



WMF Friends & Donor Newsletter

March 2014

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Call for Volunteers! Scholarship Reviewers Needed

One of our most powerful ways to connect you with our organization occurs annually from April through June. For five months, from November through March, students throughout developing countries work to submit their applications for the chance to advance their education. As a reviewer of Empowerment Through Education Scholarship applications, you will learn about the desire that glows inside of 1000s of hopeful university students who have discovered WMF. We encourage you to share in this experience by reviewing a diverse candidate pool of individuals who are hoping to shape the future of our world, beginning through service in their home communities.

Send Nicole an email at nicole@wellsmountain.com to join our reviewers list for 2014!

Hear from 2013 Reviewers:

"Here are my top 5. This is so hard—it should be top 15!" -Louise

"If I was a multi-millionaire I would donate to each and everyone of these applicants...They all strive to become better people and to give back to their own country. Thank you for allowing me to help out" -Doreen

WMF Scholars & Alumni Conference

Book Angels Program

Giving the gift of literacy

400 toddler, children's and young adult books were distributed in December 2013

4 benefiting agencies in Addison County, Vermont

15 years of inspiring lifelong readers through 7000 book donations since 1998!



WMF is excited to announce the first ever WMF Scholar & Alumni Conference to be held in Nairobi, Kenya in June 2015.

All WMF Scholars & Alumni are welcomed to attend this three-day event. All who attend will be provided with a travel stipend based upon their distance travelled. The conference, accommodations and all meals will be covered by WMF. We hope to hold future conferences every two or three years.

Board Member Jordyn Wells and Programs Coordinator Nicole Baker will be working together to create a program that enhances WMF Scholar & Alumni's current skills and enables their growth as

leaders and as individuals who are committed to improving their communities!

Thirty WMF Scholars & Alumni contributed valuable feedback for shaping the direction of our conference.

Why announce the conference 17 months in advance?

- To provide Scholars & Alumni time to fundraise to attend the event
- For the planning process to take place at our office in Vermont and also with our partners in Nairobi, Kenya
- For WMF to search and apply for grants that would support the event



WMF Founder and President Tom Wells said, "We are excited to gather as many WMF Scholars as possible all in one place. They are superstars, all of them! Allowing them to network, learn valuable skills and plan projects can only bring spectacular results. I can't wait!!"

Connect with us online: www.wellsmountainfoundation.org and on Facebook!

The 2013 Annual Appeal

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of WMF Donors, we have generated \$114,000 to support our education, literacy and art programs this year. We are continually thankful for those who see the promise that is alive within the darkest of situations. From initiating art programs in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, to building safe YMCA community centers in remote Haitian villages, providing books to low income families and enabling the education of 59 current students worldwide, we say THANK YOU! Every donation, no matter the size, creates positive change in the communities we serve.

Special thanks to Ken & Susie Forester and Chris & Alison Lutz who have just joined the WMF Honor Roll, they are among six donors who have contributed a combined \$500,000 over 7 years!

For a full list of supports, please visit: www.wellsmountainfoundation.org/our-wonderful-donors



*"Being a Scholar with
WMF has helped
change my life because
now I can get
employment
opportunities unlike in
the past. I believe I can
be able to help my
family and community
better as I have gained
a lot of skills in
development work."*

- Grace Musiimenta, 2013

WMF Alumni

Cap Hatien Container YMCA 2014

WMF's efforts in the island nation of Haiti continues! WMF in partnership with the Ridgewood, New Jersey YMCA is currently collecting donations to assist in the building of the next Container YMCA in Cap Hatien and in support of the YMCA of Haiti. The Cap Hatien YMCA will be the ninth YMCA Center in Haiti. WMF has been instrumental in the planning and construction of the LaBoule and Croix des Bouquetes Container YMCAs, so this is our third.

We are working together right now to fill a shipping container with building supplies. Construction on the Cap Hatien Container YMCA will begin in September 2014. A team of 12 construction volunteers will be traveling to Haiti for the ground breaking ceremony and begin building with our local partners! Our own Tom Wells and Nicole Baker will be leading the trip.

The community of Cap Hatien is extremely excited for the creation of the latest YMCA branch in Haiti. Citizens are eager for a safe and inspirational center for children, youth and families of all ages.

We continue to welcome your support for our Haiti Project!



