December 2017 Featured Grantee: AGE Africa
Introducing Advancing Girls’ Education (AGE) Africa

AGE Africa’s mission is to provide life-changing opportunities for young women in Malawi through targeted initiatives.
Where in the world?

Malawi is among the world’s most densely populated and least developed countries:

- 6th poorest nation in the world
- About the size of Pennsylvania
- Population 17 million
- Often called the “warm heart of Africa” because the people are so kind and welcoming
- Nearly 90% live in rural areas, often on $1 per day
What are we supporting?

DFW’s grant of $50,000 supports AGE Africa’s CHATS (Creating Healthy Approaches to Success) program. “Girls’ clubs” provide a 3-year, weekly after-school program for adolescent girls that builds their core life skills and helps them continue their educations. The curriculum features sexual and reproductive health education, leadership training and career guidance, self-advocacy, gender-based violence awareness and prevention, entrepreneurship, problem solving, and access to higher education.

Direct Impact: 480 adolescent girls
Indirect Impact: 4,800 family and community members
Life Challenges of the Women Served

Adolescent girls in Malawi face systemic poverty, lack of family and community support, limited educational opportunities, lack of voice, and adverse social attitudes. These vulnerabilities constrain them economically and socially and often result in risky sexual practices that contribute to poor long-term reproductive and health outcomes.
Life Challenges of the Women Served

- Twice as many boys in school, six times as many in rural areas
- Only 6% of girls graduate high school
- Less than 1% go on to higher education
- Over half of all girls drop out before age 18 to marry or due to early pregnancy or cost of schooling
- 12% are married before age 15
- 19% of women 15 - 49 die while giving birth
Budget:
How DFW’s one-year grant of $50,000 will be used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Detail</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Expenses</td>
<td>CHATS faculty advisor, alumnae mentors, community engagement meetings,</td>
<td>$26,010</td>
<td>$26,010</td>
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<td>girls’ training, materials, guest speakers, portion of district officer,</td>
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<td>refreshments for CHATS meetings, printing of manual, staff travel to school, communications for mentors</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td>Portion of monitoring officer and program &amp; learning manager, surveys, pre- and post-test, focus group discussions</td>
<td>$11,225</td>
<td>$11,225</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>Portion of cost for country director, finance and administration officer, and rents</td>
<td>$12,765</td>
<td>$12,765</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL BUDGET</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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About the Featured Grantee

AGE Africa was founded by Xanthe Ackerman in 2005. A scholarship was established for girls whose families could not afford the school fees. AGE Africa quickly learned that a scholarship was not enough to keep girls from dropping out or failing out of school.

In 2009, an AGE Africa study confirms what prevents girls from finishing school: pressure to marry, early pregnancy, and serious knowledge gaps about the value of an education and post-secondary opportunities.
About the Featured Grantee

2011: team of Malawian women helps AGE Africa develop Create Healthy Approaches to Success (CHATS).

2014: Based on overwhelming success, CHATS Girls’ Clubs are replicated and expanded, currently serving 1,200 adolescents in 24 schools.

Today: 95% of participants complete all four years of secondary school, and 50% qualify for higher education.

Goal: reach 12,000 girls and 85 schools by 2019.
Share Your Thoughts

1. Why is an education focused entirely on reading, writing, and arithmetic not enough for Malawi girls?
2. How might these girls begin to alter cultural norms?
3. How do you think the CHATS program can benefit younger siblings?
December’s Sustained Grantee: Shining Hope for Communities

The mission of Shining Hope for Communities is to combat intergenerational cycles of poverty and gender inequality by linking tuition-free schools for girls to essential social services in Kenya’s Kibera slum through a holistic, community-driven approach.

DFW’s sustained funding of $20,000 per year for three years supports the Mother and Child Health Program incentives aimed to counteract the high child morbidity and mortality rates by encouraging mothers to seek regular prenatal, postnatal, and child welfare services to ensure positive health outcomes for themselves and their children.

Direct Impact: 2,469