

Dining for Women



Program Fact Sheet

Program: African Millennium Foundation (AMF) & The Green Belt Movement (GBM)

Our November gifts will be directed to the African Millennium Foundation for their fund raising event in support of the GBM's Women for Change programs.

Web Site: www.1amf.org/index.htm

www.greenbeltmovement.org

Mission:

African Millennium Foundation (AMF) is a strategic non-profit and non-governmental organization committed to the social and economic empowerment of the people of Africa, especially women. AMF seeks to target poverty at its very root by providing African women with the necessary tools for achieving self-sufficiency, through implementation of micro credit programs.

The mission of the **Green Belt Movement (GBM)** is to empower individuals worldwide to protect the environment and to promote good governance and cultures of peace. Founder, Wangari Maathai, is an environmentalist, a civil society and women's rights activist, and a parliamentarian. In 2004, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Visit the GBM's web site for more complete information on Wangari Maathai and her organization.

The African Millennium Foundation is a former **Dining for Women** program recipient and plans an October 2006 fund raising dinner with Wangari Maathai to raise money for GBM. Together, their goal is to raise \$100,000 to help the Green Belt Movement further their mission. **DFW** will be giving through the AMF fund raising effort to support the Women for Change program, which is one of five core GBM programs.

Where They Serve: Kenya and all of Africa

History: The **African Millennium Foundation** was created because women's grassroots organizations, especially in Africa, the world's poorest continent, are often bypassed in international development programs due to traditional approaches and lack of voice. New grassroots organizations are emerging at a very rapid pace all over the world, but in Africa women continue to be the poorest of the poor and are left out of the centers of power. By creating a foundation that would fund women's grassroots organizations in Africa, they wanted to increase the ability of women to participate effectively in their societies and help them and their families move out of abject poverty. AMF supports these grassroots in a flexible way, to help them develop their self-sustaining micro credit projects. The African Millennium Foundation joined the Micro credit Summit Campaign in 2002, with the goal of reaching 1,000,000 of Africa's poor, especially women by the year 2005. Along with its own programs, AMF is currently in a campaign to raise \$100,000 for the **Green Belt Movement**.

The **Green Belt Movement** began as a grassroots tree-planting program to address the challenge of deforestation, soil erosion, and lack of water. Today, it is a vehicle for empowering women, helping them take more active roles in decision-making about their lives, their communities, and the systems that govern them. The GBM's founder, **Wangari Maathai**, is the first woman in East and Central Africa to earn a doctorate degree, and she founded GBM under the auspices of the National Council of Women of Kenya. Now, more than thirty million trees have been planted across Kenya. It is for developing and championing this holistic approach that, in 2004, Wangari Maathai became the first environmentalist and the first African woman to win the **Nobel Peace Prize**. The Green Belt Movement began with one woman mobilizing ordinary people to take action for the environment and for their human rights. Now it is much more. It is an African solution to a global problem.

One of the GBM's goals is to empower Africans, especially women and girls, and nurture their leadership and entrepreneurial skills. To date, GBM has created programs for young women addressing the challenges of growing up. These programs facilitate income-generating activities such as tree planting, beekeeping, and food processing. They also provide training on nutrition and encourage the development of care and support centers.

GBM Programs: GBM provides income and sustenance to millions of people in Kenya through the planting of trees. It also conducts educational campaigns to raise awareness about women's rights, civic empowerment, and the environment throughout Kenya and Africa.

The core programs of the GBM in Kenya include five areas:

- Environmental Conservation – Tree Planting
- Civic and Environmental Education
- Advocacy and Networking
- Pan-African Training Workshops
- Green Belt Safaris
- **Women for Change (Capacity Building)** This is the program **DFW** women will support.

In the last few years, the GBM has been organizing a stronger effort to raise funds for the Women for Change program. After Wangari Maathai won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004, increased contributions allowed the GBM to expand their programs and reach more people. **Dining for Women** gifts will support the following program:

Women and Girls is the newest GBM Kenya program. Commissioned in early 2003, the program aims to:

- Assist, especially young girls and women, to face the challenges of growing up, making complex decisions about their sexual and reproductive health, and gaining knowledge and skills to protect themselves from HIV and AIDS
- Facilitate the establishment of income generating activities (IGAs) such as tree planting, bee keeping and food processing to engender economic empowerment
- Promote healthy eating habits, especially of indigenous food crops known to have high nutritional value, through food production and processing.

More About Women for Change:

The Women for Change (WfC) Program was started in 2003 with support from Comic Relief, UK to promote a holistic approach to the needs of women and girls. The approach combines capacity building of women and women's networks, gender equity promotion, providing skills for HIV/AIDS prevention, and supporting local initiatives for food security, environment and income generation. Through these programs WfC provides GBM-Kenya assisted networks with services and resources such as:

- school fees for needy bright girls
- credit for income generating activities
- school-based reproductive health and alcohol abuse prevention seminars
- working with women's organizations to find solutions to their immediate conditions such as poverty, HIV/AIDS, orphans and food insecurity
- facilitating links between community groups and government offices to access information and resources
- conducting training sessions to offer skills for HIV/AIDS and early pregnancy prevention
- participating in mass actions and events for awareness raising on issues such as HIV/AIDS, drug abuse and environmental degradation
- participating in the formation and revival of women networks such as with the Kenya Association of University Women.

How They Measure Their Success: Green Belt Movement evaluates programs based on the numbers of women served. Measuring empowerment is more difficult to quantify. They evaluate this effort by the numbers of women serving in leadership positions in their Green Belt networks. program.

Financial Information: In the last three years, Women for Change programs were funded by a three-year, one time grant of \$180,000 per year. In planning for the future, Green Belt has teamed up with the African Millennium Foundation to raise an additional \$100,000 for Women for Change. Our gift will go to this effort. The Women for Change programs operated very efficiently with eighty-five percent spent directly on programs and only fifteen percent spent on administration and fund raising.

DFW Giving History with Program: The Green Belt Movement is a new program for **DFW**. However, **DFW** contributed \$660 to the African Millennium Foundation in August 2004.