

The Hunger Project - Switzerland

Invitation to the fund-raiser «I love life so much!» at the Theater Rigiblick in Zürich on May 26, 2014 at 20:00, the theater bar opens at 19:00.

The good news is that Mona Petri has succeeded her grandmother, the legendary actress Anne-Marie Blanc, as ambassador of the Hunger Project and has now, full of initiative, organized this attractive fund-raiser. It is a musical reading in German with Simone Keller (piano), Anna-Katharina Graf (flute) and Mona Petri (speaker). The director Laura Huonker is in charge of the stage design. The four women commit themselves to the Hunger Project on a voluntary basis.

The Dutch Jewish student of philosophy and Slavic studies Etty Hillesum started her diary entries in March 1941, in the middle of the war with its persecution of the Jews, and she continued these entries until her deportation. These records give evidence of the struggle of this lively and passionate young woman for essential concerns, for inner greatness and humanity in the face of cruelty and senseless destruction.

We are very much looking forward to your attendance. Please recommend this event to other people and sign on at benefizgegenhunger@gmail.com or by calling the number of the Hunger Project: 044 586 68 34. The admission is free, but voluntary donations are greatly appreciated.

Equality for women is progress for all

This motto of the United Nations for International Women's Day on March 8 takes up the results of numerous studies which confirm that the empowerment of women contributes greatly to improving the living conditions of the entire population. In many developing countries women assume a greater part of the responsibility as providers of food security for their families. They are responsible for preparing and serving meals, collecting cooking fuel and water but also for the agricultural production of the food. However, their access to the resources required is considerably worse than men's: Women rarely own land, they have less access to credit, it is more difficult for them to procure seeds, fertilizer



and tools, and they are not invited to participate in training programs for more effective farming methods. A study for 34 developing countries has come to the conclusion that merely women's equal access to agricultural resources would result in an increase of the yields of up to 4 percent. This would mean that 150 million people more would have enough to eat. A focus in all programs of the Hunger Project is the empowerment of women and girls. It is vitally important that women have the opportunity of an equal voice in decision-making.

Newsletter

May 2014

THE
HUNGER
PROJECT



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In Africa, every Epicenter Committee must include an equal number of women and men. The management of the bank for micro credits is in the hands of women, so that they can prove their abilities in an important position.

In India, our entire program aims at empowering women to participate in the decision-making processes of the communities, at setting their own political priorities and at strengthening their assertiveness. Thus we hope to stabilize the local democratic structures and to encourage the individual initiative of women.

In Bangladesh, the Hunger Project particularly takes a stand for the rights of girls. For this purpose it has initiated Girls' Day together with other non-governmental organizations. On this day, across the country, actions are carried out which point out the unequal conditions and shed light upon negative practices such as high dowries, child marriages or similar occurrences.



The Hunger Project (THP) - Global News

Partner Story from Bangladesh

«Every woman must be mentally and financially self-reliant.» -

Anjuman, elected woman representative in Tilna village, Patnitola Upzila, Bangladesh

Anjuman's childhood was spent in a spacious environment in a rural village. Anjuman's energy was redirected toward school, but when she finished primary school, she was unable to continue her education. She got married to Mr. Abul Hossain of Tilna village at the age of 12. Anjuman received positive support from her new husband, but after two years she could no longer suffer the physical torture from her in-laws, forcing her to pay a dowry. She and Abul were able to escape, with only US\$3 to their names. Through their entrepreneurial spirits, they made ends meet by growing vegetables and other means. Eventually relieved from the early financial burdens of their marriage, Anjuman started supporting the personal development of other village women. She arranged food for hungry families and support for the sick. As a result, she became well known within the village, and in 2003, she was elected as a representative of her Union Parishad. Anjuman was then selected for THP-Bangladesh Animators Training. Over the five days of training, she learned how to empower women as key change agents and



how to explore the opportunities that came with being an elected representative. Anjuman returned to her area after the Animators Training «on fire» and led an effort that established 100% sanitation services within four months and created 12 active Community Development Forums (CDF). After Anjuman participated in THP's Women Leadership

Training, she realized it is not fate that caused the difficulties in her life, but rather the patriarchal society in which she lived. After this training, Anjuman started an initiative based on her belief that women should be organized and self-reliant. She began protesting illegal activities and took initiative to inform women about their rights. To encourage self-reliance, she created an organization named «Shawnirvor Gram Unnaon Somity» (Self-reliant Village Development Organization). At present, they have saved USD 1'400. They campaign to stop early marriage, end dowry and end domestic violence. Anjuman believes that if women get the opportunity to unleash their creativity, they will conquer the darkness of their life and contribute to the family, society and country.

Reminder to members:

General meeting 2014 on Saturday, June 14, 2014,
from 14:15 to 16:00 , c/o UBS Swiss Financial Advisers AG,
Löwenstrasse 49, 8001 Zürich
Please register!