

34550 SW 188<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Homestead, FL 33034  
December 18, 2011

Dear Cecilia Dinio-Durkin and Joan Monk,

You are to be congratulated upon being selected for a Best Practices Award for 2011. Your project, My Sister's Keeper has been selected by the CTAUN planning committee to receive the award at the Conference held at the United Nations in New York City on February 3, 2012. We hope you will be in attendance to receive your award. Your excellent project reflects the true spirit of Best Practices.

A description of your project follows. This description will be printed for attendees at the Conference.

An award is being presented to Joan Monk and Cecilia Dinio-Durkin representing the Poughkeepsie Branch of American Association of University Women (AAUW), in Poughkeepsie, New York for their project My Sister's Keeper. My Sister's Keeper is a NYS AAUW State Project, developed by Melissa Guardaro, International Affairs Director and Joan Monk. NYS AAUW Board Member and Co-chair of the Poughkeepsie AAUW Branch project. Inspired by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn, authors of Half the Sky, AAUW members were encouraged to read the book and attend the 2011 CTAUN Conference at the United Nations.

Programs were developed from the five critical issues targeted in this project. These issues are: Violence against Women; Women's Rights and Gender Equity; Women and Girls Education; Maternal Health Care; and Economic Empowerment. Programs were given area wide publicity, affiliations were developed with like minded organizations while AAUW visibility was enhanced. Members read and discussed Half the Sky.

Events included Mission-Based Meetings, a Fair-Trade Marketplace and Celebration of International Women's Day. Members sought and contributed to causes that mitigated problems faced by women in the five issues identified through organizations like Heifer International, Fistula Foundation, and Kiva.

The project highlighted three Poughkeepsie Branch members who fostered their own causes to improve the situation of women and girls, i.e. Madagascar Library, build a school in Liberia, and the creation of Goody Goodies - Do Gooders, Doing Good Deeds. The Branch is fostering a relationship with the Oakwood Friends School to promote advocacy and philanthropy with the next generation of young women. We were inspired by Mr. Kristof's words in reading Half the Sky and thrilled to hear him speak in person. Two statements resonate with us from his talk. First, as Americans we have won the lottery of life! Second, it is the moral imperative of the 21st century to stop violence against women. We believe that our project shows what a small group of committed individuals can do to change the world.

We on the Best Practices Award Committee wish you the best as you continue to use the United Nations as a resource for teaching about the larger world and an appreciation for all people residing on the planet. We look forward to meeting you in person in February as we honor you.

Sincerely,

*Jackie*

Jacqueline Abbott  
For the Committee