the lives of 50 tribal women and girls by training them in the manufacture of cheap sanitary napkins that were hitherto not available to the community. The lack of hygienic options for menstruating women has led to chronic health issues. The project effectively matches a community with a need for improved hygiene and health with a potential income-generating scheme for the beneficiaries. Finding a ready market for these sanitary napkins in a large community of rural women is anticipated. VGIF funds will be used for food and refreshments for trainees, preparation of course materials, honoraria for resource persons, practical training, an exposure trip, and the purchase of raw materials, tools, and equipment. 5,000 USD

Grant #3261 Bongeh Women Common Initiative Group, CAMEROON

In an attempt to reduce the rate of malaria infection in women and children, 1,000 mosquito nets will be distributed to 800 families in the Ndu Community. A door-to-door sanitation campaign will accompany the distribution of the nets and medical personnel will attend workshops to improve the care of pregnant women. VGIF funding will be used to purchase treated nets and workshop materials. 5,000 USD

Grant #3276 Ntankah Village Women Common Initiative Group, CAMEROON

Enhancing the capacity of the Ghaife Mother Center, a community center for the educational, economic, and social development of women and children is planned. 150 women and 450 girls from the Bamenda Province in North West Cameroon will engage in collective farming activities on the Mother Center farm and learn soap making, sewing, tie-dyeing, and fish drying. Products will be sold to the local community. VGIF funding will provide for building and equipment renovations, computers and accessories, textile, soap, tie-dyeing and fish drying materials, peer exchanges, training seminars, and toys and games. 4,450 USD

Grant #3281 Craftshare Vocational Training Centre (CVTC), SIERRA LEONE

30 women and 20 girls in the rebel-attacked Kakua chiefdom of Bo District, will be offered tailoring, weaving, and literacy classes over the course of nine months. Participants will be encouraged to open a bank account and sell products at affordable prices. VGIF funding will provide literacy, weaving, and tailoring materials. 4,919 USD

Grant #3300 Amani Group for Development, TANZANIA

Lack of access to running water and toilet facilities is the principle reason girls stop attending school in sub-Saharan Africa. This grant promotes girls' education by providing four primary schools in Kasanda, Tanzania with latrines for girls, teaching hygiene, constructing rain water harvesting structures, and allowing community access to water. 2,700 school girls will benefit. VGIF funding will provide for the water tanks, latrines, and hand-washing sinks. 5,000 USD

Grant #3390 Ofiriha Community Development Association (OCDA), SUDAN

Economic and nutritional security for villagers in the Onura-Sub area of Southern Sudan will be provided by the distribution and breeding of milk goats coupled with educational campaigns intended to prevent violence against women, promote women's rights, and encourage children's education and health care. The direct participants include 43 older women, 102 girls, and 81 men. Funding will purchase 60 milk goats, workshop materials, a blackboard, and chalk. 4,950 USD

Grant #3440 Burundian's Women for Development Association, BURUNDI

This organization is striving to mediate conflict between Burundian tribes by designing projects where members from various groups work, study, eat, and play together. They requested funding for an income-generating tailoring project, which will include 25 women from three local tribes. VGIF funds will be used for sewing machines, scissors, electric irons, and sewing materials. 4,995 USD

Grant #3471 International Federation of Women Lawyers - Anambra State Chapter, NIGERIA

Increased awareness of the 2003 Child Rights Act (protecting children from trafficking, exploitation and abuse) to ensure its effective implementation is the purpose of this project. Educational programs will be conducted in ten communities, radio programs hosted, posters and stickers produced, 5,000 pamphlets with simplified versions of the law will be distributed, and a children's parliament will be created. VGIF funding will be used to pay for publication materials, advocacy, and interactive sessions. 4,920 USD



Grant #3520 Good Hopes Educational Committee, INDIA

Dalith women are a marginalized segment of the community in India because of the caste hierarchy. 25 women will be trained in the traditional occupation of handloom weaving and participate in a literacy program for one month. A production line will be started after the training period, where textile weaving should lead to an income-generating activity that would raise them above the poverty line. In the evening, the women will undergo literacy training. VGIF funds will be used to purchase 25 handlooms, raw materials, the training programs, educational materials, and pay for administrative expenses. 4,565 USD

