



**Darfur Women's Network**

2513 South Calhoun Street | Fort Wayne, Indiana 46807 | 260.744.9540

**2010 Annual Report**

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February 28, 2011

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## Vision

To achieve sustainable peace-building and development opportunities for the people of Darfur through strong civil society support that is based on the principals of social justice and gender equality.

## Mission

To establish knowledge, information, advice and network systems to aid researchers, policymakers and practitioners who are dedicated to the advancement and strengthening of the Darfur community to achieve sustainable development, social change and conflict transformation based on women's empowerment.

### Dear Friends, Donors and Volunteers of the Darfur Women Peace & Development Network (DWN):

As we undertake a new year of plans and programs, it's appropriate to reflect on 2010 and thank all of the individuals, groups and organizations that have made our journey possible. When we pause, we think of renewing old friendships, welcoming new ones, and building on relationships that have sustained us throughout the year. We have much indeed to be thankful for as we look forward to moving forward in 2011.

Whether you gave of your time, made a monetary contribution or donation; provided program and service opportunities; attended one of our events; or offered advice and words of encouragement; we want to express our deepest gratitude for your support and interest. Without you, neither our outreach efforts in Fort Wayne nor plans for international assistance would be possible. Words can't fully express how much we appreciate the involvement and support from the greater Fort Wayne community and beyond. Since DWN remained an all-volunteer organization in 2010, 100% of each monetary or in-kind contribution went directly to help the Darfurian community in Fort Wayne, support our office and related expenses, and maintain a strong relationship with refugee camps in Chad and those still in harm's way in Darfur.

2010 was a watershed year for DWN because we achieved independent 501(c)(3) status that allows our organization to operate both in the United States and internationally. Many highlights marked our year, and we have included some of those in the enclosure. We hope that through DWN's programs, events and future initiatives you will continue to see the impact that you are making on the lives of so many Darfurians, both here and abroad. Someone once said that to the world you may be one person, but to one person, you may be the world. We can say that in 2010, each of you has been both that one person and the world to another.

As we present our 2010 year in review and plans for moving forward, the Officers and Board of Directors of DWN would like to express our desire to continue to working with each one of you, and to welcome new supporters, volunteers and organizations to our ever-growing network of DWN friends.

Peace to you all.

Sincerely,



Mindy M. Walker  
President, Board of Directors



# 2010

## A Year in Review

### Empowerment and Education

Through the loss of husbands, fathers, sons and brothers, the women of Darfur find themselves without traditional leadership. Teaching the women to be self-sufficient through education will empower the women to lead their families and communities to rise above current conflicts.

DWN sees education as the most effective and essential factor for the women of Darfur to achieve sustainable development, social change and conflict transformation, whether in Darfur or after relocating.



### Each One Teach One and ESL Programs

In January 2010, DWN partnered with the James S. McFadden Resource Center (MRC), a non-profit tutoring and social skills organization, to provide English and computer instruction to Darfur refugees through the "Each One Teach One" program.

Unlike many English as a second language (ESL) classes, participants met after the class for an hour at a local coffee house (The Mill) for social networking. Students were able to practice and improve their English language and social skills while gaining self-esteem. In addition, the program provided staff, volunteers and businesspeople the opportunity to experience working with those for whom English is a foreign language.

Moreover, during 2010, the MRC offered a fall semester of ESL classes at the Little Turtle branch of the Allen County Public Library. The cost for each semester, about \$5,500, was generously donated by MRC. The fall semester of Each One Teach One began on September 8, 2010, and was completed on December 16, 2010. Each student then had access to a laptop and self-guided Rosetta Stone language software, as a result of a grant from the Gates Foundation.



## Annual Cross-Cultural Picnic

The concept for this event, first developed by Executive Director Mastora Bakhiet, is to engage families from multiple cultures in sharing traditional foods, music, games and dialogue in order to help break down barriers and build bridges across diverse worlds.



## Community Organization of the Day: Fort Wayne TinCaps Game

On August 22, DWN partnered with the Fort Wayne TinCaps to be recognized as the "Community Organization of the Day" in front of a sellout crowd of over 7,500 people.

## Expanding Awareness Through Community Partnerships

**DWN works to make local and international communities aware of Darfur, its women and their needs. As a Fort Wayne-based organization, we would also like to make the Darfurian population aware of the global community, how it functions and where they can attain assistance and growth.**

### Summer at the Southeast YMCA

Lizette Carmona, Membership and Family Director of the Southeast Family YMCA of Greater Fort Wayne, generously donated scholarships to the YMCA summer camp for eleven Darfurian children on behalf of the YMCA

### Blackhawk Middle School Speaking Event

On January 7 and 12, 2010, DWN's Executive Director, Mastora Bakhiet, spoke to 7th graders at Blackhawk Middle School to educate them about the conflict in Darfur and the consequences of the conflict on the children from Darfur who have lived in the camps for years. Over 480 Blackhawk students attended. They learned about the poor and difficult lives of those in the camps.



