



# **MMEG**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

### **FY20**





## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Dear Friends of MMEG,

With the end of the fiscal year so has come the end of my three-year term as President. I have learned so much “at the helm” about the nature, composition, and scope of our volunteer-run organization. I am so proud of MMEG’s evolution from a memorial fund nearly 40 years ago when funds were raised over two years to support a single university graduate. Now MMEG is a robust grant-making program spanning three continents, for which there is a selection committee of readers who are reviewing an ever-growing number of applications in almost every month of the year!

Our pace of applications, reviews and grant-making continued through this past fiscal year, even as we moved all meetings to a virtual platform from March 2020 due to the global lockdown against COVID-19. We even benefited from this technology by meeting with all of this year’s 29 grantees in a series of small sessions! And we learned through social media and a strengthened database that quite a few alumnae are working on the front lines fighting this pandemic.

COVID-19 has also forced us to plan our first-ever virtual annual Arts & Crafts Fair for November (please participate!) and to trim our grant program for the next fiscal year.

What has not changed is MMEG’s dedication to improving the lives of women and children around the world. The 445 women we have supported with \$4 million in grants have done great things, are doing great things, and will do great things. The benefit of these efforts often spills over from grantees’ home countries to the rest of the world, as their work is replicated elsewhere or the fruits of their research and scholarship reach far beyond home country borders.

Another thing that has not changed over time is the commitment of our generous donors – from individuals such as yourselves from whom we welcome all donations, and from institutional supporters such as the World Bank Group, the Bank-Fund Staff Federal Credit Union, and this year, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB Global Federal Credit Union and IDB Family Association). Similarly, the dedication and support of our volunteers is steadfast: Thank you, thank you, thank you to some 150 industrious volunteers who are dedicated not only to review and rank applications but also to build and update databases; mount and run the Arts & Crafts Fair; write, design and post on social media; and host fundraising and informational events with our grantees.

Together, we all strive to continue to provide the means for women to fulfill their potential to do good work. I am thankful for the opportunity to have worked with all of you board members, supporters, and volunteers.

**Reiko Niimi**  
President

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# SUPPORTING WOMEN FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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MMEG is a 501 (c)(3) public charity, founded to recognize Margaret McNamara for her tireless dedication to the education of women and children, before and while her husband, Robert McNamara, was President of the World Bank (1968-1981). This recognition and our work has persisted for 39 years and stands as a legacy to Margaret McNamara's memory and work toward women's empowerment; so does her establishment of the literacy organization, Reading is Fundamental in 1966 and her receipt of the highest civilian distinction in the United States, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Margaret McNamara Education Grants (MMEG) is a volunteer-led public charity established to award education grants to exceptional women from developing countries who are committed to improving the lives of women and children. MMEG operates in the belief that supporting women's education is a critical investment that yields definitively positive outcomes.

## ■ ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Grantees are at least 25 years old and enrolled at accredited universities in the United States and Canada as well as at selected universities in South Africa and Latin America (including the addition of two new eligible universities in the Latin America program – Universidad de los Andes in Colombia and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) in Costa Rica.) Application criteria and deadlines for all programs are posted on our website [www.mmeg.org](http://www.mmeg.org).





## ■ FY20 GRANTEES

This fiscal year, 29 grantees were selected from a pool of some 585 applicants. They were awarded \$252,000 in grants across North America, Latin America, and Africa. The grantees come from 14 countries and 4 continents and their names, respective nationalities and fields of study follow in this report. To-date the total of education grants provided by MMEG is US\$4 million for 445 grants.

## ■ DONORS

MMEG grants are made possible through the generosity of our individual donors and small family charitable trusts—continuing and new, from the success of sales at our annual fair, and from the support of the World Bank, the law firm of WilmerHale, the World Bank Community Connections Fund, the IMF Giving Together Campaign, the IDB Global Federal Credit Union, the IDB Family Network, the Bank-Fund Staff Federal Credit Union (BFSFCU), and the World Bank Family Network.



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## VOLUNTEERS

MMEG's work is carried out almost entirely by volunteers—some 150 of whom work throughout the year to underpin program and fundraising operations. We run periodic solicitation campaigns and manage social media accounts and databases of donors, alumnae, and volunteers.

We organize special events and fundraising activities such as the annual MMEG Arts & Crafts Fair, to be held virtually this year from November 11 to 23 (Visit [www.mmeg.org/fair](http://www.mmeg.org/fair) for details). We sit on the Board of Directors and most importantly, comprise the Selection Committees which solicit, review, rank and choose grantees for the four MMEG programs.

