

# Empower to Inspire



**GBOWEE**  
PEACE FOUNDATION AFRICA  
2013 ANNUAL REPORT



# founding

Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa (GPFA) was founded in 2012, and is a registered nonprofit in the Republic of Liberia. Its headquarter is located in the capital city, Monrovia.

Founded in February 2012 by 2011 Nobel Peace laureate Leymah Gbowee, GPFA runs the following programs: African Girls Leadership Initiative, Afterschool Enrichment Program (AEP), Social Responsibility Radio Program (SRRP), Segal Ambassador for Family Planning (SAFP), Peace Through Fair Play (PTFP), Moving Beyond the Classroom (MBC), Breakfast Walk 'n Talk (BWT) and Summer Program.

This report provides brief information on various programs implemented this year as separate End of Program reports are available for each program upon completion.



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17%

Gbowee Scholars  
are single  
mothers

# inspiration

Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa was founded to expand access to educational and leadership opportunities. Leymah Gbowee explains the impetus that drives its mission:

"In some regions in Liberia, not a single young woman receives a secondary school diploma in a given school year. Often it is tradition and religion that stand in the way but so too do poverty and the total erosion of the norms and institutions that should be protecting their rights – the result of fourteen years of civil war. For me, receiving an education is a fundamental right of every woman, so that she can take care of herself and, eventually, her family. If you empower a young woman, you empower a whole community. And Liberia needs female leaders. We must walk alongside men."

Leymah's personal journey from a single parent to a global peace activist was a result of a caring community of family, friends, mentors, teachers, supervisors, and a strong community of women pushing her boundaries beyond what she felt capable to achieve. GPFA is the avenue through which women and youth are provided the resources to achieve their goals, and imagine further.

# mission

Its mission is to promote holistic transformation in Africa by facilitating equal access to opportunities in all spheres of influence.

# vision

A peaceful and reconciled Africa that believes in recognizes and utilizes the skills and talents of all, regardless of gender and ethnicity.

## how GPFA GOT ITS LOGO

The Unity Circle sculpture is a traditional West African wood carving of three intertwined figures holding up a shared bowl. It symbolizes community, cohesion and cooperation. These values underpin the Foundation's efforts to build a peaceful, reconciled Africa through the inclusive efforts of men, women and the youth. The Foundation focuses its efforts by empowering women and youth—traditionally marginalized from meaningful decision-making roles—to fulfill leadership positions in their schools and communities.



# dear friends,

In February 2012, we established the Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa to cater to the educational and leadership development of girls and youth in Africa, beginning with Liberia.

The Foundation has designed six core programs to build a peaceful, reconciled Africa through the inclusive efforts of men, women and the youth.

Its flagship program has awarded academic domestic and international scholarships to over fifty young Liberians and Ghanaians female students. We believe that girls and young women play a major role in Africa's growth and peaceful development, and their empowerment through education in the formal and informal sectors is crucial to their political participation and future leadership.

The annual Peace Through Fair Play youth camp afforded a space for young Liberian boys and girls (aged 10–16 years, including children with disabilities) to engage leaders and key stakeholders in Liberia in conversations about equality, peace and the youth role in development. The camp also provided participants the opportunity to engage their peers in sporting activities to facilitate a conversation about fair play and peace.

Our other programs engage the community to organize free public events, producing a regular radio

program to disseminate health information, and networking forums for students. We believe a local and

engaged community is best suited to devise solutions to the challenges they face.

Over the last two years, the Foundation forged partnerships with various local, national and international institutions, organizations and individuals. We included communities in Margibi and Gbarpolu counties where local leaders identified and recommended students to the foundation for assistance. We also invited key media entities to highlight women's rights, such as gender-based violence, in the public sphere.

Our work to fulfill the mission is due to the generosity of our partners and staff. The work of the Foundation would not be possible without the confidence and support of our donors and partners. With the guidance of the Executive Board, the Foundation is making substantive strides to fulfill its mission. The staff works tirelessly to execute the vision that a truly reconciled Africa recognizes and utilizes the skills and talents of all, regardless of gender and ethnicity. Our work in Liberia is the first step to a transformed Africa. My hope is that you continue with us on this journey.





# Program Components

**GPFA achieves its goals through  
3 core program components**



## Education

The African Girls Leadership Initiative (AGLI) is the Foundation's flagship program. It provides scholarships, internships, and mentorships to ensure our Gbowee Scholars are prepared for the employment market. AGLI participants are eligible to become Segal Family Planning Ambassadors, a peer-to-peer program on sexual and reproductive health. Every scholarship recipient attends the Annual Gathering of Scholars to network with other students.

