



AAUW Annual Report: Sept 2023 – May 2024

Name of Initiative: Days for Girls

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Project Goals:

1. Make 100 feminine hygiene kits to be distributed by different groups Internationally and locally
2. Continue our monthly Workshop sessions and recruit additional members to work at home.
3. *Recruit members to leadership roles to balance workload*

Mission:

We make sustainable menstrual hygiene kits for menstruators living in developing countries, refugee camps and shelters in the United States. Through our efforts, we are providing those who menstruate the opportunity to attend school/ work, receive an education & reach their potential which has been denied to them due to a wide variety of social, economic, and cultural circumstances. Our program advances the equity of menstruators in education and leads to improving economic stability within their household and community which supports the overall mission of AAUW on a local and global level.

Target Audience:

Menstruators can miss an average of 5-7 days of school (or work) each month both locally and in developing countries because of the lack of menstrual hygiene supplies. Our Program helps to supply menstruators with sustainable menstrual hygiene kits which lasts for 3 -5 years. Our program offers volunteer opportunities for the members of the community to think globally and act locally and engage in meaningful and constructive use of their time in trying to meet a global and local need.

Participants:

We continue to have monthly work sessions at the Zion Episcopal Church and some team members also work from home making kit components, while others wash and iron fabric, prepare workshops, and verify quality of items sewn.

Thirty-two individuals have contributed to the work sessions. 23 volunteers are regular attendees at our workshops. Ten volunteers also work at home. 16 volunteers have AAUW membership. Eight new individuals have joined our group this past year. We have 32 volunteers on our email list (both AAUW volunteers and members of the community).

Sustainability:

Our team once again met the standards for Gold Certification, which was initiated this past year by Days for Girls International (DfGI) to establish standards. Certification required extensive work to measure and submit pictures of our sewn items to show quality and measurement standards. This enables us to continue as a valuable member of DfGI.

We have 23 members who attend work sessions on a regular basis. Each work session has an average of 10-15 volunteers.

Our core group of volunteers are more proficient in some tasks and can share their skills with newer volunteers. We are currently seeking volunteers to lead the making of the transport and outer bag work sessions. We feel it is necessary to elevate some members to greater leadership roles and greater responsibility to ensure continued success.

Benchmarks:

Our team is approaching 7 years since our inception in June of 2017.

Our total numbers of kits (International and domestic) distributed thus far is 628.

For the Sept 2023=May 2024 calendar year, we donated 145 supreme kits to international destinations (1738 individually sewn items). This year our Supreme Kits have been distributed to Chad, Cameroon, Gaza, Cuba.

The supreme kits contain 2 Shields, 8 Liners, 1 transport bag, an outer bag, 2 pairs of underwear, a washcloth and a bar of soap. We distributed 55 Hybrid kits locally to Middletown and Kingston High schools, Planned Parenthood (Poughkeepsie) and New Paltz Library. The Hybrid Kits contain 2 pods (Liner and shield), 10 Disposable pads and 10 disposable tampons.

Community Partners

Zion Episcopal Church in Wappingers Falls

In- Kind Donors / Monetary Donations

AAUW Members

Hudson Valley NY Chapter - American Sewing Guild

Dominican College

We would like to thank the board and members of AAUW Poughkeepsie NY for supporting our initiative and we look forward to a very productive 2024-2025.

Thank you for Giving Girls 5-7 days of school. Period!

