Holiday Greetings!

There is so much good news to report. I am delighted to send you this brief summary of highlights to celebrate just a few of the amazing achievements that you made possible this year. Thank you for supporting our work to transform lives and provide dignity and opportunities to every girl. everywhere. period.

It has been a year filled with great leaps forward. We were overjoyed to see the outpouring of support for our refugee project highlighted in this report, along with the development of our hybrid kits to reach homeless and low income women and girls right here in our own backyard. And these two projects are only a fraction of what was achieved in 2019 as that list would fill a book - a personal project I am working on for 2020.

To the 65,000+ Days for Girls phenomenal volunteers, to the dedicated and talented leaders of 148 DfG Enterprises in 40 countries, to our amazing DfG staff and incredible supporters and partners, I am humbled by what we have accomplished together. But especially, I find strength in the 1.5 million women and girls that we’ve had the honor of serving since 2008.

In summary, this was your year — because without your generosity and vision, none of this would have been possible. As we wrap up 2019, our work to reach women and girls around the world with DfG Kits and education will continue until our mission is complete. Thank you for being on this journey together with us.

With gratitude and happiest of holidays,

Celeste Mergens
Founder and CEO
Happy Holidays!

2019 YEAR-END SUMMARY

Mail: PO Box 2622
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273 USA
(360) 220-8393
www.daysforgirls.org
Pad Power & Reaching Every Girl

Pad Power

We all know that our pads are beautiful and last for over three years but this year we have added a new feature. Our DfG Kits have eliminated all plastic bags! In response to a positive growing trend to ban single-use plastic worldwide, Days for Girls has moved to eliminate our ziplock bags and instead make what we call “transport bags” that will hold soiled pads without adding plastics to the environment. This is a natural shift, as it falls in line with our values of listening and adjusting to cultural needs.

Reaching Every Girl

This year marked another significant advancement expanding our reach to those in our own backyard. We have all heard stories about girls not able to attend school in developing countries but we also know that for many girls in high income countries such as the US, Canada, Europe, Australia, they suffer, too. So we set out to respond.

By developing a Hybrid Kit we have Chapters and Teams connecting to their local homeless shelters, prisons, and schools to offer products and education. These Kits may include a menstrual cup, a DfG pad, and tampons, depending on the needs of the girl. Every girl matters, and as a global movement, we will not leave anyone out!
Thanks to many generous donors, we were able to launch an enterprise in Lebanon to work with Syrian refugees. This helped us see firsthand the challenges refugee women and girls face around the world and opened our hearts to the devastating difficulties they face.

According to recent statistics, an unprecedented 70.8 million people have been forcibly displaced worldwide and the idea that millions of women and girls live in these terrible conditions without menstrual supplies is unfathomable.

As a result, we decided to send out a call to action to our Chapters and Teams. We set a goal to reach 33,000 refugee women and girls with DfG Kits and health education. The outpouring of support from thousands of volunteers and enterprise leaders truly blew us away!

Passionate groups came together and worked night and day to make Kits to ship to various regional hubs for overseas transport.

In just a few months, **46,221 Kits** were produced and are now on their way to Afghanistan, Lebanon, South Sudan, and Somalia. Given this positive response, we will continue this outreach program into 2020.
"I know no more fear. I have the passion of helping people based on what I have been learning."

Tuzo of Butembo, Democratic Republic of Congo reflected on her journey since launching her Days for Girls Enterprise more than 2 years ago. Thanks to your generosity and support, Tuzo attended the 2019 East Africa Workshop for DfG Enterprise leaders. This gathering brought together more than 100 East African women and men from around the region, who are working tirelessly to shatter stigmas for girls and women and create more equitable, healthy communities through their DfG Enterprises.

And while our East African leaders were deep in discussion and learning, the Southern Africa leaders were gearing up for their annual workshop that took place in April and brought together all 11 Southern African Enterprises.
Building partnerships to leverage our impact has always been at the core of our mission and this year was no exception. What was different was our focus and attention on strengthening local and national government relationships to advance menstrual health policies and governmental funding.

By adding an advocacy department to our global team in 2019, we have been “at the table” and “in the hallways.” We have been advocating for a national washable standard to ensure washable products maintain the highest quality requirements throughout Africa.

Furthermore, we have been advocating for the inclusion of menstrual health education for boys and girls in countries such as Cambodia and Zimbabwe to name just a couple and increasing menstrual access and supplies in classrooms throughout the world.

And finally, we have been advocating for the elimination of the tampon tax in places such as the US and the UK. These conversations, rallies and initiatives are making a difference and resulting in millions of women and girls having access and options to meet their needs.

Days for Girls board member Clarice Chan, advocacy volunteer Lena Sharesky, and Communications Manager Paige Glidden joined the National Period Day rally in Washington DC.
"Role models can inspire. Campaigns can motivate. But if we want all girls everywhere to rise up, then we must find them, befriend them, and support them."

- Queen Rania of Jordan