

## WFWP USA: Architects of Our Love: The Power of Listening with Empathy

Concha Marchitelli  
January 30, 2024



The Latino chapter of the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) collaborated with WFWP Maryland to organize the inaugural bilingual program, "Architects of Our Love." The event took place on December 2, 2023, at the Washington Times Building in Washington D.C., drawing an audience of around 100 individuals (70 in person and 30 online). Attendees included both men and women, husbands and wives, as well as brothers and sisters, all gathering to explore strategies for enhancing family bonds through improved communication. Recognizing the universal importance of family stability as a cornerstone for peace-building, the seminar received enthusiastic feedback, equipping participants with valuable tools for contributing to this shared endeavor.

The presenter, [Bento Leal](#), talked about empathetic listening and how to practice skills to improve our relationships. Mr. Leal, is a certified relationship skills trainer and best-selling author of "[4 Essential Keys to Effective Communication](#)." He said "...listen fully to what they are saying...without interruption or thinking what you'll say next....listening actively, giving your full attention and saying back to them in your own words what they said." Mr. Leal is an expert on communication and has taught hundreds of seminars. His presentation included lively discussion groups and pair shares.

The event began with welcome remarks from WFWP President Kaeleigh Moffitt followed by former

WFWP President Dr. Angelika Selle who introduced the main speaker. Dr. Achille Acolatse from New Hope Family Church blessed the event with a prayer in English and Sonia Reyes, founder of The Family Life Consulting Services prayed in Spanish.



The event had two mistresses of ceremony, Concha Marchitelli, Chairwoman of WFWP Latino Chapter spoke in Spanish and Rika Betencourt, teacher at New Hope Academy, in English. Both languages were spoken throughout the event to make all the participants feel special and warmly welcome.

During the event, there was a short presentation about the [Schools of Africa](#) and a call to support this project of WFWP. The attendees felt moved and we raised \$268.00.

The evening continued with a delicious dinner, served by the volunteers from the New Hope Dance Team. The food was organized by Isabel Quevedo, Isabel Aleman and Julia Aguirre from the Latino chapter and Andrea Rissanen and Emiko Butler for the local Maryland chapter. After dinner, the New Hope Dance Team did a Hip Hop Dance, representing the USA culture followed by dancing salsa and rumba, representing the Spanish culture. Everyone was invited to join in the dance and we ended the fun with the song "Feliz Navidad", a well known song for English and Spanish speakers.

This successful event is a follow up of a [Bridge of Peace ceremony held last August in Maryland](#). We concluded with prayer and an invitation to our next event on peace building "The Power of Forgiveness" which will take place on March 9, 2024. More details will be announced later.

A husband's testimony: I thought I was going to get bored but I had a great time and I learned good things to apply in my marriage. I will definitely come again.



# SCHOOLS OF AFRICA



## SUPPORT EDUCATION AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT IN AFRICA!

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**TOTAL RAISED: \$635,584**

**SCHOOLS SERVED: 9  
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### DID YOU KNOW...

UNESCO reports 59 million primary age children are out of school, with 54% in Africa.

### SCHOOLS OF AFRICA PROJECT:

In the early 90s, WFWP Japan launched international cooperation activities by Japanese overseas volunteers to serve all over the world. With willing hearts, these women went to nations with the greatest need and to neighborhoods in every corner of the world. They started schools, supported opportunities of education for those in need, and created opportunities for women and girls to build a promising future.

Inspired by their dedication, WFWP USA initiated the "Schools of Africa" project in 2001 to financially support 9 schools in 8 African countries founded by those faithful volunteers.

### YOUR DONATIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

Since 2001, WFWP USA has sent over \$635,000 to these schools, which have empowered 24,000+ African graduates through education since 1994, and continues to enroll nearly 2,000 per year thanks to your support!