# 445

## GRANTS



# OUR FY20 GRANTEES

| Name                                  | Nationality         | Degree     | Field of Study                                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|--|
| <b>Latin America Program</b>          |                     |            |  |
| Alexandra Arnaiz<br>Fernandez-Concha* | Perú                | Master's   | Linguistics  |
| Angela Triana Gallego                 | Colombia            | Master's   | Creative Writing                                   |
| Beatriz Ramirez Huaroto               | Perú                | Doctorate  | Family Law   |
| Cindy Contreras Bautista              | Perú                | Master's   | Human Rights                                       |
| Karen Armacanqui Laupa                | Perú                | Master's   | Management of Development<br>Programs and Projects |
| Lady Mateus Fontecha                  | Colombia            | Doctorate  | Atmospheric Pollution                              |
| María de Lourdes Velasco<br>Dominguez | México              | Doctorate  | Criminal Justice & Human Rights                    |
| Nelly Orozco Reyes                    | México              | Master's   | Education  |
| Nelsi Roxana Condor Caro              | Perú                | Master's   | Social Management                                  |
| Nubia Castiblanco Lopez               | Colombia            | Doctorate  | Perinatal Maternal Health                          |
| <b>South Africa Program</b>           |                     |            |  |
| Faatima Omarjee Ebrahim               | South Africa        | Master's   | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences                   |
| Francoise Dudu Rubgega                | Botswana            | Master's   | Obstetrics and Gynecology                          |
| Fungai Chirongoma                     | Zimbabwe            | Doctorate  | Religious Studies                                  |
| Hannah Simba                          | Zimbabwe            | Doctorate  | Cancer Epidemiology                                |
| Jane Chinyere Ezirigwe                | Nigeria             | Doctorate  | Public Law   |
| Jasantha Odayar                       | South Africa        | Doctorate  | Public Health & Family Medicine                    |
| Joanna Daniela Glanville              | South Africa        | Master's   | Theatre, Dance & Performance<br>Studies            |
| Rehema Bona Abiyo                     | Kenya               | Doctorate  | General Linguistics                                |
| Stella Elikplim Lawerteh              | Ghana               | Master's   | Health & Rehabilitation Sciences                   |
| Susan Chenai Mutambasere              | Zimbabwe            | Doctorate  | Sexual & Reproductive Rights Law                   |
| Thabang Ramakhula                     | Lesotho             | Doctorate  | Women's Political Participation<br>Rights          |
| <b>US-Canada Program</b>              |                     |            |  |
| Hourie Tafech                         | West Bank &<br>Gaza | Doctorate  | Global Affairs                                     |
| Karen Dias                            | India               | Master's   | Graphic Design/Studio Arts                         |
| Lilian Elekwachi                      | Nigeria             | Doctorate  | Environmental Science                              |
| Maria Harker                          | Colombia            | Master's   | Economic, Social & Political<br>Development        |
| Shatha Elnakib*                       | Egypt               | Doctorate  | Public Health                                      |
| Shymaa Allam                          | Egypt               | Doctorate  | Gender Studies                                     |
| <b>Trinity Program</b>                |                     |            |  |
| Andrea Lopez                          | USA                 | Bachelor's | Business Administration                            |
| Ashley Fassell                        | USA                 | Master's   | Medicine/Nursing                                   |

\*In FY20, Shatha Elnakib received the Bank-Fund Staff Federal Credit Union grant, and Alexandra Arnaiz received the Inter-American Development Bank grant.

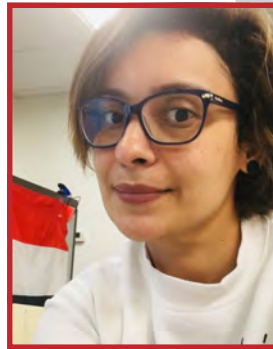
# MEET OUR GRANTEEES

OF THE FY20 MMEG COHORT OF 29, ONE GRANTEE IS STUDYING FOR HER BACHELOR'S DEGREE, 13 FOR THEIR MASTER'S DEGREES, AND 15 ARE PURSUING DOCTORAL STUDIES. SEE BELOW, DESCRIPTIONS OF OUR TERRIFIC GRANTEEES, THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND THEIR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE.



## REHEMA ABIYO

Rehema Abiyó (33) is studying for a PhD in General Linguistics at the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa. As the first girl to obtain a university degree from her village in the Tana River region of Kenya, Rehema's academic focus is on education and the literacy practices of her multilingual homeland. Her goal is to promote quality holistic education in Kenya--going beyond rote learning of the ABCs, to include new teaching strategies, parent involvement and the creation of a formal literacy program.



## SHYMAA ALLAM

Shymaa Allam (38) is pursuing a PhD at the University of Massachusetts in Boston in the field of Global Inclusion and Social Development. Her focus is on the challenges and opportunities for women within the microfinance market in order to prevent over-indebtedness and other potential harm to women entrepreneurs. Her plan for the future is to be an expert in poverty alleviation for women, focusing on her home country, Egypt.



## ALEXANDRA ARNAIZ

Alexandra Arnaiz (51) is completing a master's in Linguistics at the Universidad Católica del Perú while working as a Peruvian Sign Language (PSL) interpreter and teaching Spanish as a second language. Alexandra believes when hearing-impaired children have early access to both PSL and a bilingual education, they gain more opportunity to access higher learning. Her research focuses on enhancing PSL grammar and developing a methodology for hearing-impaired children to learn to read and write Spanish as a second language. Alexandra has the singular honor of being the inaugural grantee named in recognition of the support from both the IDB Global Federal Credit Union and the IDB Family Association.



### **KAREN ARMACANQUI**

Karen Armacanqui (30) is completing a master's in Social Program Management at the Universidad Católica del Perú. Her work focuses on enhancing public policy dedicated to early childhood especially within the national early child development home visitation program in Peru, "Cuna Mas." After her master's, Karen would like to focus on social management to make social programs viable and sustainable, specifically centered on developing programs to protect children under 6 years of age.



### **NUBIA CASTIBLANCO**

Nubia Castiblanco (49) is specializing in Maternal/Perinatal care for a PhD in Nursing at the University of Colombia where she also works as an associate professor. Nubia has long worked in both the public and private sector to improve maternal/perinatal health. She specializes in (Kangaroo Baby Massage) which involves the use of skin-to-skin contact and massage by the parents of premature or low-weight babies. Nubia is identifying the physical and emotional benefits of such in-home care for these babies and their families while developing audiovisual and written guides to the technique.



### **FUNGAI CHIRONGOMA**

Fungai Chirongoma (27) is pursuing a PhD in Theology/Religious Studies at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. Her work focuses on the interventions of faith-based organizations in addressing the scourge of violence against women. As the daughter of a single mother in Zimbabwe who worked hard to ensure that her children received educations despite economic hardship, Fungai's goal is to establish a shelter for abused women in Zimbabwe as a platform to combat gender-based violence.



