



VG Flash

First Edition
February 2005

A Publication of the Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund

Introducing the VGIF Update Flash

The **VGIF Update Flash** is a new communication tool designed to provide members with information about VGIF activities and actions on a monthly basis, especially between editions of the *Update*. Committee conveners and members around the world are encouraged to share information about their projects, advocacy efforts and meetings. Please submit articles to Public Relations Convener Betty Bayless, tbayless@islc.net who edits this newsletter.

Members will be able to **e-mail** this electronic publication. They will be able to duplicate it for inclusion on local websites and in local publications. In re-using this material, we request that you use either the whole page or each article in its entirety - not in excerpts - to insure the integrity of the information. Previous issues will be available for reference.

If you wish to view, download and/or distribute the **VG Update**, go to www.vgif.org/update.htm. You will be able to send any of the biannual editions since 2000 via e-mail as a PDF attachment.

Betty Bayless
VGIF Public Relations Convener

VGIF Workshop at UN CSW Session: Advancing the Millennium Development Goals Through Funding and Advocacy for Women

VGIF, in partnership with the International Federation of Women Lawyers, will present a workshop as a side event at the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. Entitled "Advancing the Millennium Development Goals Through Funding and Advocacy for Women," will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2005 from 1:15 to 2:45 P.M. at the Church Center, which is opposite the United Nations.

The workshop will be co-chaired by Fay Kittelson, Executive Secretary of VGIF, and Denise Scotto of the Women Lawyers. Louise McLeod will give a power point presentation and several others will speak, including Virginia Maynard, VGIF's main representative to the United Nations. A question and answer period will follow, and copies of VGIF's brochure will be made available to attendees.

Virginia Maynard
VGIF UN Representative

VGIF and IFUW Fundraiser in New Mexico

A statewide arts and crafts raffle to benefit VGIF and IFUW is being conducted by AAUW-New Mexico. An oil painting, a hand-turned wooden vessel, a gourd kachina, and a basket of wine are displayed on the state website, www.aauw-nm.org. Ticket sales began in October and will conclude at the state convention in April when the drawing will be held.

Board members Nolina Bryant and Natalie Markin have organized the benefit and may be contacted through the website if people wish to participate.

Barbara Carey
VGIF President

On-Site Visit to Uganda

An item in the February 2005 **VG Update** asked members whose travel took them near the location of a VG project to consider an on-site visit and a personal report to VG from that venue. Member Dr. Joyce Lockhard read this request and immediately contacted Fay Kittelson in our New York City office.



Because Dr. Lockhard was leaving for Kampala, Uganda in four days to spend two months as a Rotary International volunteer, speed was necessary. Arrangements were made and contacts established with Mrs. Judith Apilo and Mr. Ewicher Shem, directors of Project #1892 in Mbala, Uganda, about 80 miles NE of Kampala. This project addresses issues of rape, sexual exploitation and domestic violence through drama presentations. Paperwork, introductions, report forms and the liability release form were all transmitted via e-mail. (With advance notice these details can be taken care of through regular mail.)

Thank you Dr. Lockhard! We have hopes that this visit will be one of many, as the concept of on-site visits becomes more widely known to our members, and VGIF will continue to develop this type of connection to our grant recipients. Are there other members who can participate in this program? To start the process, please contact Fay Kittelson at vgifnyc@aol.com.

Evelyn Cumming
On-Site Visit Convener



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