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ADVOCACYNET 357

Tuesday December 1, 2020

Help Us to Strengthen International Service During the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic may have grounded foreign travel, but it has given our international fellowship program ([Fellows for Peace](#)) an unexpected boost.

We hope to keep the momentum going into 2021. With this in mind we are seeking donations today (Tuesday) to [our online fellowship appeal](#). GlobalGiving will match pledges made during this 24-hour period. We hope you will help!

The Advocacy Project has sent [313 graduates to volunteer abroad since 2003](#). Foreign travel has, of course, stopped this year. But the alternative - remote service - has had its compensations for our partners in the Global South and our student volunteers here in the US.

Left to their own devices, partners have responded to the crisis with ingenuity. [Mama Cave](#), a tailor with limited mobility, has launched a micro-business to produce face-masks in Uganda. Stella, a dynamic community leader, helps mothers use composting to improve nutrition in the Kibera settlement of Nairobi. Women and girls in Nepal, Zimbabwe and the US have used embroidery to describe the brutal impact of coronavirus and felt empowered as a result.

Our job at AP has been to provide seed money, guidance and encouragement from a distance. So far this year we have transferred \$26,317 to 13 community-based initiatives.

It would not have happened without our 16 talented Peace Fellows and interns. Working from home, they have built relationships with our partners that have been free from paternalism and mutually beneficial. [Wilson, an indomitable graduate student at Georgetown University who is legally blind,](#)

drew on his own experience to help the Gulu Disabled Persons Union in Uganda through some dark times. [Beth, from the Fletcher School at Tufts](#), produced research on transitional justice in Nepal that might well have been harder to compile in Nepal itself.

Our [undergraduates](#) have also risen to the challenge. Jonathan and Sneha from the University of Maryland published our first-ever quilt catalogue and launched the [Sister Artists auction](#), which raised over \$8,000 for survivors of gender-based violence in Mali. Gio, from George Washington University, made two [sparkling videos about the soap-making girls in Zimbabwe](#) using footage shot by our partner in Harare – another first. Brigid, Ezoza, and [Malien](#) celebrated racial diversity in the US through powerful blogs. Abby, from the University of Illinois, produced a website training manual that we hope will be the first of many online tutorials for partners.

Based on this invigorating experience we are seeking \$45,000 to fund up to 15 startups and the same number of fellowships in 2021. Some Fellows may be deployed in person and some will work remotely, but either way we will learn from this difficult year. For a start we will do away with the distinction between graduates and undergraduates and rely on our partners in the Global South to offer everyone a rich educational and professional experience.

We hope to get off to a flying start today and take advantage of a generous matching offer from GlobalGiving. Any donation up to \$2,500 will count. By [donating here](#) you will help us to adapt and strengthen international service at a very challenging time.

- [View our 2021 work plan and meet our 2021 partners](#) in Nepal, Mali, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Uganda.
- [Apply for a 2021 fellowship](#).
- Meet our (remote) [2020 team](#).
- Read our [2020 blogs and hear our podcasts](#).
- Check out [past news bulletins](#).

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