

# Fistula Foundation

2010 Annual Report





## Ruby's Story

Ruby, pictured on the cover and above, is 29 years old and lives in a remote village in Senegal's Kedougou region. She is pregnant with her third child, but has had vesico-vaginal fistula since the birth of her first baby who was stillborn. She endured four days of painful, obstructed labor before she made it to a health center for help. Her second child was born thanks to a cesarean section surgery delivery. Ruby will need cesarean surgery to deliver her third child, at which point she will also receive fistula repair surgery. Ruby managed to keep her incontinence a secret for many years. She isolated herself, thinking she was the only woman in the world with this problem.

Ruby's surgery will be provided by our capable colleagues at WAHA International – some of the best fistula surgeons in the world. Donations to the Fistula Foundation are covering the costs for Ruby's surgery. With her fistula repaired, she will return to a normal life. Ruby no longer has to suffer simply for trying to bring a child into the world.



# To our Contributors, Colleagues and Friends,

2010 was a year of tremendous growth for the Fistula Foundation. By the close of the year we had expanded our reach into 14 countries in Africa and Asia, helping more women in more places to receive life-transforming treatment for the childbirth injury obstetric fistula.

Thanks to the deep generosity of people like you, we continue growing stronger. The projected number of surgeries we've supported has increased dramatically – by 150% during the past two years alone. We work only with the best surgeons and facilities so that the success rates for the surgeries are high. We remove critical bottlenecks by funding targeted projects that have trained health workers; built, repaired and equipped treatment capacity; and spread the word in the local community of the existence and location of free fistula services and paying for transport to get there. Our greatest strength is our ability to move quickly and offer funding for what is needed to advance care on the ground.

Fistula is a serious problem for the poorest of the poor in our world, where most women are delivering babies at home without any medical help. It is a symptom of deep and often intractable problems – poverty and gender inequality. And this is why millions of women are suffering from this tragic but often preventable and treatable injury.

No woman should have to suffer a debilitating injury like obstetric fistula simply for trying to bring a child into the world. Our solution is simple. We help by funding surgery to restore the lives and health for many women each year.

Everything we were able to achieve in 2010 — every single woman we were able to help — was made possible thanks to you. We are deeply grateful for your support, and to the doctors and hospitals we help fund and ultimately the women who receive care. We are inspired by the dedication of our volunteers and donors. You come from every state in the nation and from countries all over the world. You give of your time and resources to help women you will likely never meet.

With warm regards and deepest thanks for enabling miracles of transformation to occur every day for the world's poorest women.