## Cinema Center Event

On May 19, 2010, DWN sponsored a screening of the documentary film, Darfur Now, at the Cinema Center in Fort Wayne. A social hour was held prior to the screening featuring traditional foods and beverages. Handmade cultural products made by local immigrants from Darfur and Sudan were displayed. For many within the immigrant community, it was their first visit to the Cinema Center.



## United Methodist School of Christian Mission Conference

On July 15, 2010, Executive Director Mastora Bakhiet and Board President Mindy Walker traveled to The School of Christian Mission conference at Anderson University. Ms. Bakhiet delivered a presentation about the condition of women and children in Darfur. Ms. Walker talked to the class about how DWN is building organizational capacity. DWN has participated in this conference since 2009. Sudan has been the focus of mission study for The School for two years, and churches and individuals from across the state have generously contributed to DWN.

## Building Partnerships with the City of Fort Wayne

On August 9, 2010, DWN's Executive Director, Mastora Bakhiet, met with Mayor Henry to discuss organizational activities and challenges. Mayor Henry welcomed Bakhiet's visit and referred her to several City workers who oversee programs that help support immigrants from Darfur. He also asked for an invitation to future events about Darfurian culture.

# 2011

## Moving Forward

DWN's goal in 2011 is to continue to assist the women of Darfur to rise above adversity and once again flourish as a community. Through an internal Board of Directors review that began in November of 2010, three important organizational mission priorities emerged: education, awareness and empowerment. DWN anticipates completing its internal review and related strategic planning by the end of the first quarter in 2011. In the coming months, we intend to place special emphasis on our international outreach mission.



# International Aid Program

DWN has reached out to two Darfur refugee camps in Chad, Tulum and Ardim, with a total population of 38,000 between the two locations. To date, each camp has provided a needs list to DWN in order that our organization can provide them with much-needed materials. DWN envisions greatly expanding this program in 2011. Ultimate success depends upon finding partners to help with shipping, and then distribution of the collected materials once they arrive in the refuge camps. In 2011, DWN will work to identify partners for this endeavor.



# Income-Generating Projects: Microenterprise Activities for Women

DWN believes that implementing a microenterprise project in the refugee camps is essential to creating income for the families. Moreover, it can help help to provide financial stability for women who have been at the camps for several years. Recent attendance at the Good Shepherd event in September, 2010, created an opportunity for a partnership between DWN and the local Lion's Club to offer a microenterprise project to women in Darfur. DWN will pursue the development of this project in 2011.



# A New Domestic Project: Bridging Culture and Raising Cultural Awareness

The goals of this project are intergroup dialogue, networking, building relationships, self-awareness, outreach, fostering joint organizational efforts, and addressing substantive challenges faced by immigrants. This project is designed based on research findings by Executive Director Bakhiet, completed as a requirement for her Master of Arts in Intercultural Service, Leadership, and Management.

The first meeting was held on February 3, 2011, and it addressed Indiana law and regulations related to child safety. Michelle Savieo, Director of the Allen County Department of Child Services (DCS), presented an informative discussion of current Indiana law and DCS policies and procedures. Additional topics and meetings are currently in development for 2011.

# The Value of Volunteer Time

To any organization, time contributed by volunteers is essential to the accomplishment of its mission. The amount and value of this time should not be overlooked or undervalued. DWN remains an all-volunteer organization, so we are particularly dependent on and grateful for the volunteer time that we have received throughout 2010. The specific breakdown for 2010 is:

Executive Director	2,040 hours
Board President	840 hours
Secretary/Treasurer	420 hours
All other officers and volunteers	212 hours
<b>Total number of volunteer hours</b>	<b>3,512 hours</b>
<b>Total value of hours in USD*</b>	<b>\$62,478.48</b>

\*According to the Corporation for National and Community Service; value per volunteer hour in Indiana valued at \$17.79 per hour. ([www.volunteeringinamerica.gov](http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov))



## Executive Director

### Mastora Bakhiet

While in Darfur, Sudan, Mastora Bakhiet began her work in women's development. She obtained her Master's Degree in Intercultural Service, Leadership and Management from the International Training Institute in 2003. Mastora began building the foundation of the Darfur Women's Network in 2007 and continues to serve as Executive Director.

In 2011, Mastora will be focusing her attentions on educating Darfurian immigrants and the resources available to them, and also on creating cultural awareness within the Fort Wayne community.

## Board of Directors

<b>Mindy M. Walker</b>	President
<b>Wedad Omar</b>	Vice President
<b>Stephanie Johnson</b>	Secretary/Treasurer
<b>Mary Ann Fox</b>	Member
<b>Darcy Lee</b>	Member

## Special Advisors

**Hamid E. Ali** - Assistant Professor of Public Policy in the Management Department at the American University in Cairo

**Jacqueline H. Wilson** - Senior Program Officer in the United States Institute of Peace Education and Training Center/International



To learn more or make a donation, please visit  
[www.darfurwomennetwork.org](http://www.darfurwomennetwork.org)