

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT



By the end of 2014, **46 EMPOWERMENT CLUBS** reaching **2000 GIRLS** in schools across Swaziland will teach girls about their sexual reproductive health, how to protect themselves from threats of violence, the need to report abuse, and the importance of sharing their experiences in a safe place without fear of being judged. They will gain valuable leadership skills and the self-confidence to follow their dreams.

ONE IN THREE GIRLS WILL BE SEXUALLY ABUSED BY THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN IN SWAZILAND.

We helped more girls aspire to better futures in 2013:

- 15 new Girls' Empowerment Clubs established
- 26 clubs holding weekly meetings provide a safe space for girls at risk
- 100 teachers and community members trained on gender based violence, HIV/AIDS and girls' rights
- Individual support provided through counselling services for Girl Club members experiencing sexual violence
- Library program piloted to provide girls in five schools with books to encourage reading and discussion
- Advocacy efforts by our partner, the Swaziland Action Group Against Abuse (SWAGAA) contribute to the passing of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Bill in parliament

"Let men be fathers and brothers whom young girls can look up to for protection and guidance but not vultures waiting for the slightest opportunity to prey on their victims." - Lungile Shonge, girls' club member at Mhlume High School



"Most of my students live alone, or with their grandparents, because their parents have died of AIDS ... The meals at school are the only meals that some children get. When you don't know where your next meal is coming from and some sugar daddy comes along flashing money and cell phones and clothes, it's very hard to say no." - Happiness Dlamini, teacher

4,000 GIRLS • 100 GIRLS EMPOWERMENT CLUBS
BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, WE'LL BE ALMOST HALF WAY THERE.
WE NEED TO RAISE \$300,000 TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM
AND ESTABLISH ANOTHER 20 CLUBS IN 2015.

WE HAVE RAISED ONE THIRD OF A \$1.5 MILLION GOAL from foundation grants and from individuals like YOU donating through special events, the International Women's Day online campaign, and gifts to the Aminata Fund.



CROSSROADS INTERNATIONAL

DAY OF THE GIRL BREAKFAST

Lawrence Hill helped raise awareness and dollars at the second annual Day of the Girl Breakfast, held in Toronto on October 9th, 2013. Lawrence took time out from his hectic schedule delivering the Massey Lectures across Canada to share personal stories about his transformative experiences as a three time Crossroads volunteer in Africa. JOIN US FOR OUR 2014 DAY OF THE GIRL BREAKFAST in Toronto on Wednesday, October 8th, 2014 featuring award-winning journalist Sally Armstrong.



Lawrence Hill and Cebile Manzini-Henwood at the 2013 Day of the Girl breakfast.

LITERARY SALONS

Crossroads donors inspired thoughtful discussion by hosting two literary salons in 2013 featuring Sally Armstrong, a distinguished journalist, member of the Order of Canada, author of several books including *Ascent of Women*, and champion of women's rights around the world.

LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN HOST A LITERARY SALON TO BENEFIT GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT. Contact Christine Campbell at 416 967 1611 ext.235

Elizabeth Etue, Sally Armstrong, and Valerie Hussey at a literary salon hosted by Elizabeth and Valerie in November 2013.



LAWRENCE HILL VISITED THREE GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT CLUBS IN SWAZILAND IN FEBRUARY

Lawrence Hill, celebrated Canadian author and Honorary Patron of Crossroads International, was in Swaziland to visit the girls' clubs and lead writing workshops in schools. Lawrence made the journey following a two week stay in South Africa for the filming of the TV miniseries adaptation of his novel *The Book of Negroes*.

"The girls – hair perfectly kept, blue school uniforms neat and clean – greeted me by singing at the top of their lungs. They sang unbelievably well, in perfect unison, many harmonizing with the main melody. There were nearly 100 girls crammed into a room with no open windows. It was a summer afternoon, and it had to be 35 degrees Celsius in the room. They sang on and on with gusto, showing me the same enthusiasm that I encountered daily among Swazis who welcomed me to their kingdom as a foreign volunteer. Finally, a teacher held up her hand, brought the singing to a halt and asked what was on the girls' minds lately.

The answers came ringing out lucidly and unadorned: Was it appropriate for a high school girl to take up with a sugar daddy? What if they were exposed to HIV and died like their parents? What about teenage pregnancy? What about the high school girls who, upon learning they are pregnant, commit suicide?"

- Lawrence Hill, excerpt from article published in Metro newspaper, March 7, 2014

CROSS COUNTRY FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Generous donors hosted and helped organize fundraising events in cities across Canada.

→ TORONTO

Three fundraising events were hosted by volunteers in Toronto last year: In March, Kelly Rockliff invited guests to her home to hear guest speaker, Cebile Manzini-Henwood, Executive Director of SWAGAA. In May, Anne Marie Clune and friends organized an outdoor cocktail event featuring Chef Corbin, food consultant and celebrity chef on the Food Network. Kathleen Peace hosted an *Evening to Empower Girls* at Fionn MacCool's Irish pub to raise money and awareness about the program in October.



Chef Corbin worked his magic for friends of Crossroads.

→ HALIFAX



Mrs. Marjorie Lindsay, Cebile Manzini-Henwood, and former Crossroads Program Officer Joan Campbell mingled with prospective donors at a cocktail hosted by Mrs. Lindsay in October.

→ VANCOUVER



Lawrence Hill was featured as guest speaker at a reception organized by volunteer Clela Brown and held at the University Women's Club at Hycroft.

→ SASKATOON

Darlene Bessey, former chair of the board of Crossroads International, organized a breakfast event in Saskatoon with Cebile Manzini-Henwood and Acting Executive Director, Christine Campbell in October.



Lawrence Hill with girls' club members from Mpaka Railway Primary School.