Sincerely,



Kassahun Kebede  
Board Chair



Kate Grant  
Executive Director



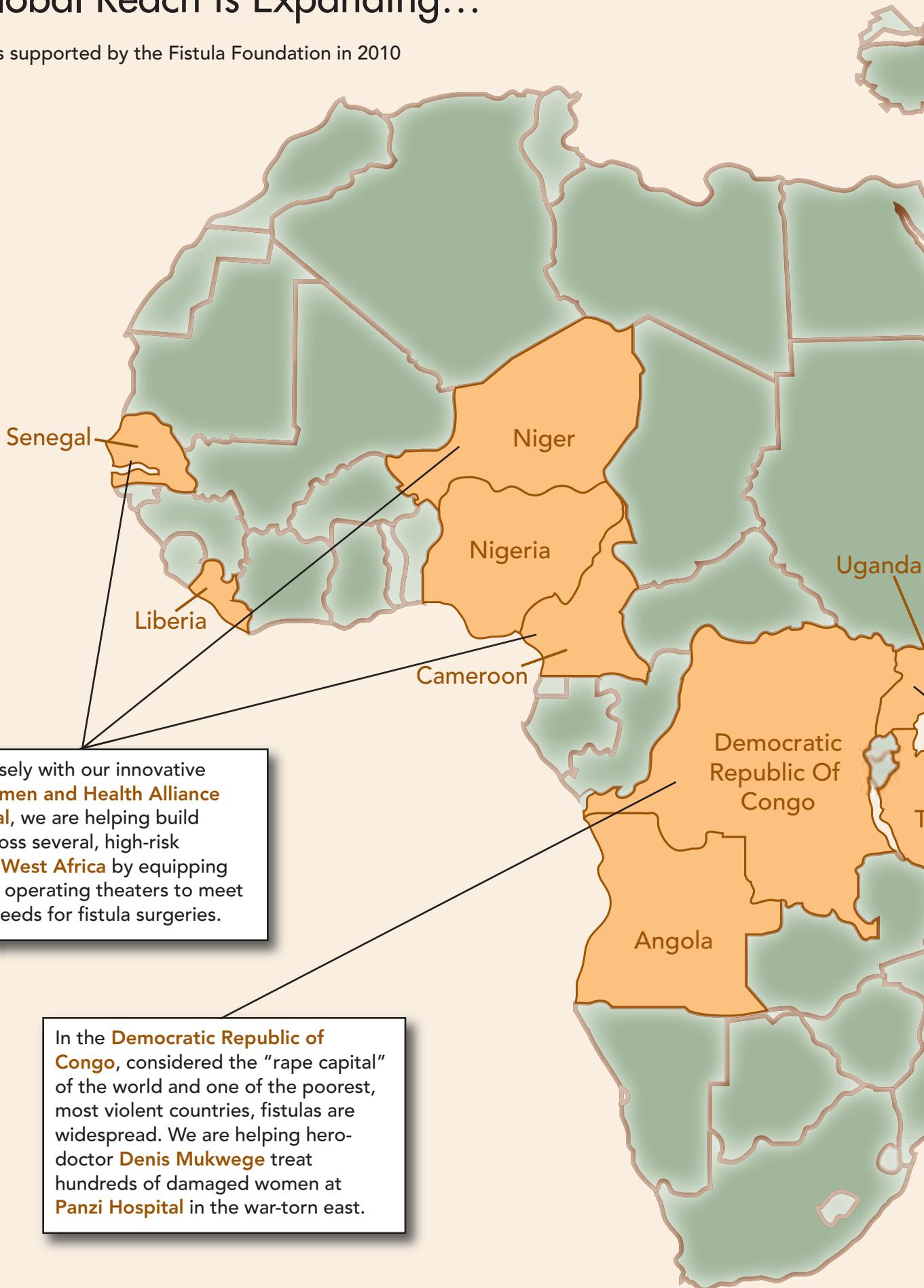
Kassahun Kebede



Kate Grant

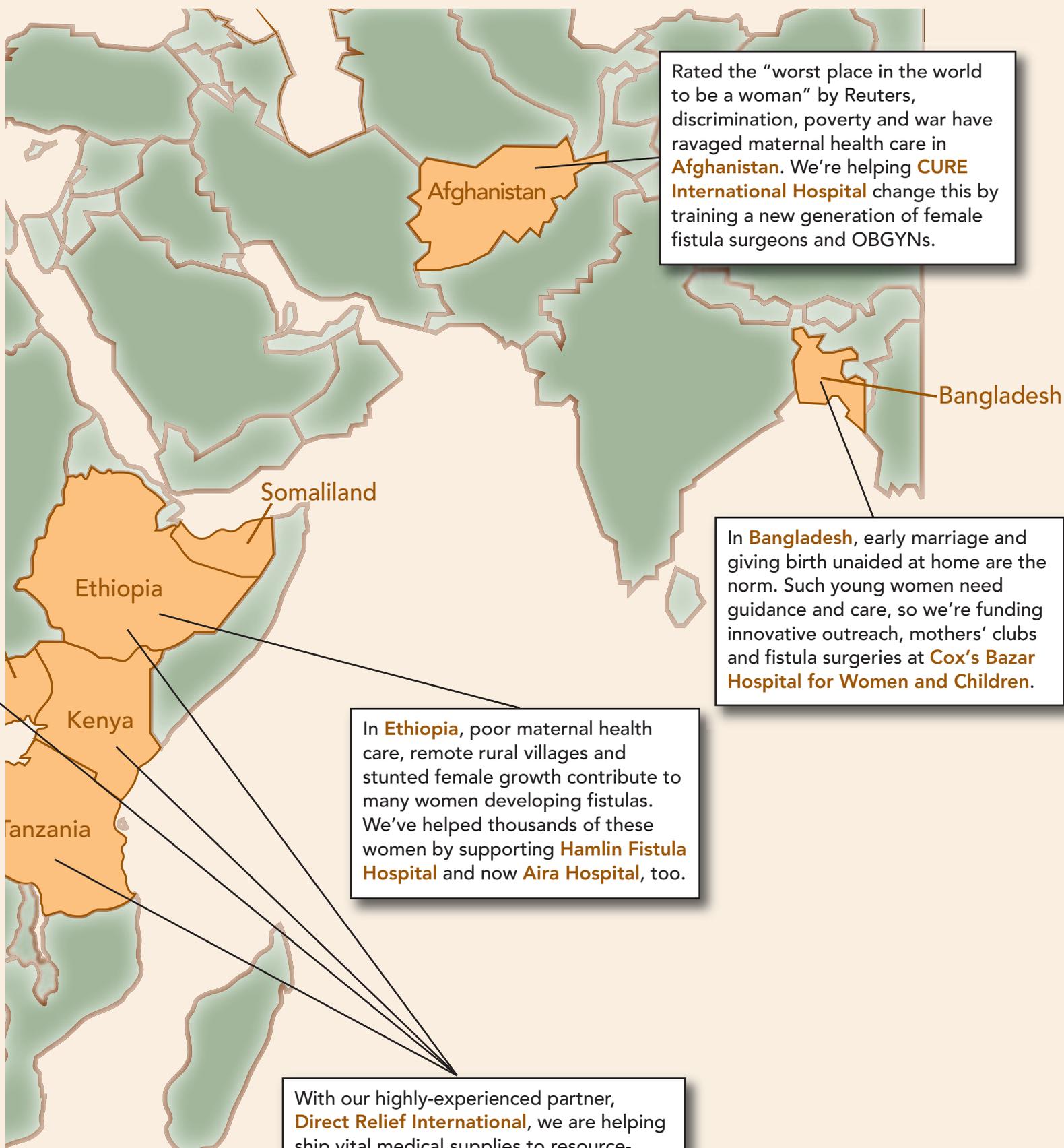
# Our Global Reach is Expanding...

 Countries supported by the Fistula Foundation in 2010



Working closely with our innovative partner, **Women and Health Alliance International**, we are helping build capacity across several, high-risk countries in **West Africa** by equipping and funding operating theaters to meet huge local needs for fistula surgeries.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, considered the "rape capital" of the world and one of the poorest, most violent countries, fistulas are widespread. We are helping hero-doctor **Denis Mukwege** treat hundreds of damaged women at **Panzi Hospital** in the war-torn east.



Rated the “worst place in the world to be a woman” by Reuters, discrimination, poverty and war have ravaged maternal health care in **Afghanistan**. We’re helping **CURE International Hospital** change this by training a new generation of female fistula surgeons and OBGYNs.

**Bangladesh**

In **Bangladesh**, early marriage and giving birth unaided at home are the norm. Such young women need guidance and care, so we’re funding innovative outreach, mothers’ clubs and fistula surgeries at **Cox’s Bazar Hospital for Women and Children**.

In **Ethiopia**, poor maternal health care, remote rural villages and stunted female growth contribute to many women developing fistulas. We’ve helped thousands of these women by supporting **Hamlin Fistula Hospital** and now **Aira Hospital**, too.

With our highly-experienced partner, **Direct Relief International**, we are helping ship vital medical supplies to resource-starved fistula projects in **Ethiopia, Liberia, Somaliland, Tanzania** and **Uganda** as well as **Western Kenya** where we also fund many fistula surgeries.