## Leadership Development

The Foundation organizes several no-fee programs that are open to all students: Moving Beyond the Classroom symposiums, Peace Thru Fair Play summer camp, and the River Cess Afterschool Enrichment Program.



## Community Engagement

The Foundation relies upon a strong network of supporters from the community who connect program beneficiaries with mentors, internship opportunities, organize fundraisers, and identify children in need. The Foundation organizes a monthly Breakfast Walk 'n Talk women-only social and Social Responsibility Radio Program on the most popular radio programs.

# Education

## African Girls Leadership Institute

additional support, room and board, school materials, schoolbooks, materials, uniforms, transportation allowance and stipends are provided. **OUTPUT:** Currently, the Foundation supports sixteen primary school students at local boarding schools, and forty-one students attending universities and vocational schools.

**INPUT:** The Foundation provides scholarships to fully cover tuition and school fees. For students who require

**46%**  
Gbowee Scholars study hard sciences or technical skills



The Segal Family Foundation awarded the Foundation a grant to design a sexual and reproductive health program.

**INPUT:** The Foundation uses a peer-to-peer model to discuss unplanned pregnancies, delay early marriage and foster healthy intimate partnerships. Gbowee Scholars comprise the

## Segal Family Planning Ambassadors

first cadre of Ambassadors. Over a three-day training retreat, Segal Ambassadors attend lectures from women leaders and lead workshops on bodily integrity, best practices for safe sex, the challenges unplanned pregnancies bring, and continuing education. **OUTPUT:** In a country where nearly four out of ten women aged 20-24 birthed their first child before turning 18 years old, no Gbowee Scholar has become pregnant during their tenure as an Ambassador.

## Annual Scholars' Gathering

**INPUT:** Every year, the Foundation invites every Gbowee Scholar to the Gathering to celebrate high achievers in academics, encourage networks among scholarship beneficiaries within and beyond their school community, and share the challenges of academic life. For the Foundation, the Gathering is an opportunity to evaluate its services and creatively design solutions to the challenges Gbowee Scholars face to improve academic achievement.

**OUTPUT:** As a result of implementing feedback from the first Gathering, the rate of Gbowee Scholars who achieved a 3.0+ grade point average (the minimum grade point average required to retain a scholarship) improved by 36 percent.





# Leadership Development

## Moving Beyond the Classroom

MBC is an annual youth empowerment symposium focused on education and career development for teenagers and young adults. MBC features high-profile public and private sector leaders sharing their stories overcoming personal and financial challenges to obtain an education. **INPUT:** The Foundation shares information about mentorships, internships and career development opportunities available outside of the classroom. **OUTPUT:** The Foundation has recommended several MBC participants for internships at government ministries.



PTFP is an annual youth overnight camp for children aged 10 to 16 years old. **INPUT:** In 2013, PTFP held its inaugural four-day sports camp for 41 campers from two dozen different schools aged 10-16 years old at Wulki Farms in Careysburg, Liberia. **OUTPUT:** Campers learned conflict-resolution skills through sports, public presentation skills, network with community leaders, and about sexual health and reproduction. Many of the campers reside in Monrovia and the surrounding areas where there are no public playgrounds or recreational facilities. Peace Through Fair Play is offered free of charge to camp participants.



## Peace Thru Fair Play

## River Cess Afterschool Enrichment Program

With funding from African Petroleum, the Foundation launched an afterschool program that serves five primary and secondary schools in one of Liberia's least developed counties. **INPUT:** It trains a corps of youth leaders in nonviolent conflict management, mediation and academic mentorship. In turn, the youth corps established peer resource centers in local schools; weekly one-on-one and small group tutoring; monthly dialogues on social responsibility and career opportunities in a post-conflict economy; and bimonthly informational and discussion sessions about reproductive health and healthy relationships consistent with the SAEP. River Cess County has the second lowest aggregate number of girls enrolled in school, and the second lowest overall school population. **OUTPUT:** Over the course of the AEP, female student enrollment increased at the senior high school level of participating schools from 16 to 64, and overall enrollment increased by 94 to 160 students. The Foundation works closely with a local Steering Committee to organize resources, implement activities, and oversee progress and participation.