Grant #3522 Uganda Association of University Women (UAUW), UGANDA

The UAUW plans to provide forums and workshops on the connection between sexual and reproductive health and HIV/AIDS for 38,000 first year students at four Kampala universities – Makere, Kyambogo, Uganda Christian Mukono, and Kampala International. VGIF funding will cover the project development expenses, liaison with universities, workshops, programming, communication, and conferencing. 4,980 USD

Grant #3601 Centro Cultural Batahola Norte, NICARAGUA

200 women from the Managua region will be provided with basic education (literacy through 6th grade education). Classes in cosmetology, handicrafts, cake decorating, cooking, and natural medicine will be conducted. Participants will be recruited through an outreach campaign to marginalized neighborhoods, involving door-to-door visits, mobile loudspeakers, and flyers. Up to 25 of the participants with the greatest business aptitude will be supported with micro-business education and help accessing micro-credit facilitators. Money will go toward instructors' salaries, micro-business follow-up support, transportation expenses, and publicity materials. 5,000 USD

Grant #3627 The International HUG Foundation, UGANDA

A mobile nursing community service to improve the access to basic healthcare services for children and their families will be implemented in Kampala, Uganda to create a healthier and more productive community. The unit will handle wound care, de-worming, blood pressure monitoring, diabetes checks, general health and hygiene issues, and provide health education. The site will serve 60 children and two other adult family members per child. VGIF funding will be used to purchase medical supplies, cabinets, cell phones, Internet, communication charges, transport, educational supplies and logistical support for health seminars, office administration, and project review. 4,772 USD

Grant #3628: Divine Favor Agency (DFA), GHANA

The DFA project is designed to simultaneously improve the nutrition of school children and the economic status of female food vendors at schools in Ho, Ghana. Female vendors will be provided with 50 USD loans to purchase healthy food and attend workshops on hygienic cooking and financial planning. Money from the repaid loans will provide school fees to children and support training of other vendors. A small group of women from the original group will join project administrators in the redistribution of the loans. VGIF will fund workshops and loans to 235 school vendors. 3,940 USD

Grant #3638 Digital Development, AZERBAIJAN

A workspace for 35 women IDP's (internally displaced persons) is planned where 14 will study sewing; six will learn embroidery; 15 will study carpet making, and one woman will be selected to supervise. The organization has identified a gap in the availability of traditional, handmade crafts for tourists, and intends to work with the Ministry of Tourism and Oxfam to develop a marketing plan. The organization's expertise in Web site design ensures that they will also be able to promote the products on the Internet. VGIF funds will buy seven sewing machines, fabric, yarn, thread, Web site development, and workshop space. 5,000 USD
Asian Regional Endowment Fund

Grant #3658 Association for Women Empowerment (AFWE), GHANA

Improving girl's education in eight schools in the Gusheigu District by developing the support of PTAs and School Management Committees is the focus of this project. 40 parents and 20 teachers will be trained in improving school governance to make the environment more gender sensitive. 50 school management committees will be trained in promoting the interests of girls at school. Local leaders will be trained in advocacy for girls' education. Dramas will be performed at each school and recorded for a radio program to widen coverage. Approximately 4,000 individuals (80% women) will be involved. VGIF funding will support training, conferences, awards, school supplies, radio expenses, and drama fees. 4,950 USD

Grant # 3660 Anti-Drugs Association (ADA), SERBIA

Women, youth, and children living in 30 cities and towns on the traditional Balkan Route of illicit trafficking are at risk because of drugs. They will learn about drugs, drug abuse, and drug prevention. They will create a network on the ADA Web site. 30 days of educational seminars in schools will address the importance of drug education and prevention. ADA will target 5,000 women, 10,000 school girls, and 100 street girls. VGIF will fund transportation,

printing, accommodations for seminar participants, and DVD production. 5,000 USD Leaders Fund (partial)

Grant #3669 Union de Femeninas, PERU

Rural women will be trained in agriculture and artisan weaving. Classes in health education and prevention of violence against women will also be held. Four latrines will be constructed to prevent disease. Funding will go for Alpaca wool, seeds, three manual spinning machines, dye, office materials, classroom supplies, and construction expenses for the four latrines. 4,950 USD
Central/South America/Caribbean Regional Endowment (partial)