### **NELSI ROXANA**

Nelsi Roxana Condor (31) is pursuing a master's in Social Management at the Universidad Católica del Perú. The aim of her efforts is to work and advocate to improve the quality of life for children and youth by encouraging and empowering families, especially female heads of households to participate in their children's education. Nelsi expects to work with children and teenagers, especially in rural areas, to ensure they have access to quality education and do not have to engage in forced labor to survive.





### **MARIA DE LOURDES VELASCO**

María de Lourdes Velasco (32) is pursuing a PhD in Social Sciences focusing on Criminal Justice and Human Rights at FLACSO, Mexico. Her research aims to understand and explain the different behaviors shown by justice officials in Mexico, the hypothesis being that there will be higher levels of justice in homicide and femicide cases when investigation agents have attitudes supporting principles of political liberalism and the protection of human rights. María de Lourdes is dedicated to the investigation and prevention of femicide violence in Mexico.



### **LILIAN ELEKWACHI**

Lilian Elekwachi (32) is studying at the University of Massachusetts for a PhD in the field of Environmental Science. With a background as Production Manager/CEO of a fish processing facility staffed by women and children and a master's in Sustainable Aquaculture, Lilian's focus is on aquaculture. She hopes to be able to provide viable strategies to improve fish smoking technologies, empower women, and improve nutrition for children in her home country of Nigeria.



### **FAATIMA EBRAHIM**

Faatima Ebrahim (43) is pursuing a master's in Occupational Therapy at the University of Cape Town. She is a clinical occupational therapist with 20 years' experience in South Africa serving the disabled community, primarily in pediatrics and in a public health managerial capacity. Having a special needs child opened Faatima's eyes to the heavy burden on (almost exclusively) female caregivers as well as on the entire family and the wider community. She returned to university to better equip herself to research and advocate for caregiver engagement in therapy, and with relevant NGOs to promote inclusive communities where people with disabilities can integrate and thrive.



### **CINDY ARLETTE CONTRERAS**

Cindy Arlette Contreras (29) is a Peruvian lawyer and founder of "Not One Woman Less" ("Ni Una Menos"); she is completing her master's in Human Rights at the Universidad Católica de Perú. Cindy is an internationally recognized human rights defender who fights for justice for the victims of gender-based violence and is an outspoken advocate for women's rights. She works to assist victims of gender violence, teaching boys and girls how to exercise their rights, while fostering coexistence among men and women based on respect and equality. She plans to continue to develop and strengthen public policies to ensure due process for women in judicial cases to avoid their re-victimization.



### **HANNAH SIMBA**

Hannah Simba (29) is pursuing a PhD in Public Health at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa. Hannah is Zimbabwean and brings a strong multidisciplinary background in biology and environmental studies to her current and planned research into the etiology of cancers that have a severe impact on women and children in Africa. Simba has been an energetic leader and participant in empowerment activities for high school girls through STEM tutoring in schools and organizing girls' camps and workshops focused on programming and reproductive health.



### **SHATHA ELNAKIB**

Shatha Elnakib (28) is this year's recipient of the named Bank-Fund Federal Credit Union grant, given her work in the public health sector. Shatha is pursuing a PhD in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University where her focus is on sexual and reproductive health, specifically on the impacts of child marriage and early childbearing in women from refugee camps in Egypt, and how these effects are exacerbated in humanitarian conflict settings. Upon finishing her degree, Shatha will return to Egypt to teach and join an NGO researching sexual and reproductive health issues and interventions.



### **ASHLEY FASSELL**

Ashley Fassell (34) is pursuing a master's in Administration at Trinity Washington University. Inspired by her experience as a low-income student, Ashley worked for a financial technology start-up that structured no-collateral loans for DACA recipients and international students studying in the US and Canada. She also launched a need-based scholarship fund at her high school alma mater in Baltimore called "We're Behind You" for young women who show leadership qualities and evidence of community service. Ashley's goal is to continue advancing pathways out of poverty for children, with an emphasis on education for women, especially since a mother's education is a major factor in influencing a child's likelihood of success.



### **KAREN DIAS**

Photojournalist Karen Dias (32) is studying for a master's in Culture, Fine Arts/Graphic Design at The New School. In her career as a photojournalist, primarily based in her home-country, India, Karen has consistently pursued stories about human rights and environmental issues through a feminist lens, covering stories from women whose husbands and sons have gone missing in extrajudicial killings in North Eastern India, to girls (from areas of India known for caste, sexual and domestic violence against women, female infanticide, and trafficking) who have broken stereotypes by qualifying for the Olympics. Karen aims to broaden her storytelling methods to other mediums beyond photography, and to better understand the power and responsibility of the media and critique biases represented by photography and journalism.



### **JANE EZIRIGWE**

Jane Ezirigwe (37) is studying for a PhD in Public Law at the University of Cape Town. With a focus on preventing sexual and gender-based violence, she intends to return to Nigeria to work with media and policymakers, to ensure that laws do not discriminate against women. She also plans ultimately to advocate for, and work with, small-scale female herders and farmers.



### **JOANNA GLANVILLE**

Joanna Glanville (30) from South Africa, is undertaking a master's in Theatre Making and Scenography at the University of Cape Town. After having experienced first-hand, the transformative healing power of art as therapy, Joanna is passionate about using film and theatre to facilitate conversations about taboo subjects such as self-esteem, healthy sexual practices, and gender-based-violence. Her research seeks to explore how scenography (set design, prop-making, etc.) can be used as a means for facilitating creativity or rehabilitating trauma.



