



United Nations Development Fund for Women



United States
National Committee

2008 Annual Report

UNIFEM

Established in 1976, UNIFEM provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programs to foster women's empowerment and gender equality in over 100 countries around the world. Placing women's human rights and security at the center of all of its efforts, UNIFEM focuses its activities on four strategic areas to:

- **Reduce women's poverty and exclusion**
- **End violence against women and girls**
- **Halt the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls**
- **Support women's leadership in governance and post-conflict reconstruction**

US National Committee for UNIFEM

The U.S. National Committee for UNIFEM is one of 16 national committees that support the mission of UNIFEM. Chartered in 1983, the U.S. National Committee:

- **Supports UNIFEM projects** that promote women's economic empowerment, leadership and the elimination of violence against women and girls
- **Promotes events and campaigns** to educate members and the general public about human rights issues affecting women worldwide
- **Raises funds** through private contributions and public events
- **Informs elected officials about women's issues** and engages their support for UNIFEM

Chapters of the U.S. National Committee are volunteer committees of the organization that work in their communities to raise awareness of UNIFEM/USNC, increase membership, host events and fundraise for UNIFEM/USNC in support of UNIFEM.

The US National Committee for UNIFEM is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

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Progress for Women is Progress for All

Message by Carol Poteat-Buchanan

President, United States National Committee for UNIFEM



Carol Poteat-Buchanan
President

It is our belief that progress for women is progress for all. Over the past year, the US National Committee for UNIFEM (UNIFEM/USNC) has dedicated its efforts to this concept through increasing the visibility of UNIFEM in the US and raising much needed funds to support two programs managed by UNIFEM: The Safe Cities Program in Latin America and the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. Through the work of a dedicated Board of Directors, Chapters, members and friends, we proudly support UNIFEM's work to improve the quality of life for women and girls, many of whose voices have been silenced by forces beyond their control.

The report which follows, covering the period from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008, highlights some of our programs and those of our local chapters. We are especially pleased to have installed three new chapters within the last year: East Florida, Boston, and North Carolina and to have reinstated an Annual Conference in conjunction with our annual meeting.

There were a number of accomplishments this year:

- Establishing quarterly teleconferences to increase communications between National and Chapter Board members. This conferencing technology is also being used for National Board committee work, thus enabling the National Committee to better evaluate our progress and understand needed new directions in a more timely manner.
- Introducing a Board of Director's Manual to ease the transition of new Board Members into the organization and makes clear our mission, goals and responsibilities.
- Developing a Chapter toolkit that serves as a procedural manual focusing on topics ranging from the requirements of being a non-profit organization to organizing successful fundraising events.
- Distributing our newsletter and other campaigns via email to substantially reduce our printing and mailing costs.

We want to thank all of our members and donors who have provided support this past year and promise to continue working hard to create the most efficient, effective, and fiscally responsible organization possible. A special thanks goes to the leaders of our local chapters, our hard-working Program Director, Kaytee O'Neill Stern and our committed, talented National Board of Directors who are intimately involved in helping us achieve our mission – to create a world where women live free from poverty, violence and inequality.

We encourage your continued support and advocacy and ask you to remember that when we empower the women, we empower the whole family. Your donations have helped us move closer towards that end.

Carol M. Poteat-Buchanan

Carol M. Poteat-Buchanan
President

Safe Cities – Improving Women’s Safety in Latin America

UNIFEM/USNC 2008 Fundraising Focus

This year, the US National Committee’s fundraising focus was the Safe Cities Program, where brave women in Latin America are determined to take back their neighborhoods from those who prey upon women and children.

With UNIFEM’s help, women in Rosario, Argentina, have formed neighborhood networks and have learned what needs to be done to make their communities safer – whether it be cleaning up their parks, advocating for more street lighting, or forming a neighborhood watch group. In the western section of Rosario, which is also the poorest section of the city, women are learning skills to help them negotiate with their local government to bring a gender perspective to the decision making process.

Before the Safe Cities program was established, women were afraid to go out into the streets at night or even to send their daughters to shop. They are now developing programs that deal with drug addiction, HIV/AIDS and violence prevention – which includes working with teenage boys to educate them that violence against women is unacceptable.