Changes in 2014 Scholarship Application

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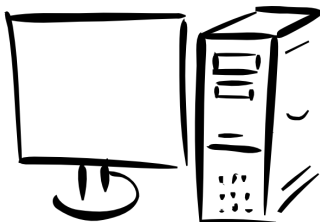
For seven years, WMF has consistently seen an increase in applications for the Empowerment Through Education Scholarship program. Initially all applications were sent by mail to our office in Bristol, Vermont. As time progressed, we introduced the option to email completed applications and we would then print them in the office. In 2013, we received 2,300 applications.

**2,300 applications =
23,000+ pieces of paper**

As an organization who promotes improving communities, we knew that our application process was creating unnecessary waste.

On December 1, 2013, we launched our online portal for applying to the Empowerment Through Education Scholarship. Applicants are prompted to create a password to be associated with their email address (username) and can then return to work on their online application until April 1, 2014.

So far, we have received the majority of 2014 applications through the online platform and thus our review process will also occur primarily online. We will be providing all reviewers with clear instructions! The transition should be seamless!



Uganda WMF Fellowship Meeting



On Saturday, January 26, eight WMF Scholars and Alumni from throughout Uganda gathered together in Kampala for a day of networking and strategic planning. Catherine Nagadya (5th from R) and Collins Kivumbi (far R) led the student initiative to create a network of WMF Ugandan Scholars united for a common good. At the meeting, they pledged to create the “Fountains for Change”, which will soon be a registered entity in Uganda! Fountains for Change will create programs to advance the students vision of a society living healthfully and informed now and for the future. The group plans to meet again in June 2014 and welcomes additional WMF Uganda Scholars and Alumni to join them! We hope to assist other WMF Scholars worldwide in connecting within their communities to plan powerful projects. We are very proud of Catherine and Collins for working so hard!



*I am what I am now
because of WMF. The
hopes of completing the
course had already
narrowed by the time I
got the WMF
scholarship. Thank God
and WMF for having let
me complete my study
and giving an
opportunity to see some
light at the end of the
dark tunnel I had ahead
of me. I'm now back in
my heart felt community
trying to offer what I
can for them with the
help of God. I am so
proud of WMF and being
part of the alumni.
- Alan Harogha,
2013 WMF Alumni*



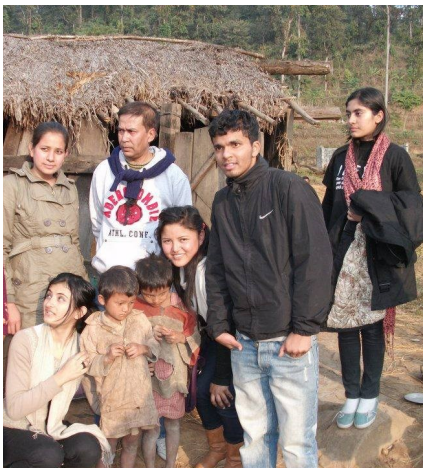
Community Service Inspiration

Learning From Other WMF Scholars

Wells Mountain Foundation

25D Main Street
Bristol, Vermont 05443
Phone: (802) 453-4065
Email:
nicole@wellsmountain.com

It is never too late to make a tax-deductible donation in support of one of our programs!



Sumesh Shiwakoty, Nepal

Sumesh began a clothing drive at his high school in 2012 for a poor mountainous community that often faces devastating fatalities in the harsh winter months. Sumesh learned about the people of Chepang in a newspaper article and wanted to take action. When he brought the idea to the attention of a decision maker at his school, he was told that there were not funds available for this project. But funding was not the resource that Sumesh needed. Sumesh rallied students and teachers to donate their used clothes to the Chepang community. **There are always resources available when you are creative! Could this project be implemented in your community?**



Jotika Maheshwari, Pakistan

Partnered with Rotary International to assist with the End Polio Now campaign!



Salih Muniru, Ghana

Hosts an hour long radio show with other students to educate the public about health issues.



Melisa Bhebe, Zimbabwe

Wore blue on World Diabetes Day and handed out information pamphlets with fellow classmates.



Nicole is pictured in the middle with undergraduate, MFA students, and two faculty members from Champlain College at the United Nations country headquarters in San Salvador, El Salvador

Nicole Baker, WMF Programs Coordinator

Nicole travelled to El Salvador in November 2013 with a group from Champlain College in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme. Nicole hosted a training for facilitators and held a children's camp to help end violence against women and girls. The group conducted their camps with the BREAKAWAY football computer game and BREAKAWAY Facilitators Guide. BREAKAWAY is an online video game designed by Champlain College and partners, to promote the end of violence against women and girls to a target audience of 8-15 year olds. The game is free online at: <http://www.breakawaygame.com/play.php?lang=EN> and materials to host a BREAKAWAY Camp are also free for download online in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese.

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