*"When we give and forget, true love flourishes." - Mother Moon, Founder of WFWP*




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## 2023 IMPACT

**Liberia:** Peace Hana School used funds from WFP USA to pay for much-needed improvements to the school and various expenses to develop new educational opportunities.

**Mozambique:** With WFP USA's donations this year, the school was able to update their infrastructure, installing new iron gates to protect the students and a new courtyard, which had not been updated since the school was built in 1995!

**Rwanda:** Construction was completed this year on a secondary institute called the New Hope Professional Training Center. This training center will be attended by graduates of the New Hope Technical Institute (NHTI).

## ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS



### EQUATORIAL GUINEA

**Pilar Momo Elementary School since 2011 and Motoko Shiroma Primary School since 2001**

WFP established two schools in Equatorial Guinea. Motoko Shiroma Primary School was named after Ms. Motoko Shrioma, a Japanese volunteer teacher who lost her life during her service. WFP USA continues its support in the improvement and maintenance of the buildings and securing the safety of the students in both schools. So far, the schools impacted more than 369 graduates in Equatorial Guinea. [FIND OUT MORE](#)



### GUINEA BISSAU

**Sunac Elementary School since 2003**

Despite political and social instability in Guinea Bissau, Sunac offers classes regularly throughout the year, making the school zone a safe place for children to grow. Also, the school has a high female enrollment rate. Sunac has been able to reach 587 graduates since 2003. [FIND OUT MORE](#)



### LIBERIA

**Peace Hana School since 1998**

Initially, Peace Hana was established to equip economically disadvantaged children from 3-6 years old with reading and writing skills and extracurricular courses. Later in 2002, the school was expanded to become an elementary school. There are currently 98 students enrolled. [FIND OUT MORE](#)

## SECONDARY SCHOOLS



### MOZAMBIQUE

**Sun of Mozambique Secondary School since 1995**

After a civil war in 1992, the country lacked resources and infrastructure for quality education. Sun of Mozambique offers quality education at a low fee. In addition to this, the school also provides scholarship programs to deserving students, and a library and computer lab facilities. The school has earned a worthy reputation, impacting the lives of 12,444 graduates, many of whom have gone to attend university. [FIND OUT MORE](#)



### KENYA

**Handow Secondary School since 1998**

Handow is located in a poor neighborhood village far away from the capital with limited electricity and running water. Since its establishment, the school has successfully educated 2,130 graduates. With continuous support from WFP, the school became accredited as a public school and later implemented a tuition-free policy in 2008. Donations have been utilized in the construction of the school's infrastructure and providing school supplies to the students. [FIND OUT MORE](#)

## ADULT EDUCATION



### RWANDA

**New Hope Technical Institute since 1998 and New Hope Professional Training Center since 2023**

The institute was founded to help women and ex-soldiers after the Rwandan genocide became



The institute was founded to help women and ex-soldiers after the Rwandan genocide become financially independent by equipping them with skills in culinary arts, dressmaking, and hairdressing. This has not only brought a sense of independence amongst the 2,501 graduates, but also a sense that they are loved and valued. In 2023, construction was completed on the New Hope Professional Training Center for graduates of the New Hope Technical Institute. [FIND OUT MORE](#)

## ETHIOPIA

### One Hope Garden Literacy Class since 2014

The One Hope Garden provides free classes to women and men in Amharic, basic math, basic English, family planning, business management, and childcare. Some families are starting to get out of poverty thanks to the classes. [FIND OUT MORE](#)

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

### MAKE A DONATION

You can support this project by making a donation using the form above, or by mailing a check to: WFWP USA, 481 8th Ave, Suite 608, New York, NY 10001

### FUNDRAISE FOR SCHOOLS OF AFRICA

If you are interested in creating your own local fundraiser for the Schools of Africa, (even a tag sale makes a difference!) we have several resources to help you share about the project and its impact.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

To help organize or support a local fundraiser in your area, check out the [upcoming events page](#), or contact the [chapter nearest you!](#)

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