



BoldeReach

Helping Women and Children Around the World

Friends of BoldeReach,

2008 Gala Planning is Under Way

For 2008, BoldeReach has turned our attention to the issue of social justice. We have selected as our 2008 beneficiary, Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights (UAF). UAF invented a revolutionary Rapid Response strategy for providing funding within critical timeframes that cannot be addressed by standard grant-making processes.

We have 3 very special dates for your calendar

August 12th – August Conversations moderated by UAF. This evening will be an excellent opportunity for you to hear about the work this amazing organization does around the world. Conversations are held in the Guild for Structural Integration, 3107 28th Street, Boulder, beginning at 5:30 PM. If you would like to be added to our mailing list for future Conversations, reply to this email with 'Conversations' in the subject line.

September 6th – Gala Kick-off Party - held each year as an 'Opening' to exhibit the beautiful art donated to the Gala Auction. This year will be even more exciting as we have added theater to the evening. The Gala Kick-off will be held in the beautiful Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society (ATLAS) building on the CU Campus from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Join us for food, beverages, the art preview and first-person vignettes of the women supported by UAF.



September 27th

Around the World with BoldeReach Gala



We have another fabulous Gala evening planned this year. Join us in our beautiful venue for an evening of music, entertainment, delicious food by Sage & Savory Catering, a wide variety of beverages donated by LiquorMart and Vodka 14, a silent auction of themed original art by nationally recognized local artists and the opportunity to mingle with the most interesting people in Colorado and beyond.

This year's Gala is made even more special as we celebrate UAF's Tenth Anniversary highlighted by the administration of over 500 strategic Rapid Response Grants and daily advocacy for women defending human rights. Join us to honor the important work being done by UAF. UAF's ability to address time-critical projects that support and protect women who defend human rights around the world depends on the generosity of people like you.



Urgent Action Fund



For more information on the accomplishments during the 10 years of UAF: http://www.urgentactionfund.org/new_site/index.php?id=123
For their latest publication, *What's the Point of Revolution if We Can't Dance?*: http://www.urgentactionfund.org/new_site/index.php?id=64#anchor1

Update 2007 – The Year of Microcredit

The 2007 Around the World with BoldeReach Gala raised funds to open Village Banks in poor communities desperately in need of access to credit. Women often have no access to commercial credit mainly due to lack of collateral. These women are proud and entrepreneurial – not looking for handouts, just the assistance of a loan to get their businesses going. They pay back loans at an average rate of 98% — the envy of commercial banking institutions! See a few true stories below:

I recently had the incredible opportunity to 'open' three banks in Peru funded by your donations. **These are only three of over 20 banks all over the world that you have created through Friendship Bridge and TIAW's Microenterprise Development Program.** Here are a few of the highlights:

We visited Puno, Peru, a mountainous city on the shores of Lake Titicaca. **Our banks** have been in operation since early 2008, but this visit was considered their special 'opening'. We began on a busy Friday morning as the women arrived for their repayment meetings. The intensity with which they counted out their coins to repay was very humbling. The dedication of the loan officers, who honor the receipt of every *sole* (equal to about \$0.30), was very moving.



Looking into the faces of the women of **our banks**, who traveled the very steep streets of Puno to arrive **on time** (an important concept of the Village Banks) for their repayment meeting, was a thrill. We heard amazing stories about the difference these small loans have made. The courage of these women is awe inspiring.



We also visited several women entrepreneurs at their places of business. The most unusual was meeting the entrepreneurs of the floating islands in Lake Titicaca, where the women borrowers of the Uros tribe make souvenirs for tourists. Our motorized trip to the islands took almost 30 minutes. These women come by non-motorized

boats to their repayment meetings in Puno...true commitment! Admiring the saleswomanship of these entrepreneurs encouraged Steve & me to add a few *soles* to the local economy!



Our favorite entrepreneur was the 'yogurt lady'. This borrower learned to make yogurt at a training class sponsored by the Village Bank. She now makes and sells yogurt to the local schools. With her profits, she bought a freezer and now also makes frozen yogurt. Her dream is to get a loan big enough to have a 'yogurt factory', where she makes the yogurt and other women entrepreneurs buy and distribute it. She is truly an inspiring entrepreneur! I also met her daughters who are able to go to school because their Mom is a successful business woman. One wants to be a doctor; the other, a lawyer. I don't think that these choices would have existed for these girls without their Mom's involvement in Village Banking.



Las Estrellas (The Stars)
Village Bank Solidarity Group

text & photos by Cindy Lindsay, President of BoldeReach

If you would like to make a contribution to BoldeReach projects, go online or send a check: BoldeReach, PO Box 17544, Boulder, CO 80308