



**Featured Program – The BlinkNow Foundation - \$40,000 grant – Women’s Empowerment Center Development**  
**Sustained Program – Friendship Bridge - \$15,000 grant – Microcredit Plus Program**

#### The BlinkNow Foundation - Nepal

- The BlinkNow Foundation was founded in 2008 by an American teenager who believed she could start to change the world by building a home for orphaned children in a small village in Nepal - Kopila Valley Children’s Home. Two years later, she worked with people in the village to build a community school, which now educates over 300 students.
- Maggie Doyne, now 27, last year developed the Kopila Valley Women’s Empowerment Center to conduct programs for widows, socially vulnerable and destitute women within the community, thus encouraging women’s welfare, empowerment, and gender equality as well as positive community relations.
- By implementing programs that reach the poorest people in the community, and by engaging the entire community in the process, The BlinkNow Foundation is building a sustainable path out of poverty.

#### Key Points –

- Providing a safe school environment for highly disadvantaged, high-risk children alone is not sufficient to guarantee a successful future.
- Illiterate, unskilled mothers are not as likely to influence their children’s education and future as literate, self-sufficient mothers.
- A basic education for adult women should include basic reading, writing and financial literacy in order for them to become self-sufficient, empowered, and good role models for their children and community.

<http://www.diningforwomen.org/blinknow>

#### Friendship Bridge, Guatemala (<http://diningforwomen.org/node/2944>)

This is the second year of a three-year grant. With sustained funding of \$45,000 over 3 years from Dining for Women, 275 women will be direct beneficiaries of Friendship Bridge’s Microcredit Plus program, which combines small loans averaging \$250 for four-to-twelve month loan terms and participatory education – women start, expand or diversify their businesses and learn practical, applicable lessons on everyday topics including business, health and self-esteem.

*“Through Friendship Bridge, we are helping ourselves,” said group member Yolanda Yac. “Before we had access to credit, we made just a little bit. Now with our credit, we can buy the beads, thread and everything we need to make more fajas to sell. We couldn’t attend school, but thank God, we are fighting to educate our children and we can pay for them to go to school. The education Friendship Bridge provides is also a benefit for us. We can sell more and learn how to improve our businesses and invest in them.”*

<http://www.friendshipbridge.org/blog/eating-healthy-in-rural-guatemala-angeles-trust-bank/> January 22, 2014

**We're so glad you asked!** (Questions submitted on Meeting Evaluation Forms may be answered here.)

**A Chapter Leader asked:**

***How do grantees generally find out about Dining for Women and submitting an application?***

Grantees hear about DFW from a variety of sources such as other programs, our members, word of mouth, and the news. We also advertise our funding opportunities on various grant websites such as GrantWatch.com and Foundation Center. Further, our website has a grants page which includes information on our funding opportunities including eligibility criteria and instructions for applying. Our next grant cycle will open in April 2014. Our website will be updated in March with relevant information.

If you are aware of an organization that meets our criteria for applicants, we hope you will encourage them to learn about DFW grants and consider submitting an application.

**Meeting Ideas - Take it and make it your own** – (Please share YOUR ideas through the Online Meeting Evaluation Form on each Program page. You can adapt any of these ideas to suit your chapter's needs and interests.)

**Thanks to Renee Melchiorre, an Asheville, NC chapter member, for sharing this great idea:**

*“Some months I try to offer a ‘world news update’ while the members eat their dessert. I scan the NY Times and NPR for recent stories with a direct connection to the topics we’ve learned about in previous programs.”*

**Google Hangouts for 2014** - The **Program Spotlight** is a conversation between Program Director Dr. Maggie Aziz and a representative from each month's featured program. Lasting approximately 20 minutes, the hangout can be experienced live or later, through the YouTube link provided in your Chapter Leader Newsletter. The conversations will offer a brief description of the program, along with the opportunity to hear about the women and girls we support directly from people engaged in the work.

#### **Our Vision**

*We envision a world where millions of people's lives have been transformed and extreme poverty has been reduced because Dining for Women connected people in creative, powerful ways that assure gender equality.*

#### **Our Mission**

*Through collective giving, Dining for Women inspires, educates, and engages people to invest in programs that make a meaningful difference for women and girls living in extreme poverty*

#### **Our Culture**

*In all we do, we model our deep belief in collaboration, education, inspiration, and transformation.*

**Check your Chapter Leader Newsletter for upcoming Google Hangouts!**

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**Watch for your Chapter Leader Newsletter and learn about updates on grant checks distributed and follow-up reports received from grantees.**

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**Note: Grants are awarded after all donations for the month have been received and processed which takes 90-120 days.**

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**Please mail chapter donations within five days of meeting.**