UNIFEM/USNC President Carol Poteat-Buchanan and Dr. Buchanan visited Rosario, Argentina to meet some of the women who have benefitted from UNIFEM’s Safe Cities Program

Due to the rapid growth of many cities in Latin America, social exclusion, inequality and violence against women have significantly increased:

- According to the Pan American Health Organization, 1 out of 3 women is abused in the course of her life
- Among women ages 15-44, gender-based violence causes more deaths and injuries than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents and war
- In Sao Paulo, Brazil, a woman is abused every 15 seconds
- In Chile’s metropolitan region, 50.3% of women from the age of 15 to 49 have been subjected to violence by their partners

Support of the Safe Cities program will help:

- Disseminate knowledge and promote public debate on the subject of women’s safety in cities
- Empower women to advocate for the incorporation of ending gender-based violence in social agendas and public policies
- Establish programs in Cochabamba, Bolivia; Lima, Peru; and Recife, Brazil

2008 Conference: Creating Change...Improving Women's Lives



Joanne Sandler receives UNIFEM/USNC's most prestigious award, The Award of Excellence

On June 21 and 22, over 100 UNIFEM/USNC members and guests gathered for our 2008 Conference in Atlanta, GA. Attendees convened for many events and sessions to learn more about women's human rights issues and UNIFEM's work. Highlights from the conference included:

- A luncheon featuring Senator Nan Orrock (GA - District 36) and Dr. Ranchod-Nilsson, Executive Director of the Institute of Developing Nations of Emory University
- A one-woman off Broadway comedy, *Neale Godfrey is Tap Dancing Through the Boardroom*
- Brunch with UNIFEM Deputy Executive Director for Programmes, Joanne Sandler
- Panel discussions focused on: HIV/AIDS, Microfinance, Human Trafficking, and Promoting Women's Leadership

2008 Recognition Awards

Award of Excellence

Joanne Sandler
Executive Deputy Director of Programmes, UNIFEM

Hall of Advocates for Women's Human Rights

Gwendolyn Baker
Neale Godfrey
Judy Ramey
Janet Stovin
Sheryl Swed

National Committee Service Awards

Andrea Mayer
Judy Ramey
Elaine Robinson
Jackie Shapiro
Sheryl Swed

Chapter Service Awards

Gulf Cost Chapter
LaDonna Cloud
National Capital Chapter
Judy Ramey
New York Chapter
Janet Stovin



Left photo (L to R): Luz Van Meek, East Florida Chapter President with Kay Colson, UNIFEM/USNC Membership Chair. Right photo: Linda Poteat-Brown, Atlanta, GA Chapter President with student volunteers.



Left photo (L to R): UNIFEM/USNC President Carol Poteat-Buchanan thanks Dr. Sita Ranchod-Nilsson for making a keynote address. Right photo: A captive audience listens to Dr. Ranchod-Nilsson speak on the issue of gender-based violence in Liberia.





Senait Berhane with her niece Winta at the conference



L to R: UNIFEM/USNC Member Lynn Morgan with UNIFEM/USNC GA Membership Chair Barbara Schreiber



One of the conference's market-place vendors makes a sale

2008 Board of Directors



Not pictured: Pam Albertson, Marianne Balazs-Scheidt, Neale Godfrey, Louise Kern, Crystal Lander, Joy Mohnet, Diane Olson, Grace Richardson.

Back row (L to R): Dr. Carroll Buchanan*, Francine Brown, Ruth Zeller, Linda Poteat-Brown, Tina Patterson, Maggie Forster Schmitz, Kay Colson.

Front Row (L to R): Marisa Rivera-Albert, Sara Hurwitch, Leslie Wright, Christine Griftnr, Carol Poteat-Buchanan, Shari Gruber, Kaytee O'Neill Stern**.

*GCC Member

**Program Director

Upcoming Annual Conferences and Board Meetings



Annual Conferences

July 10 - 12, 2009 • Chicago, IL

June 2010 • New York, NY

June 2011 • Washington, DC

Board Meetings

January 15 - 17, 2010 • West Palm Beach, FL

January 14 - 16, 2011 • Raleigh, NC

The Women's Global Roundtable - UNIFEM Series



Uniting Women at a personal level to connect across cultures and foster peace

On April 29, 2008, women gathered in their homes and offices across the country to listen to Women's Global Roundtable (WGR), a 6-month series of live weekly telephone conversations with women whose lives have been touched by the work of UNIFEM through the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. UNIFEM/USNC joined with Peace X Peace in this endeavor to engage U.S. citizens in global issues by providing a forum to listen to the stories of women from around the world.

Every Tuesday evening, participants called in to listen to personal narratives, learn about other women's challenges and triumphs, and have the opportunity to speak directly with the featured speaker. This series offered a unique opportunity to hear first-hand the effect that small grants can have on ending violence against women and fostering peace.

