

Gifts of Speech News

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Featured Product



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1. Eradicating Global Poverty



Anne Hastings, Executive Director of **Fonkoze**, Haiti's largest microfinance institution, has searched the globe for a solution to the problem of extreme poverty. In countries as far apart as Bangladesh and Haiti, efforts to combat even the most extreme types of poverty are now

proving effective at relatively little cost per family. Based on her review of experimental and innovative approaches worldwide, Hastings describes the role that microfinance, education, health care, and case management for women play in eradicating poverty.

Anne Hastings has been the Executive Director of Fonkoze – Haiti's largest microfinance institution – since May 1996. Under her leadership, the institution has grown from 2 volunteer employees to over 575 full-time employees. The institution now has 30 branches throughout rural Haiti, with over 120,000 clients, more than 45,000 of whom have microcredit loans. In July 2004, Fonkoze spun off its financial services component to form a commercial financial institution. Anne serves on the

board of directors of that institution. She also continues to manage the foundation, which is now devoted to monitoring the impact of microfinance on the lives of clients - most of whom are women, eliminating illiteracy among its clients, incubating new branches that reach ever poorer and more rural clients with microfinance services, and continually testing and developing innovative new products for the clients of both the commercial entity and the foundation. She is the recipient of the 2005 Pioneer in Microfinance Award of the Grameen Foundation USA. In 2006, she was honored in the First Annual Chiapas Project Recognition Dinner in Dallas, Texas.

Before coming to Haiti, Anne had fifteen years of experience in providing strategic management services to executives and in managing young organizations for high performance and steady growth. She was Senior Partner and Managing Director of Scanlon and Hastings, a management consulting company in Washington DC, from 1985 to 1996 and a Senior Analyst at Advanced Technology in Reston, Virginia from 1982 to 1985. Anne holds a PhD from the University of Virginia and an Honorary Doctorate in Business Leadership from Duquesne University. She completed research fellowships at the Brookings Institute and the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, both in Washington, DC.

Her speech which is linked below is titled "Eradicating Global Poverty: Is it Really Achievable?" Anne gave this inspiring and educational speech at the University of California, Santa Barbara on September 18th of 2007.

Link: <http://www.uctv.tv/search-details.asp?showID=14219>

2. Katrina: Continuing Nightmare for Women

New Report Points to Gaping Holes in Recovery and Calls for Action.

"They tried deliberately to separate our children from us. I was one that fought for my child. . . . I told [the National Guard] he may as well take that rifle and start putting bullet holes in my head cause I'm getting off this truck and getting my baby."

These words come from one of dozens of women interviewed for a new report exposing the nightmarish experiences of women during and after New Orleans was hit by Hurricane Katrina. It makes a shocking tale of more than two years of hard times at the hands of nature and the bureaucracy. Quoted from the link below.

Read more at the link below.

Link: <http://tinyurl.com/3mgpcu>

3. Avon Hello Tomorrow Fund

"At Avon, we believe that empowering women can be the most effective way to improve society and change our world. For over 120 years we have provided economic opportunity for women worldwide, often in places and at times when employment options were limited. Given the resources, women can impact their lives, their families and their communities in meaningful ways. Women can change our world.

In this spirit, Avon has created the Hello Tomorrow Fund. Every week since April 15, 2007, \$5,000 has been awarded to an individual to help realize a program, project or idea to empower women."

If you are a woman with a project that benefits other women, you might want to consider letting

Avon know! See the link below.

Link: <https://shop.avon.com/HelloTomorrowFund/index.aspx>

4. New York Women's Foundation

The New York Women's Foundation was established in 1987 as a public philanthropy to be a voice for women and a force for change. They are a cross-cultural alliance of women helping low-income women and girls in the five boroughs to achieve sustained economic security through expanded opportunities. They work together to transform the conditions of poverty and to create an equal and just future for low-income women and girls.

Link: <http://www.nywf.org/>

5. June Site of the Month



Fonkoze - is the largest micro-finance institution offering a full range of financial services to the rural-based poor in Haiti. Fonkoze's mission is to build the economic foundations for

democracy in Haiti. Established in 1994, Fonkoze currently has over 115,000 depositors, over 45,000 active borrowers (99% of whom are women), and 32 branch offices spread throughout every department of Haiti.

The services offered by Fonkoze include:

- Solidarity group and individual loans that are used to start or expand a small business;
- Savings products geared towards meeting the needs of the poor
- Currency exchange services that allow Haitians to change US dollars into Haitian gourdes at a preferential rate;
- Money transfer services that allow Haitians living overseas the opportunity to transfer funds to Haiti at a very low cost; and
- Literacy, business skills, and good health practices training,

Link: <http://www.fonkoze.org/>

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