

Firelight Newsflash! 26 May 2009

This is Firelight's 100th Newsflash, and like any milestone it is a time to celebrate and reflect. Here are some of the comments we have received over the years about the Newsflash:

"Thank you very much....Our program is now showing its brighter future through the materials acquired and the relationship which is between you and us." –Chilimba Women and Orphans Care Group, Malawi

"I find your Newsflashes quite helpful and empowering. Implementing what we read in your articles is bringing a face-lift to our organization....Keep up the good work." -Simukai Street Youth Programme, Zimbabwe

"We have been able to access relevant information to our program and to link with networks globally. We have found it useful to pull out and organize topical issues from the newsletter for easy accessibility to stakeholders and partners. This is a real value added to our program." - WEM Integrated Health Services, Kenya

"We truly appreciated some of the articles such as stress and burn-out. Your newsletters have played a huge role in putting things into perspective. We would like to say, well done and congratulations to the team that is behind the Newsflash." -Association François-Xavier Bagnoud, South Africa

"I have been dealing with a number of organizations...and have not seen this type of empowerment like what I am getting from Firelight. The topic on chairing meetings could not have come at a better time." -Livingstone Anglican Children's Project, Zambia

As we go forward with the Firelight Newsflash we would really love to use more of your ideas. While all of Firelight's partner organizations are working with children and families, each organization brings their own particular knowledge and skills. We often share what we have learned, but we would also like to encourage your organization to submit an idea or even write a brief piece on an issue or topic that is important to your organization. This is your chance to share your story with other organizations. Whether it be on working with disabled children and adults, protecting children's right, or speaking to your community churches about HIV and AIDS related stigma, we would love to hear from you!

If you have any comments, or ideas please send them to:
newsletter@firelightfoundation.org.

Just a reminder that all of the Firelight Newsflashes are available on the Firelight Foundation's website at <http://www.firelightfoundation.org/newsflash.htm>. You are welcome to share this link with anyone.

Some Thoughts on “Being an Organization with Capacity”

Like many of your organizations Firelight is also reflecting on where we have been and where we are going as a foundation. Allan Kaplan from the Community Development Resource Association or CDRA, based in Cape Town, South Africa, wrote once that, “it is essential that an organisation is well-managed and well-resourced, but too many organisations regard these elements as sufficient... (that true organizational capacity) lies in the ability to learn and focus, to adapt and respond, to move and change and develop, to harness creativity and innovation, to motivate and inspire its members, to achieve resilience and flexibility.”* This of course is an ongoing process that we all continue to work towards.

*Reference was from Allan Kaplan’s Article entitled “Developing of Capacity.” You can find the full article here:

<http://www.cdra.org.za/articles/The%20Developing%20Of%20Capacity%20-%20by%20Allan%20Kaplan.htm>

Other Donor Information

*The Conservation, Food & Health Foundation**

Incorporated in 1985, the Conservation, Food and Health Foundation seeks to promote the conservation of natural resources, improve the production and distribution of food, and improve health in the developing world. The foundation helps build capacity within developing countries in its three areas of interest with grants that support research or projects that solve specific problems.

The foundation supports projects that demonstrate strong local leadership, promote professional development in the conservation, agricultural, and health sciences; develop the capacity of local organisations; and address a particular problem in the field. It prefers to support projects addressing under-funded issues and geographic areas.

The Foundation's grant making process is focused upon projects implemented in developing countries. NGOs from these countries or international organisations working in the Third World can apply and receive grants from the Foundation.

/For details, click here <http://cfhfoundation.grantsmanagement08.com/>/.>*

The Women's Funding Network

The Women's Funding Network is more than 130 organizations that fund women's solutions across the globe. We give women the money and tools to transform their ideas into lasting change -- in every critical area from combating poverty to achieving advances in healthcare, education and human rights.

From New York City to Nepal, and from Africa to Amsterdam, women's funds are proving the lasting power of investing in women. We are tens of thousands of donors, community leaders and change-makers – all with a shared passion for bringing women's ideas to the fore of global problem-solving. Together, we are transforming the lives of women and girls, as well as achieving lasting gains for communities across the world.

Womens Funding Network website: <http://www.womensfundingnetwork.org/>