Women's Global Roundtable Featured Speakers

April 29	Eliana Elias, Peru
May 6	Binita Shrestha, Nepal
May 13	Oby Nwankwo, Nigeria
May 27	Jaya Luintel, Nepal
June 3	Alexia Escobar Vasques, Bolivia
June 10	Sonali Khan, India
June 17	Soukeina Bouraoui, Tunisia
June 24	Genoveva Tisheva, Bulgaria

Eliana Elias, Trust Fund Recipient and Women's Global Roundtable Featured Speaker

Eliana Elias is a Peruvian social entrepreneur and an expert in intercultural communication for social change. Since 1991, she has been consultant for social and state organizations that deal with health, education and conservation. In Peru and abroad, she has researched and implemented communication strategies that contribute to improving the lives of the poorest and most discriminated.



Eliana Elias

She is also the founder and Executive Director of Minga Peru, a non-profit organization that promotes social justice and human dignity in rural communities of the Amazon region. Eliana Elias, together with the Minga team, has created an innovative intercultural communication model for social change that have been used to train Latin American social entrepreneurs.

Relationship to UNIFEM

In 2005, Minga Peru received a Trust Fund grant from UNIFEM to help fight violence and the spread of HIV/AIDS in the Amazonian region of Loreto, which ranks as the region with the second largest number of cases of HIV/AIDS in Peru.

Using this grant, Minga Peru created an Intercultural Educational Radio Project to Fight Violence and HIV/AIDS to educate its listeners on decreasing the incidence of violence and HIV/AIDS, and involve radio staff and school teachers in educating youth on these issues. The program provided a platform to reach remote rural communities, whose residents do not have many other means of communication. The program was a great success – one out of every three people who listen to Radio Loreto tuned into the program and 70 percent of them were women.

2008 ANNUAL WALKS



To End Violence Against Women and Girls

This spring, the US National Committee launched its 2008 Annual Walk Series to benefit the UN Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence Against Women. The program invites each member and supporter of UNIFEM/USNC to gather with one or several friends, family members or colleagues in their community to walk to end violence against women. Participants set the date, the time and the place for the walk. The only requirements are that the walk be held by October 31, 2008 and that each participant contributes a minimum of \$10 to support the Trust Fund.

Managed by UNIFEM, the Trust Fund's primary goal is to support innovative projects aimed specifically at preventing and eliminating gender-based violence. Since its inception in 1997, the Trust Fund has awarded over \$18 million to more than 250 projects in over 120 countries. However, UNIFEM receives 20 times more requests for funding than it is able to provide.

Participating Chapters and Organizations

UNIFEM/USNC Chapters

- Boston, MA
- East Florida
- Georgia
- Gulf Coast, FL
- Metropolitan New York
- National Capital
- Southern California

Supporting Organizations

- Ribbon Campaign
- Zonta International



UNIFEM/USNC members, friends and supporters participated in the Georgia Chapter's Annual Walk

UNIFEM/USNC Chapter Initiatives

UNIFEM/USNC Chapters are critical to the success of the US National Committee. Chapters work in their communities to raise awareness of UNIFEM/USNC, increase membership, host events and fundraise for UNIFEM/USNC in support of UNIFEM. Highlighted below are programs developed by our Chapters, some of which are becoming signature events in their communities.

Georgia Chapter

On October 27, 2007, the Georgia Chapter Mother-Sister-Daughter celebration honored three courageous Atlanta women who had each made a significant journey, empowered by a village of support that enabled the achievement of their dreams of a life of accomplishment and dignity. The event, including a reception, dinner and silent auction, provided a supportive audience with the opportunity to hear each woman's story, and to learn of their determination to help other women in difficult circumstances.

Boston, MA Chapter

Prior to becoming an installed chapter, the UNIFEM/USNC Boston Chapter held a luncheon on May 17, 2008 to establish its presence in the area. Maureen Norton-Hawk, Suffolk University Professor, served as the keynote speaker.

Chicago, IL Chapter

On March 5, 2008, UNIFEM/USNC Chicago Chapter hosted the premiere of *Beyond Belief* with a post-screening discussion with director Beth Murphy. *Beyond Belief* is a documentary that follows two widowed American women who leave their suburban homes and reach out to the most desperate villages in Afghanistan. In the process, they discover unlikely kinship with widows halfway around the world and a profound way to move beyond tragedy. The chapter used this screening as an opportunity to promote the work of UNIFEM in Afghanistan. This event was generously sponsored in part by the Jerome H. Stone Family Foundation.