Grant # 3671 Family-in-Need Trust, ZIMBABWE

The purpose of this project is to improve the knowledge and livelihood capacity of AIDS/HIV-infected women in the Chimanimani District of Mutare. 200 widowed women and 800 orphaned girls living with their grandparents will be targeted to initiate income-generating activities to help pay for school fees. Without this income, the girls would be unable to receive any education or support themselves. Activities include growing kitchen gardens, raising vegetables, and processing flour in the mill. In addition, the girls will be trained in leadership and advocacy skills. VGIF funds will be used for community sensitization, project launch, setting up a grinding mill and nutritional gardens, leadership and advocacy training, educational support for girls, food security, nutritional gardening and sustainable agricultural training, exchange visits and external evaluation. 4,700 USD

Grant #3720 Give a Hand and Hope AIDS Project, SOUTH AFRICA

A club that matches practical lessons in health education and financial independence with traditional arts and crafts will involve 30 girls from the rural Gopane village. The girls will be divided into two groups (ages 8-12 and ages 13-17) who will attend the club once a week to discuss female-specific issues, HIV/AIDS, and questions of culture and tradition. Older women from the community will teach the girls traditional crafts that will be marketed through local businesses. The club will provide alternative after-school activities, empower girls to engage in loving and safe sexual relationships, help the participants think critically, and expand their appreciation of their traditional culture. The VGIF grant will cover art supplies, book printing and binding, and work tables. 4,933 USD

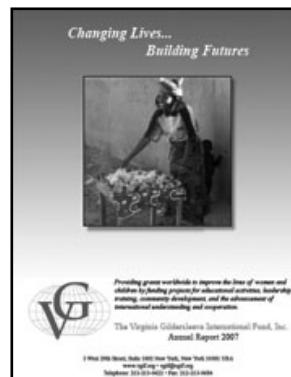
Grant #3732 Mufindi District Women's Forum (MWKAUMU), TANZANIA

In rural area communities where MWKAUMU operates, land ownership rights of women provided for in the Land Act No. 5 of 1999 are not understood. Authorities will be

sensitized to ensure that the land rights occupancy law is adhered to. 67,855 women and girls will participate in project activities. 562 village and ward authorities and 33 counselors will be trained on the new property rights of women. VGIF funds will be used for preparation of understandable versions of the Act, materials, workshops (trainers, kits, and accommodations), and lobbying and advocacy at the community level. 5,000 USD

Grant #3749 African Services Committee (ASC), ETHIOPIA

ASC will use VGIF funds to support 13 HIV positive families from the Entoto community near Addis Ababa. The grant will provide for nutritional supplements to compliment ART (Anti-Retroviral Therapy), and business training courses in conjunction with loans from Gasha Microfinance. In addition, funds will be used to transport the families into the capital for treatment when needed and provide for an ASC nurse to travel to Entoto to conduct regular checkups and engage in HIV/AIDS prevention and outreach activities with the larger Entoto community. 4,576 USD



Annual Report 2007

Maggie Ford

Development Convener
2002 - 2008

We had a “premiere” in April 2008 – our first-ever Annual Report! In 2005-06, the Development Committee began discussing the need for an Annual Report to use when

seeking financial support, especially from corporations, foundations, and individuals. The committee wanted something that would speak to the “health of the organization.”

We decided against the traditional slick/glossy/expensive publication with a short shelf-life which no one uses or reads. We preferred to create something that could be easily/quickly/inexpensively updated and would not be snail-mailed around the world; something readily accessible to everyone. We proposed and have produced a Web-based document that meets our criteria.

Further, we wanted something that would include many pictures, thinking that showing the quality of our investments and those of our donors would be a far more persuasive case than many pages of words.

This first Annual Report is the work of many months, many hands, and many debates on content and direction. The Development Committee and the Board are pleased to present it for your consideration. Go to www.vgif.org and click on Annual Report 2007 for your personal copy.

DEVELOPMENT

Maggie Ford, Convener

The spring meeting was one of transition for the Development Committee: a new convener to be elected to the Board (Shireen Lee); committee membership to change (Maggie Ford and Florine Swanson completing their terms). It seemed appropriate to focus, not on achievements, but on necessary next steps. You'll be hearing more about these over the coming months.

We need to find ways to broaden our base of financial support to ensure that funds are available for award to the many worthy projects we would like to fund. To do that we need to engage our board and committee members more fully in raising funds to support the work of VGIF.

We have a compelling story to tell – we need to find more ways to do so in more venues around the world. We need better quantitative research on the projects we have funded in the past. We need major external financial assistance to undertake such a major project if we are to do it right.

