

Exciting Opportunities Soon!

A visit from our sisters in Kinshasa is planned for the spring! Maman Antoinette (nurse & mentor) or Maman Denise (pastoral counselor) will be in Princeton for the African Women Extraordinaire (AWE) III conference at Princeton Seminary on March 11 to share stories of their work! Thanks to Nassau Presbyterian Church for help for Mme Antoinette & Denise as they prepare to present in English (their 3rd or 4th language). To register <https://app.certain.com/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x223157077d4>. Later in the spring we hope for a visit from Maman Monique herself!



Mesdames Monique, Antoinette, Denise

Capital Campaign News

Thanks to so many people, we are on track toward our new goal of \$150,000 for the Women's Center. Kinshasa is one of the most expensive cities in sub-Saharan Africa & prices have continued to rise since our campaign was launched in 2013. The total we have raised is now about \$120,000! That is 80% of the goal; about 40% paid for the property, & the rest should complete two stories of the Women's Center.

In our next newsletter we will publish names of all who have contributed \$1000 or more to this campaign. And for incentive, we have a

NEW MATCHING GRANT

by an anonymous donor: **every dollar** donated to the Capital Campaign by **June 30, 2016**, will be **matched up to \$10,000!** Help us pull ahead to see the goal draw near! THANK YOU!

“Pour Femme”

Winter Wonder Concert -- Feb. 6, 2016

Music of Female composers: Performances by

The American Boychoir

Fernando Malvar-Ruiz, Fred Meads, conductors;

Lesly de Groot, Doreen Fryling, Jorie Moss sopranos

Eva Kastner-Puschl, mezzo

Shane Tapley, tenor

Anna de Groot, piano.

Saturday, February 6, 2016, at 4:30 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church, 33 Mercer St., Princeton, NJ. For tickets www.womancradleofabundance.org Adults \$35, students \$15. Reception with the artists to follow.

Brighten your winter day with song & strengthen hope in Congo!

We are very grateful to The American Boychoir for so generously donating their voices to this cause. All proceeds will go to the Capital Campaign.

Daily Challenges in Congo

Sarah's family is destitute; they did not have a great deal before, but it was washed away in the floods. In Kinshasa twenty people died in the torrential rains & destruction, & thousands more (like Sarah) lost everything. Climate change is visibly increasing the hardships of poverty. Sarah is a student in the sewing school & Woman Cradle of Abundance is helping her family. Below: Sarah at class, summer 2015.

Woman, Cradle of Abundance will also expand their micro-loan project to ten women; each will receive \$100 in starter funds, thanks to the kind friends at First Presbyterian Church, Evanston, IL. (cont. overleaf).



Daily Challenges in Congo, cont.

The devastation caused by the terrible storms has been felt everywhere. We are helping our partners in Uvira also reach out to those suffering in the unseasonable weather, a ministry that is now complicated by receiving refugees from the political unrest in Burundi just across the lake.

Besides the dreadful toll in human pain & loss, the weather has delayed work on the Women's Center. Concrete cannot be poured without sun to dry it, & it has rained & rained & rained. Normally a short dry season begins in Dec. but not this year. We hope that Jan. & early Feb. will be clear so building can progress.

Good News from Congo

In the midst of hardship, there is also good news. In Uvira the women & girls attacked & raped in Nov. 2014 (see newsletter Winter 2015) have not only received medical treatment but also pastoral care, and they have all been accepted back into their families, thanks to the work of our partners! One of the most terrible aspects of rape is that victims are blamed &/or driven out by husbands or villages. Now these severely traumatized women have found new hope. Yet they still have many needs; they used to gather wood to sell to but now they are afraid to go to the forest where they were attacked.

In Kinshasa, twelve young women from the sewing school are preparing their final "exams" & will graduate in the next month! Thanks to generous gifts from the President's Cabinet at Georgian Court University & Frenchtown Presbyterian Church, their graduation presents (a manual sewing machine for each) are going to be ready for them!

Changes at Woman Cradle of Abundance, Inc.

Welcome & Farewell! We are delighted to welcome two new members to our board: Victoria Airgood & Anna de Groot. Lisa Robinson, like Sandra Larson before her, has moved on to a new call; we thank them for their services as our first two secretaries. Shari Oosting has served for nearly three years as treasurer & will continue on the board but has decided to pass on the baton. Cheryl Ciaranca was elected treasurer & Victoria Airgood as secretary. Our new address is 25 Alexander St., Princeton, NJ 08540.

Introducing Anna de Groot

A native of Lincoln, VA, Anna relocated to Princeton, NJ, to study at Westminster Choir College where she earned a Masters of Music in Piano Accompanying and Vocal Coaching. She serves



on the piano faculty at Westminster Conservatory & this fall was named the new Accompanist for the American Boychoir. Anna delights in teaching & making music, & is honored to serve as a board member for Woman Cradle of Abundance (FEBA).

"To this day, I am grateful that FEBA fell into my lap. Several months ago, I began to think I'd like to be involved with an organization that helped others in the world. Soon after the thought appeared, I met Elsie & heard the mission of FEBA. As one who loves to sew & advocates for education, I found that I could dive into purpose of FEBA with ease & with devotion. It is a great honor to be a part of a non-profit that helps propel & support women in a sustainable role in this world."

Note: Anna has begun her service on the board with a bang: organizing our wonderful Pour Femme concert!

CONTRIBUTE OR GET INVOLVED

Contribute: Donate securely via PayPal at www.WomanCradleofAbundance.org/get-involved.

Please designate "Capital Campaign" in the purpose line to contribute to the Women's Center or "Sustaining Gift" to support ongoing work.

Checks payable to Woman, Cradle of Abundance can be mailed to the following address:

Woman, Cradle of Abundance
attn: Cheryl Ciaranca, Treasurer
25 Alexander St.
Princeton, NJ 08525

Volunteer: Contact Cheryl Ciaranca, Community Outreach Coordinator, at cciaranca@gmail.com or 215.292.3290 to discuss ways to partner with Woman Cradle of Abundance.