Mother-Sister-Daughter



The Georgia Chapter Board and guests celebrates the success of their Mother-Sister-Daughter event

Beyond Belief



The Chicago Chapter's *Beyond Belief* film event was their biggest fundraiser to date. Pictured from left are Sophia Wong Boccio, Jim Stone, Director Beth Murphy, Mary Cordero, Louise Kern, Lisa Schilling, Kate Hannigan, Marjan Farshchiha and Dina Yaghmai.

East Florida Chapter

Prior to becoming an installed chapter, UNIFEM/USNC East Florida Chapter was actively involved in securing several community partnerships and little by little, UNIFEM is becoming a household name in Palm Beach County. In October, the chapter hosted *The Step Out to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls Walk* at Palm Beach Central High School to raise funds to support the UN Trust Fund. Later in the year, the chapter was invited to collaborate with Palm Beach Community College in the designing of their strategic plan for the next three years. The chapter made sure to bring UNIFEM's mission of women's empowerment to the forefront by highlighting the importance of women's education in science, technology, and business as well as their participation in decision making at all levels.

Gulf Coast, FL Chapter

The Gulf Coast Chapter held its annual Women's International Film Festival *Through Women's Eyes* the weekend of February 23 to a sold out audience. The films of 17 women filmmakers from nine countries were included, among them five award-winning films; *Been Rich all My Life*, *Enemies of Happiness*, *In Sickness and in Health*, *Women Behind the Camera*, and *The Women's Kingdom*. Post-film discussions by filmmakers and local speakers were enjoyed by the audience.

Metropolitan New York Chapter

For more than a decade, the Metro New York Chapter has sponsored an annual luncheon to raise funds for UNIFEM. This sold-out event features prominent people at the United Nations and speaks to one of the themes under discussion by governments at the



Dr. Linda Basch, addressed the importance of women's leadership at the Metro NY Chapter's Annual Luncheon.

Commission on the Status of Women. In 2008, guests included the Deputy Secretary General Asha Rose Migaro, Acting Executive Director for UNIFEM Joanne Sandler, and the UN First Lady Mrs. Ban. The keynote speaker, Dr. Linda Basch, Executive Director for the National Council for Research on Women, addressed the topic of women's leadership.



The Goodman family *Stepped Out* to participate in the East Florida Chapter's walk to prevent gender-based violence

National Capital Chapter

On February 8, 2008, the National Capital Chapter of UNIFEM/USNC held a reception recognizing UNIFEM's work in Latin American Cities. The event was held under the gracious patronage of His Excellency the Ambassador of Iceland Albert Jónsson and his wife, Mrs. Ása Baldvinsdóttir at their residence. Congresswomen Loretta Sanchez and Linda Sanchez served as the honorary co-chairs. The evening included a tango performance, silent auction and reception. Funds raised supported UNIFEM's Safe Cities project.

North Carolina

In April 2008, the forming North Carolina Chapter hosted a small gathering to participate in the first call of the Women's Global Roundtable series. Inspired by the call's first speaker, Eliana Elias, the chapter decided to use this series to promote the chapter and UNIFEM's mission. Members held potluck dinners and discussions during the next few months prior to the call and through this grassroots networking, the North Carolina Chapter was able to become a full-fledged chapter in June.

Southern California Chapter

For the third year in a row, the UNIFEM/USNC Southern California Chapter held its annual fundraiser, *Wearable Arts*. The event highlights the remarkable art of local artists in southern California, who donate a percent of their sales proceeds to support UNIFEM.

Engaging future generations in the work of UNIFEM



L to R: Janet Jarzyna, Chair of Learners to Leaders; with Learners to Leaders Katie Williams, Emily Luebs, Jamie Reeher, Jana Buckwalter, Lauren Gwinn, Amber Selesky, Lara Funk, Erin Jones, Paige Lamb, Lauren Menzer, Chelsea Pillsbury, and Connie Ellis, Co-Chair.

Photo courtesy of Leslie Feinberg

Learners to Leaders

The Gulf Coast Chapter's Learners to Leaders program is committed to engaging young women in the work and mission of UNIFEM. It is a three-year program offered to select high school students (grades 10-12) from Sarasota and Manatee counties who are interested in world affairs and women's issues.

