

WOMAN, CRADLE OF ABUNDANCE

February 2024

ANNUAL REPORT



A message from Elsie McKee, PhD, Founder and President

We – you and Woman, Cradle of Abundance (CRADLE) – have come a long way! We thank you so much for being part of this small but growing nonprofit, as we support our partners in Congo to fight violence against women and children and systemic poverty among the least of these.

We began in February 2013 with a tiny handful of determined amateurs, an annual budget of less than \$35,000, and one partner in Congo. We have grown to an experienced organization with two major divisions focusing on women and children, a wonderful network of over 350 people and churches and schools, an income of \$222,201 in 2023, and well-developed work with two partners.

We have the privilege of walking alongside two nonprofits established and run by Congolese. One is FEBA, Femme Berceau de l'Abondance (Woman, Cradle of Abundance: we copied their name!), the other is CENEDI, Centre for Mentoring Children in Difficulties. They are on the ground, FEBA in Kinshasa, CENEDI in Kivu province in war-torn eastern Congo. Their leaders know what is needed in their communities.

Woman, Cradle of Abundance is a US nonprofit with multi-generational initiatives. We partner with grassroots organizations in Congo who share our values to promote change where it is needed most.

Highlights

Our Partners' Programs

- FEBA, Kinshasa
- CENEDI, Kivu

- Recaps of
 - Grants
 - Accomplishments
 - Recent Events
 - Finance

Our vision is the eradication of systemic poverty and violence against women and children in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Our mission is to empower women and children in need in the Democratic Republic of Congo in their fight for safety, education, and economic independence.

Their main goals are education, economic empowerment, and life-support for those on the margins. Even as they teach people to fish, they also share the fish that save lives. Some of their programs are described elsewhere in this report.

Our nonprofit CRADLE is loosely divided into two divisions. One is focused primarily on women, in Kinshasa and villages near Uvira, Kivu. The other, our youth division Hands Across the Water (HAW), is based chiefly in public schools and concentrates on children in Kivu, especially in Goma.

With your help, what we do is to provide shoestrings and accompaniment. Shoestrings?! Our partners are both poor and generous: they do everything on a shoestring and share half the shoestring with the desperate needs at their doors, so our business is to find more shoestrings and to walk with them to help with accountability.

THANK YOU SO MUCH for sharing shoestrings with us! They may seem small, but every single shoestring makes a life-transforming difference in Congo. YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!

Elsie Tshimunyi McKee

OUR PARTNERS' PROGRAMS

FEBA, Kinshasa



Education:

- Literacy and vocational training for destitute young women, three tracks: Sewing, Computer Science, Cosmetology, and a fourth being developed: Cooking/Restaurant services.
- School assistance for children and youth, especially uniforms, supplies, and exam fees.



Economic Empowerment:

- Microloans and micro-savings programs for many of FEBA's 1200 female members to start little businesses (like tie-dyeing) or build nest eggs for emergencies.
- Tools of the trade (sewing machines, computer resources, etc.) for graduates, to begin their own businesses.



FEBA, Kinshasa continued

Life-Support:

- Assistance to food-insecure, especially blind widows, orphans, and members facing emergencies like floods
- Medical assistance to those living with HIV/AIDS, varied illnesses, and hospital or death expenses
- Appropriate assistance to victims of violence and abuse, including counseling, refuge, medical treatment, and loving care
- Community fellowship, encouragement, mutual support through monthly meetings for sharing joys and concerns



One Story: Kalubi was a very young widow from a rural village with a two-month-old baby Jessica in 2010, when her in-laws abandoned her in a strange city where she did not speak the language. Maman Monique discovered mother and child covered with mosquito bites, sheltering in a church, and brought them home (and Elsie got to meet them!).

Kalubi enrolled in FEBA's sewing school, graduated, and was so successful that she could not only support herself and Jessica but also was able to extend her own education and educate her daughter. Jessica considers Maman Monique and Maman Bitota her grandmothers. Kalubi and Jessica came to celebrate the inauguration of the Women's Center in 2023.

Self-Support and Community Consciousness:

- Commercial organization to sell sewing products and imported goods in a city market.
- Farm to provide food and income for the nonprofit and demonstrate best practices and raise the economic level of the rural villagers by access to paying jobs

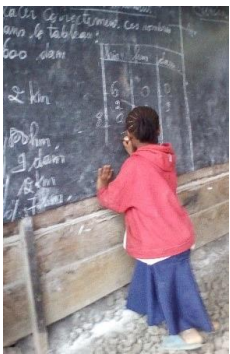


CENEDI, Kivu Province



Education:

- Community Charity School in Goma, a free primary school for orphans and other destitute children
- Peace Ambassadors in Uvira, secondary school graduates trained to provide workshops on conflict resolution in primary schools



Self-Support:

- Farms for women in villages near Uvira, with a flour mill
- A large garden for women in Goma



Life-Support:

- Medical support for rape victims and those suffering other illnesses (e.g., cholera epidemic)
- Assistance for food-insecure and victims of flooding: even building new homes!

One Story: Colette and her siblings were orphans living with their aunt in Goma. The aunt could barely afford to feed them, and school was out of the question. Then they heard about Community Charity School, supported by Hands Across the Water (HAW), which was free! Colette was a star: she aced the primary school state exams and HAW determined to send her to secondary school, where she is flourishing.