### **MARIA HARKER**

Maria Harker (28) is studying for a master's in Public Administration in Economic, Social & Political Development at Columbia University. Born and raised in Colombia, Maria's career as a lawyer has focused on designing and implementing innovative strategies for protecting the rights and inclusion of marginalized people such as youth and women and those in disabled, LGBTQ+, and prison communities. Having also worked on international treaties for the protection of children, she plans to design context-oriented policies for the benefit of women and children.



### **ANDRE LOPEZ**

Andrea Lopez (27) is studying to become a registered nurse (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) at Trinity Washington University. A first-generation university graduate, Andrea is building on her current work at the Virginia Hospital Center where she serves as a Clinical Nurse Technician II primarily with newborns and mothers. In addition to many technical tasks, Andrea often serves as a bridge between the hospital and the sizable Spanish-speaking populations which do not always have access to the same level of resources as native English-speakers. Her passion lies in the areas of women and infant health and her professional goal is to become a women's health nurse practitioner and a nurse-midwife.



### **STELLA LAWERTEH**

Stella Lawerteh (32) is a master's student in Public Health at the University of Cape Town. She works as a pediatric physical therapist at a military hospital, where she trains the parents and caregivers of children living with disabilities and runs a clinic for clubfoot patients. During postgraduate studies in South Africa, she became acutely aware of the gap in the standards of physical therapy being applied there versus in Ghana, her home country. Stella's goal is to advocate for physical fitness for Ghanaian children and help reduce the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases linked to their being obese or overweight.



### **LADY MATEUS**

Lady Mateus (36) is a Chemical Engineer who is working on her PhD in Engineering at the National University of Colombia. The objective of her research is to identify a means of reducing the effects of pollution contaminants on children. Lady's plan is to use the results to highlight for local authorities the impact of current vehicle emissions on children's health and to propose regulatory changes for future health improvements. Her hope for the future is to obtain a postdoctoral degree, teach at university, and continue to promote STEM activities among children, especially girls.



### **JASANTHA ODAYAR**

Jasantha Odayar (40) is pursuing a PhD in Public Health and Family Medicine at the University of Cape Town. Jasantha grew up in rural South Africa during Apartheid in a community with extremely poor access to health care, and high morbidity and mortality rates. Jasantha chose to work in pediatrics at a public hospital because she was acutely aware of the extremely high number of children who were 'HIV orphans' due, in part, to the absence of antiretrovirals but also because of a lack of adherence to treatment programs. She is passionately committed to keeping HIV-positive women and children in care and adherent to treatment.



### **FRANCOISE RUBEGA**

Francoise Rubega (27) is pursuing a master's in Medicine/Nursing at the University of Pretoria. Growing up in a small town in Botswana and later at university, Francoise witnessed the health and emotional challenges faced by young girls experiencing unwanted pregnancies. This strengthened her resolve to work in Obstetrics and Gynecology to care for women and their unborn children and women with gynecological problems. On completion of her specialization, Francoise will return to Botswana and the Ministry of Health where she will join the exceedingly small number of OB-GYNs in the country (currently only six).





### **SUSAN CHENAI MUTAMBASERE**

Susan Chenai Mutambasere (36) is a PhD student studying Law at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. From Zimbabwe, Susan is a lawyer whose focus has been on human rights and the empowerment of women, working in both the public and private sectors. Her current work examines how culture, customs, and traditions affect the implementation of the Maputo Protocol on the reproductive rights of married women in Zimbabwe. She plans to teach and undertake research to support sexual and reproductive rights across the African continent.



### **NELLY OROZCO**

Nelly Orozco (29) is completing her master's in Education Research and Development at the Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico while working for an NGO, the Women's Ministry of Mexico City. Nelly expects that her studies will support her ongoing work looking after victims of gender violence and protecting women from risk of femicide; coordinating their victims' care among the judicial, psychological and social work entities; and organizing the transfer of women in high-risk situations to shelters.



### **THABANG RAMAKHULA**

Thabang Ramakhula (29) from Lesotho, is pursuing a PhD in Law at the University of the Free State of South Africa, focusing on women's political participation rights in Lesotho. Through her work, Thabang has come to a deeper understanding of the power dynamics that affect women and children's rights, and how the lack of their inclusivity in the legal process and cultural and religious beliefs seeps into women and children's rights actions. Thabang's future aim is to work toward dismantling societal and structural discrimination against women in government, in Lesotho and beyond.



### **ANGELA TRIANA**

Ángela Triana (37) is completing a master's in Creative Writing at the National University of Colombia. For 17 years, Ángela has worked with women, children and communities that have experienced violence and conflict, promoting theater, peace, and human rights. Through her thesis project--a theater play titled "The Return"--Ángela seeks to raise awareness about important and current issues in Colombia such as land expropriation, displacement, war, exile, and how these problems affect communities, especially communities of Colombian women. Ángela wants to support women, girls, and boys to improve their lives and overcome wounds left by violence and war by directly involving them in her plays in order to transform heinous events into artistic works so that horrors are not repeated.





## HOURIE TAFECH

Hourie Tafekh (28) is completing a PhD in Global Affairs at Rutgers University. Hourie's experiences of being Palestinian-born and raised in the refugee camps of southern Lebanon have driven her to achieve academic success, both as a woman and as a refugee. Her studies focus on female entrepreneurship in refugee camps which she describes as economic hubs. Her aim is to help refugees expand their businesses for a life outside of the camps. She has created and implemented successful interventions such as Spark 15, an organization which helps refugee camp students apply to universities.

