

May 1st, 2008

Twenty-One Years of Women Helping Women: The New York Women's Foundation® awards \$2.75 million in grants.

New York, May 1—On Thursday, May 15, The New York Women's Foundation® (NYWF®) will honor the Women of Meeting Point International at its 21st annual Celebrating Women® Breakfast at the New York Hilton.

The Women of Meeting Point International are members of the Acholi ethnic group of northern Uganda who were forced to flee their homes and leave their possessions behind during a 19-year civil war. They settled in Kireka section of Kampala City, Uganda, where they have endured extreme poverty and the ravages of HIV/AIDS. Many found work in the local quarries, earning approximately \$1.20 a day by breaking rocks to be used for construction materials. Yet despite their circumstances, when the women heard about the devastation of Hurricane Katrina they pooled their earnings to send \$1,000 to displaced families.

On May 15, The New York Women's Foundation® will present them with the Vision Award for their incredible act of philanthropy.

"The Women of Meeting Point International embody democratic philanthropy and collective giving," said NYWF® President and CEO Ana L. Oliveira, "They saw a need and rose above their own circumstances to help, never doubting their ability to a difference in the world."

The Celebrating Women® Breakfast is the signature event of the NYWF® and draws over 2000 individuals of conscience to honor the work of incredible women while raising money to eradicate poverty in New York City. This year's honorees include CNN's Chief International Correspondent, Christiane Amanpour; founder and President of the White House Project, Marie C. Wilson; and the women of Meeting Point International (MPI) in Uganda. The women of MPI are being honored for their extraordinary acts of democratic philanthropy on behalf of families impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

To join us for this inspiring event, please visit www.nywf.org or contact Tarnisha Smart at 212.261.4398.

The New York Women's Foundation (NYWF) was established in 1987 as a public philanthropy to be a voice for women and a force for change. We are a cross-cultural alliance of women helping low-income women and girls in the five boroughs to achieve sustained economic security through expanded opportunities. We work together to transform the conditions of poverty and to create an equal and just future for low-income women and girls.