

International Outreach
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Bulletin 1



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GFWC encourages our clubs to reach beyond our own neighborhoods to the global community to make a lasting difference in the lives of those in need. The International Outreach CSP is designed to enable members to become better world citizens through advocacy, education and action. Our four partner programs, Heifer International, Operation Smile, Shot@Life and UNICEF, allow us to help with different needs around the world, especially those of vulnerable children. GFWC has asked us to place focus on our partner programs.



For more than 70 years, Heifer International has helped struggling people in 125 countries raise themselves out of poverty by providing them with livestock and agricultural training in order to give them a chance to change their lives. By improving access to income, education, sanitation, water sources, health care and infrastructure, Heifer has been able to make an impact on those in need to help themselves. Whether providing funds for educational programs or buying an animal so someone can become self-sufficient, there are different ways to help.

<http://www.heifer.org/>



Operation Smile is an international medical charity that has been providing free, life-changing surgical procedures since 1982 for children and young adults in more than 60 countries born with cleft lip, cleft palate and other facial deformities. With a child born every three minutes with a cleft and one-quarter of the world's population lacking access to basic surgical care, the work done by this organization makes a difference in many lives. Besides funding an operation, other ways to help include sewing hospital gowns, making blankets and dolls, and collecting other needed items. <http://www.operationsmile.org/>



Around the world, a child dies every 20 seconds from vaccine-preventable diseases such as Polio, Measles, pneumonia and diarrhea. Millions don't reach their first birthday because they don't have access to the vaccines they need. Shot@Life is a United Nations Foundation program that educates and empowers individuals to champion global vaccines as one of the most effective ways to save the lives of children in developing countries. Ways to help include learning about the need, raising funds to buy vaccines, contacting legislators and encouraging them to support funding global vaccine programs, following Shot@Life on Facebook (Shot@Life) and Twitter (@ShotAtLife) to get the most up-to-date information, and organizing advocacy and awareness events around key dates such as World Polio Day (Oct 24) and World Pneumonia Day (Nov 12). I am fortunate to be a Shot@Life Champion and attended the training in Washington, DC. If I can be of help in any way, please let me know. www.shotatlife.org



UNICEF was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 1946 to provide emergency food and medical care to children in countries devastated by World War II. It now provides long-term humanitarian and developmental help to children in developing countries. For more than six decades, GFWC has supported UNICEF in its efforts to ensure the world's most vulnerable children have access to healthcare, immunizations, clean water, nutrition, education, emergency and disaster relief, and safety from armed conflicts. GFWC supports the End Trafficking Project, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, and the UNICEF TAP Project which provides clean water and sanitation to children around the world. The goal is to give every child a fair chance at life. <http://www.unicef.org/>

Besides our four partners, there are many ways to help our global community. Working with other agencies, local civic groups or religious organizations can expand our outreach. Donating eyeglasses or cell phones, interacting with international students in the community, hosting an international dinner, making pillowcase dresses, or learning about and educating others about international trafficking and Female Genital Mutilation, are just a few of the ways we can expand our horizons and help make the world a better place.

Please visit the GFWC website (<http://www.gfwc.org>) and take a look at the International Outreach CSP in the manual for additional information. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if you have a project you'd like to share with me.

There will be an International Outreach CSP workshop at Fall Board on Sunday, 11 Sep at 10am. Please plan to attend to get additional ideas on projects and to share your own. See you there...Elena