June 2024 Featured Grants

Strengthening the Economic Power of Women
About Featured Grants

Featured Grants fund:

• direct services
• new projects
• expansion of existing projects
• general operations
• capacity building
The Global Issue

Economic Opportunity for Women

• “Extreme poverty has a gender bias.”

• Worldwide, 2.7+ billion women legally restricted from job choice

• 90+ percent of women’s employment in low-income countries is in informal economy

• Women working = economy growing
June Featured Grantee: Kula Project

- Eradicates poverty through development of entrepreneurs
- Works in Rwanda’s coffee communities
- 15-month Kula Fellowship
- Equips farmers - training, tools, increase coffee production, support diversified revenue streams, personal mentorship
Life Challenges of Women: Rwanda

- Extreme poverty
- Gender-based violence
- Limited opportunity to escape poverty
- Lack of education access
- Limited access to credit and resources
How Our Grant Will Be Used

$50,000 General Operations Grant
Supports Kula’s strategic plan to
• increase impact
• simultaneously increase efficiency and focus
• scale programmatic reach
June Featured Grantee: Upaya Social Ventures

• Provides investment and support – early-stage companies creating dignified jobs for people in extreme poverty
• Works in most underserved segments of India, especially women
• Supports small and growing businesses – too big for microfinance, not ready for traditional investments
Life Challenges of Women: India

- Deep poverty
- High risk: gender-based violence and sexual assault
- Unequal pay, unequal job access
- Lack of dignified, well-paying jobs
How Our Grant Will Be Used

$50,000 General Operations Grant
Supports data gathering and analysis:
• measure disproportionate impact of extreme poverty on women
• define methods to overcome wage gap

Goal: 50,000 jobs by end of 2025