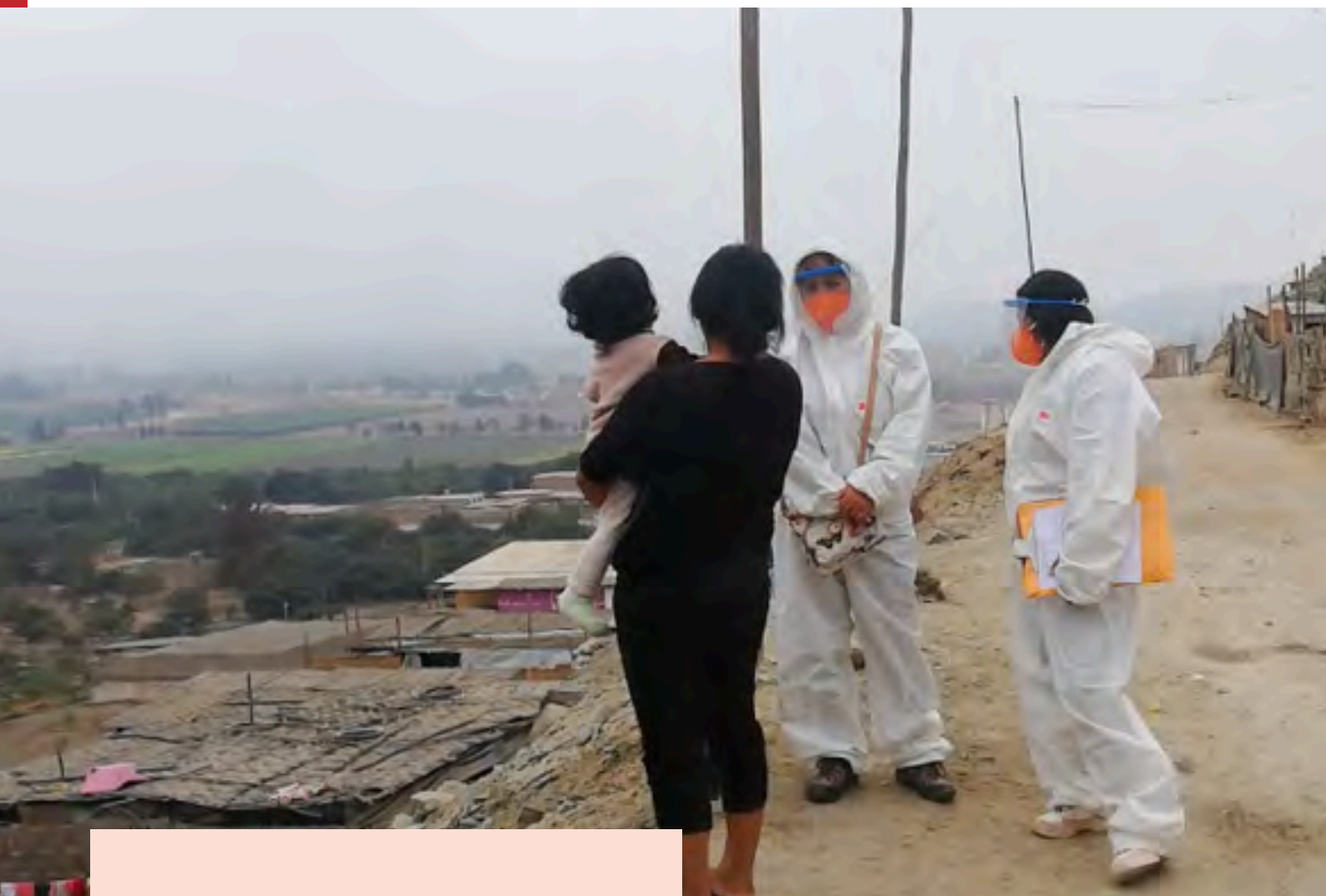


## BEATRIZ RAMIREZ

Beatriz Ramirez (36) is a lawyer pursuing a PhD in Family Law at the Universidad Católica del Perú. Based on her research into the implementation of laws related to gender equality and violence in her country, she aims to rethink the concepts of family law to ensure more equitable decisions for men and women. Her proposal is to look at the response of the justice system to different cases of gender violence, access to sexual and reproductive health services, and the regulation of parental responsibility. Her aim is to promote legislative proposals for the public and private sectors to reduce gender gaps in justice.



# COVID-19 RESPONSE



Just as it has for others, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has affected MMEG operations. Board members have had to learn to adapt and respond but there was a silver lining to the need to adopt changes. While meeting in person moved to virtual meetings and operations were run remotely, for the first time ever, the Board and Selection Committee members got to 'meet' all of our grantees in a series of virtual coffees. This also gave this year's grantees an opportunity to meet each other, network, and share the results of their research.

One unfortunate effect of the virus is that MMEG will be unable this year to hold its in-person Arts & Crafts Fair –our largest fundraiser event of the year-instead, the Fair

will move to a virtual platform. This means that we will need to rely more heavily on donors and corporate sponsors to fund our grant programs and look more to foundations and other grant-making institutions. It will be a big challenge.

Our grantees have also been affected by the pandemic. Some have returned to their home countries to study remotely and others have needed to put their studies on pause. Many of our past grantees are making significant contributions to fighting the effects of the pandemic.



# COVID-19 RESPONSE



Historically more than a fifth of our grantees focus and work in health sectors whether it be in providing direct services and medical professionals, epidemiology, public health services or science and/or education. Another large proportion work for the prevention of domestic violence, for gender equality, human rights, and civil and racial justice--all areas where issues have been exacerbated by the pandemic. This work underscores the importance of our grantees' efforts to support people, especially women and children across the world.