Members of the Development Committee have put in significant numbers of hours in positioning VGIF to take the next steps. This is where the help of all our contributing members becomes especially important: we cannot undertake spreading the word about VGIF, its successes, and its financial needs without you.

We thank you for your past support. We look to you for sustaining support. And, we also look to you for advice on how to expand the reach of VGIF.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Margery Sullivan, Treasurer

Many thanks to all the contributing members of VGIF for their continued loyal support of the fund. In 2007, contributions for grants were 150,604 USD. In 2007, we funded 24 grants (107,326 USD), including a grant to IFUW for its Triennial Conference in Manchester, UK. We also funded four special solicitations.

As of December 31, 2007, our total assets were 2,522,052 USD of which 2,086,353 USD was in the Palmer Administrative Fund.

Total return in 2007 was 2.67% for the Endowment Fund and 0.99% for the Palmer Administrative Fund. The sub-prime problems in particular and fixed income worries in general cost the funds on the price side. However, we were still able to generate 20,441 USD in income for the Endowment Fund and 104,000 USD in income for the Palmer Fund, which remain our prime concern.

The Palmer Administrative Fund continues to fund the management expenses of VGIF — 113,768 USD in 2007. As a result, all donations are used for project grants.

Project Grants Update

#2787 Hope Foundation for Women and Children of Bangladesh, BANGLADESH

The Safe Maternity Project was a pilot project to encourage poor women in the rural area around Cox's Bazar Hospital for Women and Children, to make use of the maternity services provided by this charitable hospital.

The project facilitated the successful delivery of 50 babies to 50 healthy women between December 2007 and April 2008. VGIF funded the medicines for 50 women and babies including prenatal care, labor, delivery costs, and vaccinations. Each baby born at the hospital was given a hamper of first clothes, blankets, toiletries, and other essentials, for which the mothers were particularly grateful. In keeping with the mission of the project, educational seminars for women were held in remote areas of Bangladesh on safe maternity care. The initial assumption was that the women would prefer to give birth at home; however, it was found that after attending seminars at the hospital and meeting the female doctor heading the project, many women decided to have a hospital delivery.



A mother at Cox's Bazar Hospital in Bangladesh brings her baby back to the hospital for a check up.

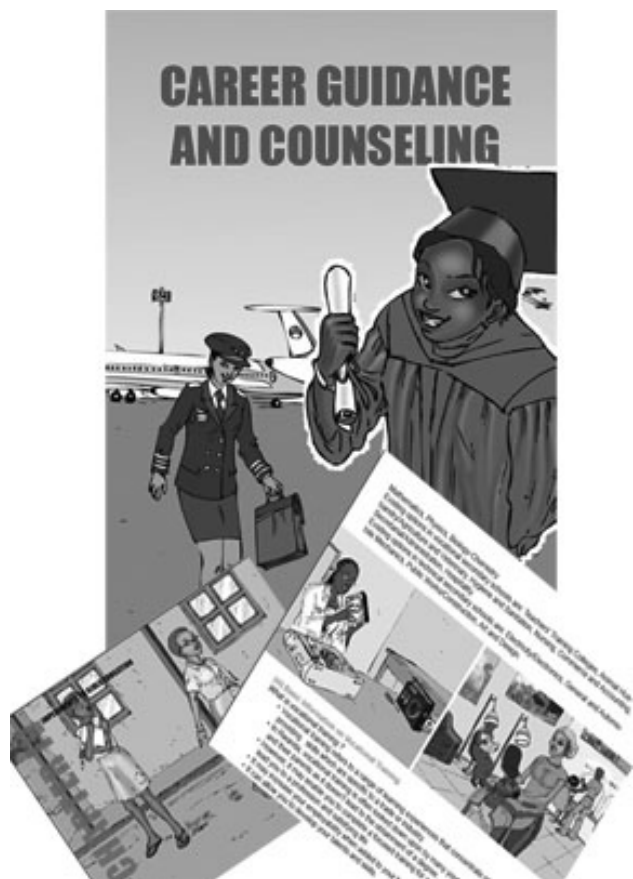
#2937 MAASAI Community Outdoor Educator (MA-CORE), KENYA

This project improved community advocacy and enforcement of women's land ownership: 40 Maasai women group leaders participated in a capacity-building workshop on gender, land, and legal education; six Maasai women participated in a training workshop for paralegal assistants; 40 women participated in workshops on lobbying and advocacy strategies; 40 Maasai women participated in a one-day community mobilization meeting; and 64 posters were distributed. Materials from the program demonstrated great attention to the details of effective advocacy. The

post-election violence directly affected, but did not stop the project. Several members of MACORE were arrested and jailed for two months and two were found dead.