# Our Global Mission

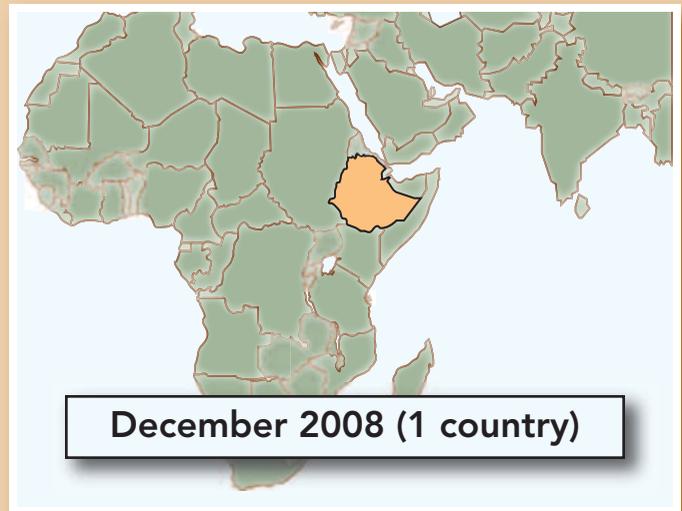
In February 2009 the Foundation broadened its mission to support fistula treatment globally. The very troubling reality is that fistula is prevalent wherever women delivering babies lack emergency obstetric care. The majority of women in sub-Saharan Africa and in Southern Asia give birth at home without a trained attendant. The result is not only high levels of maternal mortality, but also devastating maternal injuries. The most serious and debilitating of all childbirth injuries is obstetric fistula. It was the recognition of the profound need for fistula treatment in countries and communities outside Ethiopia that led to our new strategy to fight fistula globally.

## We Work with the Best

We adopted an ‘invitation only’ grant-making strategy that allows us to work with the best providers yielding proven results. As a result, we now have a strong track record of identifying, assessing and partnering with the most respected, productive and effective hospitals and dedicated local doctors. We’ve also targeted regions — such as the Congo and Afghanistan — where we know there is a dramatic need for reproductive health services for women.

## Helping More Women in More Places

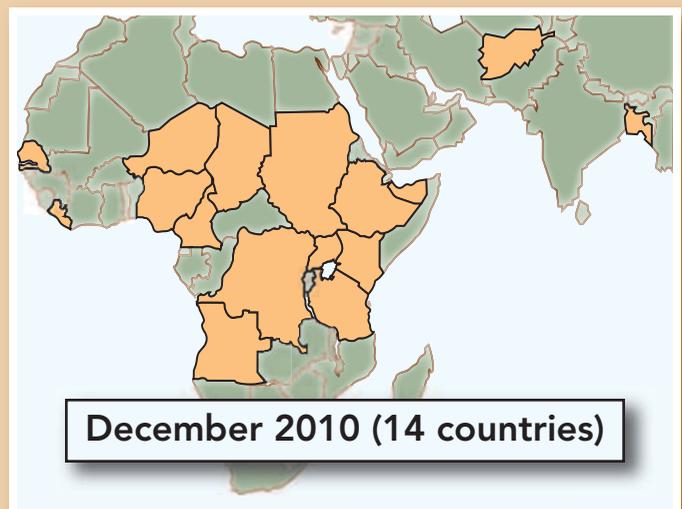
By the close of 2010 we were advancing fistula treatment in 14 countries. The net result of our efforts is a dramatic increase in the number of women we are helping. None of this would be possible without generous donor support.



Ethiopia



Afghanistan, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Liberia, Kenya, Somaliland, Tanzania



Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somaliland, Tanzania, Uganda

# Fistula Foundation 2010 Grantees

The following organizations received funding from the Fistula Foundation during Fiscal Year 2010, January 1 to December 31, 2010. These organizations are located in regions where fistula treatment is critically needed.

The Fistula Foundation could not do the work of supporting fistula treatment and prevention without the participation and support of our nonprofit partners **Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA)** and **Direct Relief International (DRI)**. Both organizations strengthen the Foundation's ability to treat more women each year.