Our grantees tell us about situations they face working on the front lines of the pandemic in the health sector, combating gender violence, managing maternal stress, launching empowerment programs, and working with governments to reach vulnerable populations. Please visit <https://www.mmeg.org/covid-19> to read about the work of MMEG grantees like:

**Comfort Asoogo**, a 2010 grantee, who holds a master's in Nursing from University of Cape Town and a BSc in Oncology from Cape Peninsula University of Technology in South Africa. She lives and works in Ghana as a head nurse in the Pediatric Oncology unit of the second largest hospital in Ghana. She is the head nurse and the key point of contact for the sanitation measures of the unit. Comfort oversees the safety, not just of patients and their families, but also of the staff working in the hospital. Please see her account of what measures her unit takes to protect at-risk children including finding accommodations for them to receive their chemotherapy so they do not have to travel and mix with people in commercial vehicles, reducing their risk of contracting COVID-19.



**Historically more than a fifth of our grantees focus and work in health sectors whether it be in providing direct services and medical professionals, epidemiology, public health services or science and/or education.**



**Veronique Taylor**, a 2017 grantee, who has a Bachelor's in Nursing from Trinity Washington University and is a front-line worker, as a nurse at Sibley Hospital in Washington DC during the pandemic. Veronique says, "What a time to be alive! How have I been working as a black nurse during this pandemic, on the brink of what seems to be a modern-day civil war? It's been mentally draining and exhausting to say the least. I am tired. Hour by hour things change, there are meetings to be had and... (S)ince the pandemic, I volunteered to be 'deployed'.... on an all COVID unit. Many nurses were terrified of the idea of being on an all COVID floor. I was not, I was concerned about job security."

**Dr. Bishnu Maya Pariyar**, who is a 2006 grantee with a master's in International Development and an Honorary Doctor of Letters. She is an advocate for marginalized Nepali communities, particularly those comprising Dalit (Untouchable) members and is the founding President of the Association of Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN). In addition to her work as an anti-gender violence program coordinator at a hospital in New Jersey, Bishnu has been providing support (and graduation gifts!) to about 200 international, mostly Nepali, students who were stranded in New Jersey, all while ADWAN has been distributing food and essential goods to needy families in three districts of Nepal.



**Doris Milagros Inga Calampa**, who is a 2018 grantee and an Obstetrician, studying for a master's in social policy at Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. Continuing her work as a doctor while studying, she works in a maternity center that is open to the public 24 hours a day and serves a community of those in "precarious economic situations." The center where she works continues to serve pregnant women in the community, despite the lack of proper personal protection gear and equipment that is literally falling apart. But Doris and her colleagues continue to help the women who come to the center in their hours of need, whether before, during or after labor.



# ANNUAL ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

Again this year, MMEG enjoyed stellar support for its program and its mission from the volunteers, vendors, and buyers at the annual Arts & Crafts Fair! More than 50 vendors sold their wares over three days in an event that involved the work of more than 100 volunteers over the course of many months. Showcased this year were decorative and beauty items, artisanal foods, one-of-a-kind clothing, and hand-crafted jewelry. The MMEG family gave of time, effort, and donated goods to successfully run Gourmet and White Elephant tables. Proceeds put the Fair at one of the most successful in our history, fully funding up to 10 grants in our Africa Program to exceptional women to complete their studies.

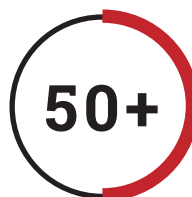
During the Fair, MMEG was graced with a visit by 2019 Grantee, Sofia Salas who took the time to tell us about her work toward her master's in Public Policy from Harvard Kennedy School where she was focusing on adaptive leadership, negotiation, conflict resolution, feminism and gender equity studies. Prior to returning to school, Sofia worked as a volunteer and activist in Colombian communities on gender equity, social innovation, education, and peace-building. Her aim for her future is to continue to focus on the role of women in politics and the peace process in her home country.

Given the economic and gathering restrictions necessitated by COVID, this year's fair is moving to a virtual platform! This effort is supported by Fair vendors, Michael Gelisen and Ezgi Kaya who launched an online market-place to connect local small businesses with their communities through virtual events. Their company, Brands & Makers, is helping to launch and run the virtual fair, featuring a majority of our regular vendors, from November 11 to 23, 2020; they will be selling apparel (adult and children's), artwork, accessories, jewelry, and arts and crafts.



# 100

volunteers over the course of many months.



vendors sold their wares over three days in our 2019 Arts & Crafts Fair



The pandemic has put enormous stress on small charities such as ours and on small and local businesses such as our vendors. Similarly, our grantees are experiencing economic hardship beyond the usual balancing act of studying while working and/or taking care of the needs of family members. We need support more than ever and so do our vendors, small business owners and artisans.

Please drop in at [www.brandsandmakers.com/mmeg](http://www.brandsandmakers.com/mmeg), visit your favorite vendors from prior years, and finish your holiday shopping early. Doing so not only supports the crucial mission of MMEG in helping provide for the education of exceptional women, but it also helps support small and local businesses which have suffered mightily during the pandemic. We welcome all shoppers from the global MMEG family, but please note that shipping delivery is limited to within the United States.



# COMING UP! MMEG WILL CELEBRATE 40 YEARS! 1981-2021

In 1981 when Babs Knox, Şükriye Karaosmanoğlu, and Ruby Wingate, members of the World Bank Volunteer Services (“WIVES”) group, worked to establish a charity in the memory of their friend, Margaret McNamara, little did they know that not only would their efforts be successful, but that it would persist and thrive for 40 years, providing 445 women in 75 countries with \$4 million in grants to complete their education and support women and children in their home countries.