The purpose of the program is to help students learn about the plight of women in developing countries, while at the same time instilling leadership skills in young women through active involvement in Chapter programs. Learners to Leaders provides the opportunity for students to become productive and contributing adults who can be effective in determining the course of tomorrow's world.

Students attend a minimum of four activities each year, become actively involved in the chapter and serve as a voice of UNIFEM/USNC in their schools. They also assist in the planning and development of chapter events, write articles for school newspapers and chapter newsletters, and attend Chapter Board meetings.

Just this year, the Gulf Coast Chapter accepted 11 new students into the Learners to Leaders Program, thereby increasing the number of participants to 16. These young women represent six area high schools and one of the Learners to Leaders, Jessica Oynick, recently established the first UNIFEM/USNC Youth Club at her high school.



UNIFEM/USNC Southern California high school juniors Stephanie, Shelley and Rebekah sold white ribbon roses to educate their peers on the issue of violence against women

Irvine University High School Club

Similar to the Learner's to Leaders Program, the Southern California Chapter's high school club serves as a forum to empower young women and educate them on women's issues and mission of UNIFEM. Members of the club attend Chapter events, volunteer their time to help promote the mission of UNIFEM and even develop creative ways to raise funds to support UNIFEM's work.

Worldwide Network of UNIFEM National Committees



Members of the Global Coalition

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Australia | Germany | Japan | Sweden |
| Austria | Iceland | New Zealand | Switzerland/Liechtenstein |
| Canada | Ireland | Philippines | United Kingdom |
| Finland | Italy | Singapore | United States |

In 2006, the National Committees of UNIFEM formed the Global Coalition. With combined international resources and contacts, the objective of the Global Coalition is to further aid in the support for UNIFEM programs and formulate strategic actions to better support UNIFEM's mission.

Photos: Top row: © Phuong Nguyen, Jewel Samad-AFP/Getty Images/Courtesy of UNIFEM.
Bottom row: © United Nations/Kay Muldoon, 2005 Anja Lendvay, Courtesy of Photoshare

Statements of Audited Financial Position

As of May 31, 2007 and May 31, 2008

	2007	2008
Cash and Investments	\$172,291	\$155,201
Liabilities	\$ 62,459	\$ 27,191
Net Assets	\$135,361	\$157,149
Support and Revenue		
Contributions for UNIFEM/USNC	\$ 31,251	\$ 25,844
Contributions for UNIFEM	\$ 40,590	\$ 64,190
Other Revenue	\$ 12,569	\$ 50,388
Membership Dues	\$ 62,096	\$ 49,255
Total Support and Revenue	\$146,506	\$189,677
Expenses		
Program	\$ 56,339	\$ 58,906
Management & General	\$ 26,137	\$ 37,540
Fund Raising	\$ 24,854	\$ 21,443
Annual Contribution to UNIFEM	\$ 50,296	\$ 50,000
Total expenses	\$157,626	\$167,889

Benefactor, Donor and Sponsor Members

Benefactors

Alin & Peter Chelico
Elizabeth Hein

Friederike Merck
Lani Moyle

Grace Richardson
Janet Stovin

Donors

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Courtney Plummer

Laureen Prophett
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Jackie Shapiro
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Jon Wentzel
Anushka Wirasinha

UNIFEM/USNC Board of Directors, Chapter Presidents and Advisory Council

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Joy Mohnet

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Tina Patterson

Grace Richardson

Marisa Rivera-Albert

Ruth Zeller

Staff

Kaytee O'Neill Stern

Program Director

Past Presidents

Sheryl J. Swed 2000-2008

Hope Miller 1991 - 1999

Virginia A. Allan⁺ 1988 - 1990

Patricia Hutar 1983 - 1987

⁺In Memoriam

Chapter Presidents

Jaime Haughey

Boston Chapter

Marjan Farshchiha**

Chicago, IL Chapter

Luz Van Meek

East FL Chapter

Linda Poteat-Brown*

Georgia Chapter

Francine Brown

Gulf Coast, FL Chapter

Leslie Wright

Metropolitan NY Chapter

Caroline Slobodzian

National Capital Chapter

Younghee Overly

North Carolina Chapter

CeCe Sloan

Southern California Chapter

*Chapter Representative

**Chapter Alternate Representative

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Dr. Charlotte Bunch

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Betty Friedan⁺

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Gillian Martin Sorensen

Drs. Alvin and Heidi Toffler

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Layout and Design: Kaytee O'Neill Stern



**United States
National Committee**

*Working toward a world where
women and girls live free from
violence, poverty and inequality*

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