

The Power of Passing Empowerment Along

You can do something beyond your community - they are waiting for you.

Dana Dakin



photo courtesy of Barbara Case Senchak

Dana Dakin **Luncheon April 13** ***The Power of Passing it On!***

On Wednesday, April 13, the women of AWE were inspired to hear entrepreneur and philanthropist Dana Dakin tell her own story of the founding of WomensTrust, a women's empowerment program she initiated in northern Ghana in 2003. The lunch and talk was well attended at the Episcopal Church Center, 815 Second Ave., New York City.

Dakin's story started as she approached her 60th birthday with a personal decision to act on a dream she had cultivated for years - of empowering women and girls through micro-enterprise in Africa. Her research focused first on the country of Ghana and eventually on a specific town of close to 20,000 people called Pokuase. She travelled there and stayed,

setting up a program to fund women in the village start small businesses such as food stalls, bread baking, textiles sales, and hairdressing.

Dakin spoke of the many achievements to date of WomensTrust in Pokuase, and of plans for the future. New Executive Director, Wilma Longdon, has just been hired in Ghana. Longdon's exceptional professionalism and excitement will presumably lead the organization to new heights. Dakin invited AWE sisters interested in learning more about the work being done to come and meet Exec. Dir. Longdon on her first trip to New York in June, to discuss her vision of the future and/or to journey to Pokuase in August for Dakin's semi-annual trip.

Most importantly, Dana Dakin asked each one of us to "Circle our friends and share our empowerment globally!" She invited us to pass our own sense of

empowerment along - to those around us, especially in emerging countries. Just as Dakin's decision to lend money to women entrepreneurs in Pokuase has impacted close to half of the community living in the town, so can each of us decide to share our knowledge, vision, and power with those who lack the resources but not the will to care for themselves, their families and their community. Our choices and decisions unlock "the infinite possibilities born of faith" (Theresa of Avila), and we are asked to share these possibilities with others, in faith and confidence.

In 700 days, on her 70th birthday, Dana Dakin will step down from her role as President of WomensTrust so that others can assume new leadership there. She wants to pass her power along to others. Who knows what she will do next! What are you called to do now?

For more information, go to website:

www.womenstrust.org

or email at

info@womenstrust.org

Also visit WomensTrust on Facebook.

"WomensTrust is probably the BEST PROJECT I have seen in Africa."

*Bill Easterly, Economist,
Co-Director of NYU's Development
Research Institute*