Watch for news in the coming year as we plan to celebrate their work and Margaret McNamara’s memory by giving you opportunities to meet our grantees, to learn about their work and successes, and to learn from them through webinars and videos and other activities.



Celebrating the MMMF’s tenth birthday at the WBVS Annual Meeting and luncheon in 1991 were (left to right) founders Ruby Wingate and Babs Knox; vice president of the MMMF Board of Directors Rosemarie Wapenhans; honorary president Charlotte Conable; and president of the MMMF Board Sukriye Karaosmanoglu

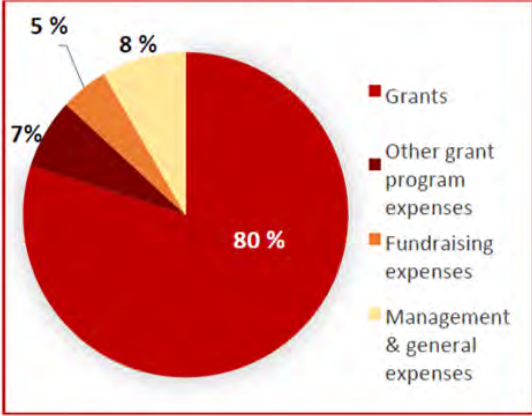


Marian Subah received the first MMEG grant in 1983



# MMEG FY20 FACTS AND FIGURES

Distribution of cash expenses



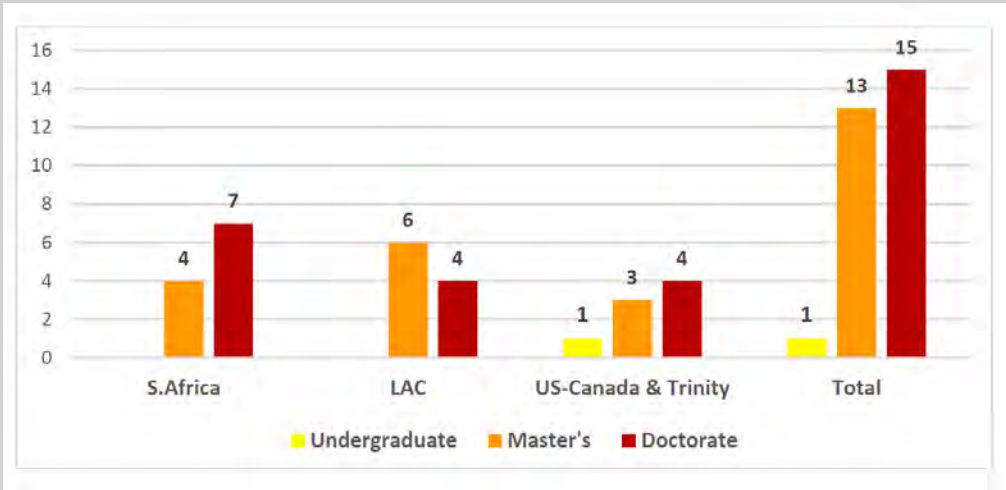
Of annual cash expenses in FY20, grants constituted 80 percent of direct cash expenses while those for management, general and fundraising activities constituted 12 percent and another 8 percent was spent on grant program expenses and overheads such as systems and contractual services.

A total of \$252,000 was disbursed as grant payments to 29 grantees in FY20.

Distribution of grant expenses

| Programs                      | Amount (US\$)  |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| US/Canada (6 grants)          | 90,000         |
| South Africa (11 grants)      | 77,000         |
| Latin America (10 grants)     | 70,000         |
| Trinity Washington (2 grants) | 15,000         |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>252,000</b> |

## MMEG GRANTEES BY DEGREES and BY PROGRAMS



Of the FY20 MMEG cohort of 29, one grantee is studying for her bachelor's degree, 13 for their master's degrees, and 15 are pursuing Doctoral studies.

# MMEG FINANCING

| \$ thousand                                | FY19*        | FY20*        |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Revenue and Contributions</b>           |              |              |
| Cash donations                             | 139          | 143          |
| Special fund-raising events                | 66           | 75           |
| In-kind contributions                      | 64           | 63           |
| Net investment income                      | 33           | 75           |
| Disposal of assets                         | -            | -            |
| <b>Total revenues and support</b>          | <b>302</b>   | <b>356</b>   |
| <b>Expenses (including in-kind)</b>        |              |              |
| Grants expenses                            | 316          | 289          |
| Fundraising expenses                       | 49           | 49           |
| General and administrative                 | 45           | 42           |
| <b>Total expenses</b>                      | <b>410</b>   | <b>380</b>   |
| <b>Change in net assets</b>                | <b>(108)</b> | <b>(24)</b>  |
| <b>Net assets at the beginning of year</b> | <b>2,080</b> | <b>1,973</b> |
| <b>Net assets at the end of year</b>       | <b>1,973</b> | <b>1,949</b> |
| of which: operating reserve                | 400          | 400          |
| development reserve                        | 40           | 40           |

\*The MMEG fiscal year begins on July 1 and ends on June 30.

MMEG financing comes from a large base of individual donors, small family foundations, and corporate donors. In addition to the significant amount of time contributed by volunteers, MMEG received \$281,000 in cash donations, in-kind support, and revenue from the annual Arts & Crafts Fair in fiscal 2020. A total of \$252,000 was awarded to 29 grantees, constituting 80 percent of total cash expenditures.

Unrestricted net assets stood at \$1.95 million at the end of the year, of which \$440,000 comprised reserves.

Non-monetary (in-kind) contributions added \$63,099 and include office space, communications, printing, administrative and event support from the World Bank Group and pro-bono legal advice from WilmerHale.