Selected Grants and Funded Projects, 2013-2023

1. Hands Across the Water school club, Community Middle School, Plainsboro, NJ, 2015, established Community Charity School, Goma, Kivu, and with Grover Middle School and High School North, in 2022-23, provided solar panels and 2 laptops
2. J&J Caring Crowd Matching Grants, 2017, funding for FEBA Women's Center furnishings, and 2020 for a 5-acre farm for CENEDI women (near Uvira)
2. First Presbyterian Church of Evanston, 2017, purchase of first 25 acres of a farm for FEBA
3. Trinity Presbyterian, Shadyside Presbyterian, and Graceway Presbyterian, 2020-23, medical and food assistance for FEBA members quarantined during COVID, and microloans for recovery
4. Nassau Presbyterian Church, 2022, a new roof for Women's Center, and 2023, treadle sewing machines
4. Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, 2023, equipping a complete computer science program for FEBA
5. Princeton United Methodist Church and Friends, 2023, materials to build 20 houses for flood victims near Uvira, Kivu
6. Anonymous, 2021, property for Community Charity School, now a garden to feed orphans in Goma
7. Anonymous, 2022, tractor and accessories, for FEBA
8. Anonymous, 2023, Toyota AWD, for FEBA

Three New Grants, Jan.-Feb. 2024

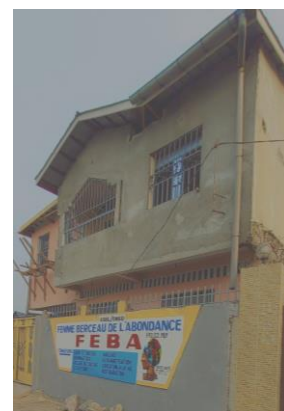
- Witherspoon St. Presbyterian, and Presbytery of the Coastlands, 2024, a FEBA workshop for financial literacy and training for small businesses, with micro-loans to 100 trained women
- Nassau Presbyterian Church, 2024, equipping a cosmetology program for FEBA
- Operation Walk Carolinas, 2024, double knee replacement surgery for Maman Monique, founder and leader of FEBA

SOME ACCOMPLISHMENTS, 2013-2023

1. Building and equipping a Women's Center in Kinshasa which serves as the multisectoral headquarters of FEBA and houses educational programs of all kinds; 2013-2018 with additions 2022-23, @\$250,000
2. Buying and equipping farms for FEBA and for women of CENEDI, 2017-2023, @\$90,000
3. Providing tuition or educational assistance for over 1200 children and youth, including 123 secondary school graduates, 170 primary graduates, and 120 sewing school graduates

This is quality education. All the students pass rigorous state exams which many less-well mentored children fail. In 2023 UNESCO marked FEBA's vocational program as one of the two best in Kinshasa. Then it had the sewing track and soon added the computer science; in 2024 cosmetology will be added and possibly cooking.

4. Enabling more than 350 women to begin small businesses with micro-loans or sewing machines
5. Assisting hundreds of victims of violence and destitution, @ 400-500/year
6. Publishing the autobiography of FEBA's founder, "Maman Monique," *Cradling Abundance. One African Christian's Story of Empowering Women and Fighting Systemic Poverty* (IVP, 2021).



Rebuilding after the floods



Women's Center Inauguration

Fundraising Can Be Fun! A Few Glimpses, 2013-23

- CONCERTS Launch the Women's Center: Grammy nominee jazz artist Karrin Allyson presented three amazing concerts in 2013, 2014, 2015, for our Capital Campaign for the FEBA Women's Center. Don't you wish you could have heard her?!
- A wonderful group of Westminster Choir College (Rider University) graduates and friends of Anna deGroot Preston carried on the tradition, with two concerts in 2016, and in 2021 and 2022 the Botetourt Music Academy (Botetourt County, VA) and students of Anna added their lovely children's voices to this chorus of song for Congo.
- 5K off-site Run-Against-Rape (Run-for-Congo): 2015-21, a June event taking steps for Congo.
- Art contests, talent shows, penny wars at Community Middle and Grover Middle Schools.
- 10-Year-Gala! In May 2023 our festive celebration of 10 years growing from a tiny handful to a big hall full of enthusiasm made a fun occasion for fundraising.

Some Recent Events

Visiting Congo to See for Ourselves and Encourage Our Partners, July 2023

What a life-changing experience it was! Most of the nine participants had never been to Africa. Only the leader Elsie had been to Congo. In our weeklong visit we celebrated the official inauguration of the FEBA Women's Center, heard stories of the students and teachers, and saw how vital and valued this ministry is in the community. "It was like being on holy ground. The stories the girls told were so tender and gut-wrenching to listen to."

Would you like to visit Kinshasa and FEBA? If enough people are interested, we might plan another trip in 2025. Stay tuned.

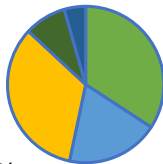


FINANCES 2023

Cash \$216,783 128 Individual Donors
In-kind \$5,418 12 Churches & Schools

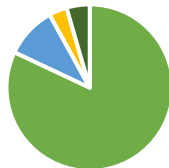
Income

- Board 34%
- Friends 19%
- Churches 34%
- Fundraisers 8.6%
- Sales-Matches 4.4%



Expenditures

- FEBA Kinshasa 82%
- CENEDI Kivu 10%
- Admin. 3.5%
- Fundraising 4.5%



HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED!

Would you like to learn more about any of our projects? See our website www.WomanCradleofAbundance.org or go to Woman Cradle of Abundance - FEBA, Inc., on Facebook.

Contact us to request a presentation, or to volunteer. (609) 332-4095 (Elsie McKee) or (215) 292-3290 (Cheryl Ciaranca)

Would you like to enable Woman, Cradle of Abundance, Inc., to continue to support our Congo partners? Please consider donating securely online www.WomanCradleofAbundance.org/donate or on Woman, Cradle of Abundance – FEBA on Facebook.

Or send a check. Please mark the subject line FEBA or HAW:

Woman, Cradle of Abundance, Inc.
Attn. John McGlaughlin, Treasurer
115 Maine Ave.
Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

Woman, Cradle of Abundance

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