



IFUW Hegg Hoffet Committee

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Marian Ennis, Convener

No fundraising events were held this year because the University Women of Europe (UWE) conference decided not to have a Hegg-Hoffet boutique. However, we received cash donations totalling 1315 Swiss francs from various NFAs and branches, especially from Switzerland and Canada. We suffered an unrealized loss of 86 francs on our investment funds.

Several revisions were made to the terms of reference and standing rules. The web pages and the brochure were both updated. Copies of the brochure were distributed at the UWE conference.

One of our recipients was not able to have a bank account in her new country, due to her financial and immigration status, so for the first time we transferred tuition money directly to the educational institution and used Western Union to send the balance. We also set up a new system for collecting donations in Canada and sending them to the CFUW head office to be held there until the next bulk transfer of Canadian funds to IFUW, thereby saving a lot in exchange costs on individual cheques.

Highlights of the grants in the past year (total 3168 Swiss francs) are as follows:

- A Sudanese refugee in Egypt who is taking computer courses received the second instalment of her grant.
- A Pakistani doctor now living in France and studying for a Master's in Public Health received a grant for advanced French language courses. She was also delighted with the moral support received, and is in contact with the convener on a regular basis.
- A Colombian doctor now living in western Canada has been approved for a transportation and supplies grant to assist her while she's taking qualifying courses to work as a nurse.
- A Zimbabwean undergraduate refugee now living in South Africa was assisted to connect with the financial aid office of her university, where she was advised of grants for which she might be eligible, and recommended to submit her resume to the appropriate department for an on-campus part-time job. Our intention was to help with her 2009 tuition if she was successful in returning this year; several efforts have recently been made to contact her but so far she has not replied.
- An application from a Kenyan refugee living in the U.S. is pending additional documentation.
- Two American refugee agencies have been in contact with us about Iraqi graduate women who wish to retrain, and we are expecting applications from them shortly. Contact has been made with WG-USA to find some of their members who could interview the candidates and provide some moral support for them.

Feedback was received from three of our prior year recipients, reporting ongoing success in their courses. One has finished her training and found a job. Another has become a member of her local NFA.

Information on the availability of the grants has been sent to various agencies that work with refugees. Articles on the Hegg Hoffet grants and activities were published in the IFUW and CFUW newsletters. The convener gave presentations about the fund at two regional CFUW gatherings, and Anita Earle made a presentation to the Brisbane branch in Australia. Anne Harris Hennon recruited members of the Paris branch of the French NFA who are willing to help our recipient there with her spoken language practice.

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She also sent information on the HH fund out through other networks, such as the Harvard Kennedy School and the Salzburg Global Seminar.

Projects for 2009 include:

- Continue the efforts to contact refugee supporting agencies and make them aware or remind them of our grant availability
- Send emails to NFAs in refugee-receiving countries, asking for (supplied) short articles to be put in their national newsletters
- Urge NFA branches to contact their local colleges and universities, to see if we can be listed in their "Financial Assistance" publications
- Seek listing as a partner organization on the UN High Commission for Refugees website.

Recommendations

1. The Committee would again like to organize a boutique at the 2010 Conference to raise money for the Hegg Hoffet Fund. We need about 4 or 5 long tables and four chairs, plus some drop sheets to cover the goods when the boutique is closed. If it's possible to hang some things on a wall or room divider in order to display them better, that would be good. The tables should be set up preferably in a visible location to make it easy for attendees to notice and find, but also secured at night so that we would not have to re-setup the displays of goods every day.
2. Efforts should be made to deposit the bulk of the Fund's capital in secure interest bearing term deposits, so that it will generate more income for the Fund.

Marian Ennis, Convener
January 2009