Grantee	Location	Project
Hamlin Fistula Hospitals, Addis Ababa and Harar Fistula Center	Ethiopia	Treatment
Panzi Hospital	Democratic Republic of Congo	Treatment
Central Maternity Hospital <sup>⌘</sup> and Niamey National Hospital Fistula Pavilion <sup>⌘</sup>	Niger	Treatment
National Borama Fistula Hospital	Somaliland	New facilities and equipment
Nyanza Regional Hospital <sup>⌘</sup>	Kenya	Treatment
Johns Hopkins Obstetric Fistula Study	Ethiopia	Research
Central Evangelical Medical Center	Angola	Treatment
CURE International Hospital	Afghanistan	Training and patient recruitment
University Teaching Hospital <sup>⌘</sup>	Cameroon	Treatment
Kedougou Hospital <sup>⌘</sup>	Senegal	New facilities and equipment
Hope Foundation	Bangladesh	Treatment and patient recruitment
Direct Relief International	Multiple sites including Liberia, Tanzania and Uganda	Medical supplies
Family Life Center Fistula Hospital	Nigeria	Treatment
Aira Mission Hospital	Ethiopia	Treatment
Edna Adan Maternity Hospital <sup>⌘</sup>	Somaliland	New facilities and equipment

<sup>⌘</sup> - With Women and Health Alliance International

<sup>⌘</sup> - With Direct Relief International



## Cox's Bazar Hospital for Women and Children

So many girls and women suffer from obstetric fistula in Bangladesh. But reaching them is challenging because most of these women lead isolated lives. They do not work outside the home, go to market or appear in any public place. Women rarely leave their village except to visit family in another village. Opportunities to reach these women are limited, because outsiders are not easily allowed in these places. Thanks to outreach and awareness activities organized by local village mothers' clubs, Cox's Bazar Hospital for Women and Children is treating more women than ever before. In a trusting atmosphere, women feel comfortable enough to come forward if they are suffering. Thanks to donations to the Fistula Foundation, we are funding this innovative awareness-raising campaign and women's fistula surgeries at this hospital. Many more women are receiving life-changing care.



This hospital is helping more women than ever before, because there is now a way for women to come forward for treatment.



Hospital doctors and staff observe a visiting expert performing a fistula surgery.



“My experience with the Fistula Foundation has been nothing short of extraordinary. Our partnership has opened a new opportunity for us to serve many unfortunate women who are suffering from this dreaded condition. We want to help restore their lives, free them from shame and embarrassment. We want them to lead happy lives again. There is a tremendous need here in Bangladesh. And we hope to have a long and rewarding partnership with the Fistula Foundation in years to come.”

~ Iftikher Mahmood, MD, FAAP, President,  
Hope Foundation for Women and Children Executive Board

# Hamlin Fistula Hospitals

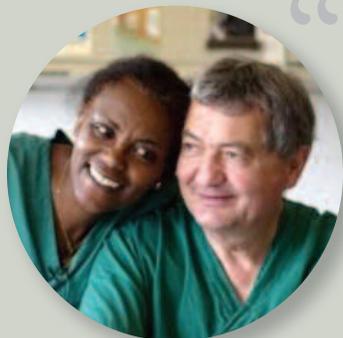
The Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital is the oldest and largest fistula treatment hospital in the world. In 2010, the Foundation was the largest financial supporter of this pioneering facility. During the last six years, the Hospital has expanded dramatically from the single site in Ethiopia's capital to a network of five hospitals and a midwifery school. The network of hospitals is now called the Hamlin Fistula Hospitals, named for their dedicated founders, Dr. Catherine Hamlin and her late husband, Reginald Hamlin. Our funds have been used exclusively to pay for treatment at the main hospital in Addis Ababa and the new hospital in Harrar in Eastern Ethiopia, near the border with Somalia.



## Aira Hospital

We strive to fund treatment where it is needed, which means often working with partners in remote places. Dr. Erick Erichsen is one of those partners. His hospital, the Aira Hospital, serves an impoverished rural population in southwest Ethiopia. Dr. Erichsen was trained in fistula surgery and has worked as a surgeon in Ethiopia since 1977, serving the medical needs of a wide and diverse population. While there are charges for certain services, the fistula patients are often destitute and unable to pay even modest costs for surgery. Dr. Erichsen approached us for help. The Aira Hospital has long striven to offer free fistula surgery to all women needing treatment. We are delighted to work in partnership with Dr. Erichsen to fund all the fistula surgeries at Aira Hospital. While the hospital is small, the service it provides women in this remote area is life changing.