# Community Engagement

## Breakfast Walk 'n Talk

BWT is aimed to provide women and girls a safe space to exchange information, identify solutions to local community challenges, network, and build community. **INPUT:** BWT gathers a diverse corps of women for a brisk morning walk followed by a meal one Saturday every month. The effect of BWT is to build stronger networks between women of different ages, ethnicities, and professions. **OUTPUT:** BWT participants organized two charitable drives to benefit a local orphanage (Dec. 2013) and hospital (March 2014). BWT participants work with the Foundation to coordinate internships for Gbowee Scholars. BWT participants have helped secure over six internship placements for Gbowee Scholars.



Every month, the Foundation takes over the airwaves in Liberia. **INPUT:** SRRP is an hour-long radio program that is broadcasted over three of the most popular radio station on Truth FM, Hott FM and FARBRIC Radio shows. **OUTPUT:** SRRP provides sexual and reproductive health education and discuss positive relationship models to combat

## Social Responsibility Radio Program



teenaged pregnancy and intimate partner violence. A UNICEF report recorded that nearly half of female adolescents aged 15-19 believed wife beating was justified; comparatively, 37% of male adolescents believed the same outcomes of Liberians over an easily accessible medium. SRRP's regular programs are the Foundation's efforts to curtail negative health outcomes.



# college & university

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

GPFA partners with colleges, universities and vocational schools all over the world to provide scholarships to students who otherwise would not be able to attend. With scholarships available in the United States, Belgium, Spain, Mozambique, Ghana and Liberia, Gbowee Scholars have the opportunity to obtain a global education.



Ashesi University College student Julateh M. works at the admissions office in Ghana. Gbowee Scholar Julateh is the first person in her family to attend university.

## undergraduate programs

ASHESI UNIVERSITY COLLEGE  
BARNARD COLLEGE  
CEDAR CREST COLLEGE  
LYON COLLEGE  
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF SEVILLE  
VASSAR COLLEGE

## graduate programs

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
CLINTON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE  
UNIVERSITY OF LEUVEN

Nearly one in five  
Gbowee Scholars  
have mothers who  
have no formal  
education

Anita Y. is accepted to join the Barnard College Class of 2018 this fall in New York City.

## certificate programs

EASTERN MENNONITE UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY OF INDIANA

# BARNARD

BARNARD COLLEGE • COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Dear Anita,

Congratulations! On behalf of the Committee on Admissions, I am pleased to inform you that you have been admitted to the Barnard College Class of 2018. You were selected from an exceptionally strong group of applicants, and we commend you on your outstanding academic and personal achievements.

# educational PARTNERS

Our students attend university, vocational, secondary and primary schools throughout the country.

## undergraduate programs

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL UNIVERSITY  
CUTTINGTON UNIVERSITY

MOTHER PATERN COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF LIBERIA

UNITED METHODIST UNIVERSITY  
WILLIAM V.S. TUBMAN UNIVERSITY



Gbowee Scholar Korto J., University of Liberia  
Class of 2013, celebrates with Program Assistant  
Rose Norris.

## certificate programs

NETLIB VOCATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE  
STARZ COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY  
SMYTHE INSTITUTE

## primary & secondary school

ADRIEL ACADEMY  
BROMLEY EPISCOPAL MISSION SCHOOL  
EFFORT BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOOL  
KONOLA ACADEMY  
OPEN BIBLE SCHOOL-BUCHANAN COUNTY  
OPEN BIBLE SCHOOL-RIVER CESS COUNTY  
OUR LADY OF FATIMA-PIPE LINE



Gbowee Scholar Welma E., Stella Maris Polytechnic Class  
of 2013, celebrates with two younger family members.



# Board

Fatu Addy  
Samuel G. Doe  
Jay Kesselee Fatormah  
Leymah R. Gbowee  
Deweh Gray

Owner, Liberia Woodwork Construction & Trading Corp  
Senior Policy Advisor & Team Leader, UNDP  
Information Technology Consultant  
Founder, Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa  
Vice Chairperson of the Law Reform Commission

# Staff

Leymah Gbowee  
Williametta Saydee-Tarr  
Dinah Mensah  
Blanche Selmah Gaie  
David Konneh  
Rose Norris  
Jami Mensah  
Yvonne Jallah  
Mandela Roberts

President  
Executive Director  
Executive Assistant  
Office Manager  
Program Manager  
Program Assistant  
Program Coordinator  
Office Assistant  
Driver

# Headquarters

Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa  
Doe Apartment Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Suites  
Congo Town, Monrovia  
Republic of Liberia