Project Success Story
Girls’ Equality Project

Millions of girls in the developing world suffer needlessly on reaching puberty. Why? They have no way to deal with menstruation. They miss a week of school every month. Soon, they are so far behind they drop out. That is the moment when girls become second-class citizens, because they will always thereafter have less education than boys.

Worse, at that point, when a girl may be only 13 years old, her choices are grim, or worse: she can work in the fields, become a domestic servant, be married off, or be sold into the sex trade. In many cases, without caring adults around to protect her, she becomes subject to sexual predation which will scar her for life. This does not have to be.

One Dollar For Life’s Girls’ Equality Project (GEP) provides thousands of girls in the developing world the means to stay in school and reach their educational potential. We do this by giving girls washable, reusable sanitary supplies, teaching them self-defense, and giving them feminine hygiene education, all at no cost to them. We have provided GEP
kits to girls in Kenya, Nepal, Zambia, and South Africa. We are evaluating adding distribution in Ivory Coast, Tanzania, and Morocco.

An ODFL Girls’ Equality Project kit consists of 2 waterproof panty shields, eight soft, absorbent, washable inner liners, and a discreet, feminine carrying bag. If taken care of, a GEP kit will last for three years. It is typically delivered in a school setting, by trained matrons, who also teach the girls about female biology, personal hygiene, and self-defense. This might be the only time a girl ever receives expert, compassionate education about the profound life changes she is going through, and how she can deal with them.

These girls, in Tembisa, South Africa, have just learned they would be able to attend school every week of the year until they finished. They will each be the first person in their family, ever, to have completed high school. No wonder they are smiling!
Girls in Kenya are learning about feminine hygiene, a frequently taboo subject

With their GEP kits and newfound knowledge, these girls can look forward to the same educational opportunities as boys. This is something they could not have imagined before.

These girls in Zambia and Nepal love their kits

Girls in Githwariga (left) and Sirima (right) Kenya receive GEP kits
In August 2018, ODFL helped its long-time Kenyan partner, Kiini Sustainable Initiative, set up a sewing center to manufacture the kits locally. In January 2019 a second sewing center was opened in Dang, Nepal where we are working with our partners Little Sisters Fund and Nepal Women Community Service Center. The centers employ local seamstresses in well-paying, dignified work that contributes a meaningful service to their communities.

By producing locally, we reduced the cost of a kit from around $9 to less than $5. Both sewing centers were funded by an unrestricted grant from First United Methodist Church in Palo Alto, CA. Both centers are now in full production and have provided thousands of girls with washable GEP Kits. *They have almost doubled the number of girls we can help.*

Many girls’ schools around the U.S. are supporting this project! The ODFL model invites every student to donate just one dollar. We have raised money from private foundations to cover operating costs, so, *every dollar donated goes into purchasing GEP kits.*

The essence of tragedy is that innocents suffer, while those who could help do nothing. The essence of nobility is that those who *can* help avert suffering, do so, even if it comes at a cost to themselves. We have the choice to be noble. But we do have to choose.

Is it worth $1 to help a girl stay in school? Is it worth $1 so that a human potential can be realized? It is. A $5 kit allows a girl to stay in school for three more years. Often, that is long enough for her to finish school. *Three years of schooling for $5. This might very well be the most cost-effective liberation of human potential on the planet!*

Donate at odfl.org or by texting ODFLGEPR to 71777. Sponsor just one kit. Help just one girl. Ask your friends to do the same. They, like you, can *literally* change the world. But we do have to act. EVERY DOLLAR DONATED goes to the GEP project.

**Website:** odfl.org  **Email:** info@odfl.org
ODFL is a registered 501c3 nonprofit. All donations are tax deductible.

**Bigger People. Better World.**
**It’s Working!**