Dr. Catherine Hamlin surrounded by fistula patients at the hospital which bears her name. A true pioneer, Dr. Hamlin has devoted her career to restoring life to tens of thousands of Ethiopian women and has received some of the world's highest honors.



Dr. Erichsen and his wife Sennait work together at Aira Hospital.

“Most donors have their own agenda. One of the few exceptions is the Fistula Foundation, who listened to our needs for helping women with obstetric fistulas — financial support so that the hospital can guarantee these patients free surgery and other necessary treatment for free — and we got that. When it becomes known widely through the congregations that every woman with an obstetric fistula is treated for free, we will definitely see more patients coming for help. And have no doubt that fistula surgery is needed [in this region.]”

~ Erik Erichsen, MD, Senior Surgeon, Aira Hospital



## CURE International Hospital

If you are a woman delivering a baby in Afghanistan, you know that it could be a life or death event. Every thirty minutes, another Afghan woman dies during childbirth – one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. For every woman who dies, twenty survive with significant injuries such as obstetric fistula.

The CURE International Hospital in Kabul is committed to making sure more women receive life-changing care. One of the bottlenecks in Afghanistan is a severe shortage of female doctors. And strict segregation laws prohibit female patients from being treated by male health workers. The Fistula Foundation is funding the Hospital's full-time, eighteen-month competency-based fellowship training program for female surgeons in obstetrics and gynecology. Every year the program continues, more women doctors receive high-quality training and more women enduring obstetric fistula will be freed from intense and pointless suffering. Today, the Hospital's leaders have set their sights on having the CURE International Hospital earn its place as a national center for expertise in maternal child health. The Fistula Foundation hopes to foster a long-term relationship to help this Hospital reach its full potential.



An obstetric fistula patient arriving at the hospital.



Dr. Sofia Hail, Director of the Obstetric Fistula Program, and Dr. Farzana Wali both perform fistula surgeries at CURE International Hospital.

“There is a tremendous need for a center of excellence to offer training to Afghan physicians in gynecologic fistulae. I know of no better location for such a facility than the CURE Hospital.”

~ Dr. Gary David, US Army MD  
Office of the Surgeon General of Afghanistan



# Panzi Hospital

Wherever possible, we work to empower dedicated local doctors in developing countries and in regions where fistula treatment is critically needed. One such place is the Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the country's leading treatment center for victims of sexual violence. In the Congo, rape is used on a massive scale as a tool

of war. We are proud to be a major supporter of the Panzi Hospital, helping many women who suffer from fistula receive the care they need and deserve.

## Our Hero: Dr. Denis Mukwege

Panzi Hospital's founder, gynecologist Denis Mukwege, draws his strength from the indomitable spirit of his patients. In a profile article by Alex Duval Smith for *The Observer*, Dr. Mukwege explains, "When you see the determination that can exist within someone whom one has tried to destroy, you want to fight alongside them." Smith noted that on the doctor's white coat, there is a badge given to Dr. Mukwege by a Jewish organization inscribed, "Don't stand idly by." At Panzi Hospital, this is a heartfelt belief held by the community. Dr. Mukwege tells Smith, "The other morning there was a rumor that my house had been attacked. When I arrived at the Hospital, I saw three handicapped girls whom I knew because they are patients,



waiting for me. The teenagers started hugging me and saying they had heard that my life was in danger. They explained that they had come to defend me. I had tears in my eyes. These handicapped girls wanted to help me, a big burly man. This is what I feel all the time from those who come to the hospital – the desire to keep loving, to keep giving, even when someone has tried to strip you of all your dignity and values. You cannot abandon people like that.



Photo credit (top): Fistula Foundation Board member Larry William, MD; (bottom): Paula Allen / V-Day.

