



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 all such cases, without caring adults around to protect her, she becomes subject to relentless sexual predation which will scar her for life. *This does not have to be.*



A 13 year-old mother with child in Kenya

One Dollar For Life's *Girls' Equality Project* 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 are currently providing these kits and services to girls in Kenya, Nepal, Zambia, and South Africa.

An ODFL Girls' Equality Project kit consists of 2 waterproof outside sheaths, 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 may 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.



GEP Kit components and carrying bags



The girls, above, in South Africa, just learned they would be able to attend school every week of the year and complete their education. No wonder they are excited!



These girls in Nepal are learning about feminine hygiene, a frequently taboo subject

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



These girls in Kenya (left) and Zambia (right) love their kits

So many 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 foundations to cover operating costs, so, *every dollar donated* goes into purchasing kits.



St. Agnes Academy, Houston, TX



Los Altos High School, Los Altos, CA



ICA Cristo Rey, San Francisco, CA



McAuley High School, Cincinnati, OH

In August 2018, ODFL helped its long-time Kenyan partner, Kiini Sustainable Initiative, set up a sewing center to manufacture the kits locally. The center employs local seamstresses in well-paying, dignified work that contributes a meaningful service to their communities. By producing locally, we will reduce the cost of a kit from its current price of around \$9 to less than \$5. This was funded by a grant from First United Methodist Church in Palo Alto, CA. *It will almost double the number of girls we can help.*



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 avoid the degradation of relentless sexual predation? Is it worth \$1 so that a human potential can be realized? We think 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 ODFLGEP 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.

<https://odfl.org> **E-mail:** info@odfl.org
ODFL is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit.
All donations are tax deductible.

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