



sistaworks

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Bring Back Our Girls

On April 15th, approx. 234 girls in Nigeria were abducted from their school by extremist opposing Western education. These girls are still missing and the story has yet to capture major news. Please share this story to help raise awareness as their lives and those of other school girls continue to hang in the balance. We believe that these missing Nigerian girls are beyond worthy of headline news and international attention. Use the hash tag **#BringBackOurGirls** to draw attention to the crisis and to urge Nigerian officials to do more to bring the girls home safely. ["Nigeria's Stolen Girls" The New Yorker, April 30, 2014](#)



Support Our Screening of "Girl Rising" in New Orleans

We are excited to host the film "Girl Rising" at Ashé Cultural Center in New Orleans, on **May 21st at 6pm**. *"From Academy Award-nominated director Richard E. Robbins, Girl Rising journeys around the globe to witness the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to change the world. Viewers get to know nine unforgettable girls living in the developing world: ordinary girls who confront tremendous challenges and overcome nearly impossible odds to pursue their dreams. Prize-winning authors put the girls' remarkable stories into words, and renowned actors give them voice,"* summarizes the Girl Rising producers. The film features voice

performances by Meryl Streep, Alicia Keys, Anne Hathaway, Selena Gomez, and Salma Hayek.



Tickets are \$8/per person in advance or \$10 at the door. Go to: <http://sistaworksgirlrising.brownpapertickets.com> to purchase advance tickets.

Proceeds from the event support SISTAWorks and the Girl Rising Fund.

Budding Friendships Just 6,000 Miles Away

This past academic year, girls from McDonogh 35 Senior High in New Orleans have been forming friendships as pen pals with our SISTA Scholars in Ghana. On March 27th, we kicked-off the first session of our Virtual Cultural Exchange Program, designed to give these pen pals the chance to meet face-to-face on Skype and to share more about their lives.

The girls struggled over the differences in accents and cultural expressions like "selfies" and "BFFs" to discover some important similarities, such as their common parade culture with its roots in West African parade traditions, as well as their mutual love for dance. A high-point came when a pair of girls on each side spontaneously shared their dance moves with the other - a dance game called "Ampe" for the Ghana girls and marching dance corps moves from the New Orleans girls.



Students from both schools are excited about the next session this month. We hope that the program will become a mutual exploration and discovery of two cultures that are deeply connected, helping all of the students continue to broaden their knowledge of themselves and the world.

The Results Are In!

Congratulations to nine of our 2013 SISTA Scholar Graduates who passed the exams to receive the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE). The exam is widely considered very challenging and it is rare for a student to pass enough of the subjects to complete the certification on the initial testing. Each of our SISTA Scholars prepared extensively for the WASSCE which is administered to final year high school students at the completion of their course work, just prior to graduating.



These students are now qualified to enter tertiary institutions in Ghana this coming fall. SISTAWorks was able to assist each Scholar in preparation for these national exams by providing extra classes and tutoring during their final terms. The students coached each other and worked together to understand concepts, share ideas, extra

books and teacher pamphlets.

We are so proud of each of our Scholars for their enormous efforts to prepare for the WASSCE and to the following for passing on their initial go-round: *Mary P., Aminatu M., Josephine A., Lamisi D., Regina A., Isabella A., Alimatu F., Paulina A., Janet A.* Congratulations to them and to their SISTA Sponsors! We look forward to continuing to be part of your extraordinary journey.

Join Us for A Women's Journey of The Heart

We are pleased to announce that our 2nd 'Women's Journey to Ghana - A Voyage of the Heart' has been scheduled for January 3rd to January 11th, 2015. This voyage will focus on exploring the lives of women and girls throughout various regions of Ghana, connecting with each other while touring the country and sharing our diverse experiences as women in Africa & North America.

Each traveler will be matched to sponsor one of our SISTA Scholars. The culmination of the journey will be for each woman to meet their SISTA Scholar at school in the northern region of Ghana. The intention of this journey is for all women traveling to experience a heart-centered connection with and a deeper understanding of African women & girls, as well as new life-long bonds with each other.





More details to follow! If you are interested in joining us, please email Aminata@sistaworks.org and we will add you to the list of prospective travelers. Space is limited so we encourage you to reserve your place early.

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"SISTAWorks invests in girls' education and women's entrepreneurship to transform marginalized communities."

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