NEW GIRL EMPOWERMENT PAD (GEP) SEWING SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Many generous people have given their time and talents to make the Girl Empowerment Pad program a success. (GEP seeks to prevent girls and women from missing school or work for lack of sanitary protection. GEP kits, assembled by volunteers, include pre-cut material and other items that women and girls can use to sew their own reusable cloth sanitary napkins.)

GEP programs are up and running at six schools and also at waiting mothers programs at the hospital and clinics in Nyadire, Zimbabwe served by The Nyadire Connection (TNC).

We also recently completed a pilot study at the Hearing Impaired School at Nyadire. Moving beyond pads, for an investment of 500 dollars, fabric was purchased, a tailor was hired, students learned how to lay out patterns, and assisted in the production of twenty four winter uniforms (shirt and pants) as well as many pairs of shorts and skirts. We are so proud of the students and teachers!

We would now like to build on the success of the pilot and are pleased to announce a sewing sponsorship program. Each 500 dollars raised will be used by a school to develop a sewing program. Recognizing that the needs at each school are different, we will ask our GEP leaders in Zimbabwe to write a brief proposal that details the approach they will take to advance the program.

The challenges are many in Zimbabwe, but there is no lack of talent or determination on the part of our GEP teams. As the sewing sponsorship program evolves, we will continue to provide support via container shipments of sewing materials and GEP kits to make reusable cloth sanitary napkins.

Please consider a donation or a full sponsorship of $500. We will provide full accountability and updates to let you know how your financial support has been used locally.

For more information, please contact Bonnie Lawson, GEP Program Coordinator, at bonnielawson58@comcast.net.

Thank you for your consideration!