#2997 Rwandan Association of University Women (RAUW), RWANDA

RAUW has prepared a Career Guidance and Counseling booklet for girls in secondary schools, providing them with basic information about various fields of study in Rwanda and elsewhere. The booklet, which will be produced in both English and French, gives the girls hints on how to orient themselves toward a career of their choice in addition to equipping them with life skills which will enable them to develop academically, personally, and socially. RAUW plans to distribute the booklet to all female students in secondary school as soon as the Ministry of Education approves its content.



#2861 International Federation of Lawyers (FIDA), GHANA

Since the mid-term report, the FIDA project has engaged 350 women from the Bosomtwe District of Kuntanase and the Amansie West District of Manso Nkwanta, in legal literacy and human rights awareness programs. Legal aid services through mobile outreach programs and a network of paralegals to ensure pursuit and continuity of legal cases

were also provided. The sophistication of questions from participants -- whether a husband's adultery constitutes grounds for a divorce, if a husband's children from an extra-marital affair were entitled to property, the litigation of a common-law partner's land, etc. -- was particularly convincing of the project's educational impact. One female participant optimistically stated, "Women are ready to change for the better and we will not allow our girl children to go through the same things." In the words of FIDA, "the legal literacy project revealed an amazing aptitude of women of limited education to bring about changes for themselves if adequate support is given."

#3083 Sheki Branch Development of Women Center, AZERBAIJAN

The project goal was all encompassing: to develop productive co-operation between government and society to end domestic violence through the development of a domestic violence hotline; to collect pledges from male citizens of Zaqatala, Qx, Oguz, and Balaken to oppose violence toward women; mass distribution of booklets addressing domestic violence; to train police and medical workers in addressing domestic violence; and to advertise in the Sheki newspaper.

The "Hope Line" received 123 calls in four months, (37% of calls specifically addressed domestic violence), 2,000 booklets were distributed, 2,000 men's pledges were collected, and 22 police officers and 26 medical personnel participated in training. Reactions to the campaign were recorded. Among men, statements ranged from "My wife is mine, if I want to punish her I'll certainly do it" to "What a great program this is. If I were a young man I would also participate in this." Among women: "I finally understood that what I accept as a simple problem is called violence" and "I found out that women have their rights and can protect themselves."

DATES TO REMEMBER

2008

VGIF Mid-Year Meeting: October 24-25, New York, U.S.A.

CFUW 2008 AGM: August 7-10, Montreal, Canada

UWE 2008 General Assembly: September 13, Kyrenia, N. Cyprus

2009

VGIF Annual Meeting: April 24-25, New York, U.S.A.

VGIF Board Meeting: October 23-24, New York, U.S.A.

VGIF Conference: November 18-20, Calcutta, India

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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Rita Skillman, Convener

Three changes were made to the Constitution and Bylaws at the Annual Meeting in April 2008.

- 1) "Global Network" was deleted from Article VIII, Section 1.
- 2) The entire contents of Article VIII, Section 2D, the Global Network Committee, were deleted; this committee will no longer be on the list of Standing Committees.
- 3) Article VIII, Section E(1) was amended to state "Be composed of no fewer than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15) members, including the convener."

Because Section 2D of Article VIII was deleted, Section 2E is now Section 2D and Section 2F is now Section 2E.

All members now have easy access to the Constitution and Bylaws. Click the "About" tab on the VGIF Web site.

The next meeting of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will be on October 24th when we will discuss proposed bylaws revisions. Several suggestions for change have already been made: putting membership term limits on some of our current "additional committees;" make some of the additional committees "Standing Committees;" and changing the wording on how our finances are being reported. If you have a proposed change, please let Rita Skillman know by September 1 so the Committee will have an opportunity to review and discuss them.

Find out what's happening at VGIF

Check out our Web site

www.vgif.org

General information about VGIF and how to become a contributing member

VG Update online

The VG Flash

Search the Project Grants Library

Order Recruitment Materials

View the Annual Report and Donate On-Line

VG Update

A semi-annual publication of
The Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund

Eileen S. Menton, President: U.S.A.

M. Louise McLeod, Editor: U.S.A.

Information for publication should
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