MMEG also benefits from the significant amounts of time contributed by more than 150 volunteers in managing and implementing its programs.

Full audited financial statements are available upon request.

# FRIENDS OF MMEG

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In addition to the very many volunteers whose contribution of time is invaluable, generous donors who choose to remain Anonymous, and donors through Facebook, we would like to acknowledge and thank the following who supported MMEG.

## BENEFACTORS

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Ted Ahlers and Barbara Ormond  
Bank-Fund Staff Federal Credit Union  
John Blaxall  
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Brigid Holleran  
IDB Family Association  
IDB Global Federal Credit Union  
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World Bank Community Connections  
Campaign

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Lally and Winston Brown  
Barbara and Charles Bingay  
Dana and David Hogue

## GENEROUS DONORS THROUGH PRO-BONO AND IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

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Georgine Ahmad  
Caroline and Richard Berney  
Claudia Gualteros  
Nadeshiko-Kai (World Bank Japanese Women's Group)  
WilmerHale -- Barbara Kirschten Esq.  
Raymond James – Aydin Tuncer and Ozgur Karaosmanoglu  
Yuka Shikina  
World Bank Group  
World Bank Family Network (WBFN)

In addition to these partnerships, MMEG gives special thanks for support of our Annual Fundraising Campaign to the ...

- WBG Community Outreach Program and Community Connections Campaign
- IMF Giving Together Program
- Bank-Fund Staff Federal Credit Union
- IDB Family Association
- IDB Global Federal Credit Union

And for ongoing support throughout the year to...

- WBFN Executive Committee and volunteers
- WBFN staff--Catherine Mathieu, Mimi Beshsha and Paul Corsi



# GRANTEES' UNIVERSITIES IN FY20

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Our congratulations to the universities that have our grantees as registered students this year. MMEG grantees are furthering their education in 14 universities located on three continents.

## USA-CANADA AND TRINITY PROGRAMS

Columbia University  
Johns Hopkins University  
Rutgers University-Newark  
The New School - Parsons School of Design  
Trinity Washington University  
University of Massachusetts, Boston

## SOUTH AFRICA PROGRAM

Stellenbosch University  
University of Cape Town  
University of Pretoria  
University of the Free State

## LATIN AMERICA PROGRAMS

FLACSO, Mexico  
Universidad Catolica del Peru  
Universidad Iberoamericana  
Universidad Nacional de Colombia



ANGALISE BRINKLEY  
WASHINGTON TRINITY UNIVERSITY

# WHO'S WHO



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Hanna Woicke (Germany)

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## Communications and Design Support:

Sharmin Alam (Bangladesh/USA)  
Claudia Gualteros (Colombia)

## Coordinator

Pelin Tekneci (Turkey)



# HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT MMEG?

## MAKE A DIRECT CONTRIBUTION

Your support enables us to make a difference in the lives of grantees! Become or continue being a friend of MMEG in at least one of the following ways.

- By check, payable to “MMEG” and mail to:  
MMEG 1818 H Street NW, MSN J2-202  
Washington D.C. 20433 USA.
- Electronic donation options: Venmo to MMEG;
- Paypal to <mmeg@worldbank.org>
- By credit card, go to our web page:  
[www.mmeg.org/donate/](http://www.mmeg.org/donate/)
- You can also donate to MMEG via a charitable-giving Donor Advised Fund or name MMEG as a beneficiary of your estate or life insurance policy. Please contact MMEG if you would like further information on these options.

## DONATE THROUGH THE CCC OR THE GIVING TOGETHER CAMPAIGNS

The World Bank Group and IMF staff and retirees can donate through the World Bank Community Connections Campaign or the IMF Giving Together Program.

## DONATE THROUGH AMAZON SMILE

If you shop on Amazon, do so through AmazonSmile (<https://smile.amazon.com/>) where you can designate Margaret McNamara Education Grant as the charitable organization of your choice. At no extra cost to you, 0.5% of your purchase value benefits MMEG.





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## GIVE US YOUR FOREIGN COINS

In concert with the Bank-Fund Staff Federal Credit Union, we continue the practice of collecting surplus foreign coins from World Bank and IMF travelers. When BFSFCU branches are open again, please donate your foreign coins in MMEG boxes located there. This year we received more than \$600 from donated foreign coins and currency, putting your excess travel change to good use!



## FOLLOW US IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Our volunteer communications team supports an amplified presence on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter. Please use these platforms to network with other grantees (LinkedIn) and to keep abreast of MMEG events and grantee activities.



# VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES AT MMEG

Margaret McNamara Education Grants is a volunteer-led public charity. We rely on the generosity of volunteers to raise funds for grants and to run the four successful programs that benefit some 30 grantees each year.

We also need volunteers to read grantee applications on our selection committees; to work year-round on our media or data management teams; and to champion us by helping to spread the word about our mission, our work and our fabulous grantees.

For more information, visit [www.mmeg.org/volunteering/](http://www.mmeg.org/volunteering/).



**GRANTEE SELECTION COMMITTEES**



**MEDIA AND DATA MANAGEMENT TEAMS**



**MMEG ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR**







**SAME EVENT  
DIFFERENT PLATFORM**

# **VIRTUAL ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR**



[www.brandsandmakers.com/mmeg](http://www.brandsandmakers.com/mmeg)

**From November 11 to 23, 2020**

Shop at MMEG's virtual Arts & Crafts Fair and support extraordinary women, local artisans, and small businesses during extraordinary times! Fifteen percent of sales will go to MMEG grants which help women meet basic needs while pursuing higher degrees in order to build a better world.



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#shopforacause

#mmegfair

