

Volunteers Make Vision a Reality

Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) was formed in 1929, as International Organization for rural women and homemakers, representing many races, nationalities and creeds, forming a vast network of grass roots members.

Margaret Roberston Watt was the first president of ACWW.

ACWW is a worldwide, non-sectarian and non-party political and has charitable status. ACWW is a facilitating organization enabling member societies and non-member societies to :

- :Participate fully in world development
- :Be part of an information network
- :Enhance leadership skills and income generation
- :Utilize their advocacy role at the UN
- :To raise the standard of living of rural women and families through education, training and community development projects
- :To provide practical support to members
- : to support educational opportunities for women and girls and the elimination of gender-based discrimination
- :To support and give rural women a voice at International level through links with UN.

ACWW supports development projects through these funds:

- ;Water-supports clean water and sanitation projects providing water tanks, bore wells and hand pumps
- :Food-supports subsistence food production and co-operatives, training in farming techniques and credit saving schemes
- :Family-supports family planning initiatives, HIV/AIDS awareness, small business schemes and skill training
- :Nutrition-supports and promotes good nutrition, improved hygiene and food production
- :Scholarships-supports and offers scholarships and courses in home economics, welfare and citizenship for leaders in rural communities
- :Training-supports and provides advanced training in organization and leader

ACWW Development products are world wide, projects underway in 31 countries. As of 2001, they are in St. Vincent & Grenadines, Grenada, Columbia, Peru, Gambia, Mali, Sierra, Leone, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Cameroon, Bulgaria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Nepal, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland, South Africa, Pakistan, South Korea, China, Philippines, Indonesia, Papua, Guinea, Fiji, Tonga, India, and Western Samoa.

771 members of ACWW registered for the full conference for the 23rd Triennial Conference, held in Hamilton Ontario, June 11-18 2001. With their native costume and language they came from Brunei, Malaysia, England, Australia, Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, Denmark, Germany, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand, Philippines, Finland, South Africa, India, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Bangladesh, Norway, Iceland, Austria, Colombia, Korea, Czech Republic, Mauritius, China, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Lesotho, Nigeria, Namibia, Cameroon, Greece, Grenada, Madagascar, Romania, Wales, Indonesia, Botswana, Tonga, Canada and USA.

20% of women from the Islands are members of ACWW training schools, education, home school services, business skills, farm safety, work shops, water projects, public toilets, community development, help research, smokeless stoves, suicide prevention, mother's help, rural women against mutilization of female organs. 85% of all food is produced by women. New Zealand was the first country to let women have a vote.

\$100,000.00 has been collected for "Pennies for Friendship."

Tasmania is the next host for the 24th Triennial Conference, March 2004. Hobart is the capital of Tasmania. ¼ million people live in Tasmania, which are 60% rural and 40% urban. 1/3 of the state is wilderness. There are 800 Women's Institute members in Tasmania.

Theme for 2004 is "Working With Women World Wide."