**“Dr. Mukwege has absolute financial integrity. He’s a superlative surgeon. He directs a resolute team of committed professionals. He commands the intense love of the entire Bukavu community (and beyond) and spends almost all of his life surgically repairing the reproductive tracts of women who have been malevolently, brutally, wantonly raped. There is no one quite like him in the entire country.”**

~ Ambassador Stephen Lewis, founder of the Stephen Lewis Foundation

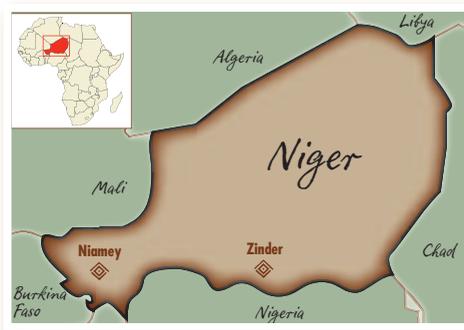
# The Power of Partnerships

There is an old African proverb that says:

***“If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others.”***

Our collaborative partnership with Women and Health Alliance International is a powerful way to go farther, and do more.

Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA), a truly stellar organization, is critical to our work. With a broad mission of improving women’s health in developing countries, WAHA has established a strong track record implementing a wide range of comprehensive projects. They undertake activities that promote women’s health in settings where the needs are greatest and advocate for greater action to be taken to promote maternal health. WAHA is an essential partner for us because they have something no other organization has – a growing network of the best fistula surgeons in the world. These expert surgeons are working in the same places where we are eager to be helping. Thanks to donations to the Fistula Foundation during 2010, WAHA’s experienced fistula surgeons and professional staff oversaw projects such as these.



Niger, one of the poorest countries in the world, has a profound need. We funded comprehensive projects to help the Central Maternity Hospital in Zinder and the Naimey National Hospital Fistula Pavilion in Niger’s capital reach their full potential. Now, not only are surgeons at these hospitals performing more fistula surgeries, they are successfully treating more complicated cases as well.



We funded equipment and supplies for an operating theater and fistula surgery training for medical staff and doctors at the University Teaching Hospital in Yaoundé. This is the country’s only fistula care center.



To help the Kedougou Regional Hospital, we funded a comprehensive project to serve an extremely remote region with few services. We funded fistula surgery training, refurbished and

equipped an operating theater, sponsored fistula surgeries for all women in need of treatment as well as their transportation costs, and funded outreach activities throughout the region.



***“The years I spent working with Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors without Borders) as a surgeon in many developing countries gave me the opportunity to see first-hand the great need that exists for medical care generally and fistula treatment specifically. At Women and Health Alliance International, we have a team of dedicated surgeons that carry out our work with direct knowledge of local conditions. We appreciate the partnership we have with the Fistula Foundation. Together, we are doing more to help women receive life-transforming care.”***

# Financial Summary

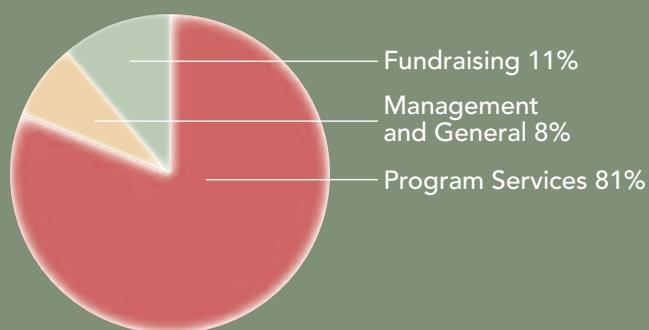
An independent audit of the Fistula Foundation by Delagnes, Mitchell & Linder, LLP attests to the absolute strength and integrity of the Fistula Foundation's financial control and reporting systems.

The Foundation's fundraising results demonstrate our ability to meet the "market test" of our new mission. Our donors responded to new opportunities to help women with increased donations. Even in the "Great Recession," 2009 and 2010 produced new fundraising high-water marks.

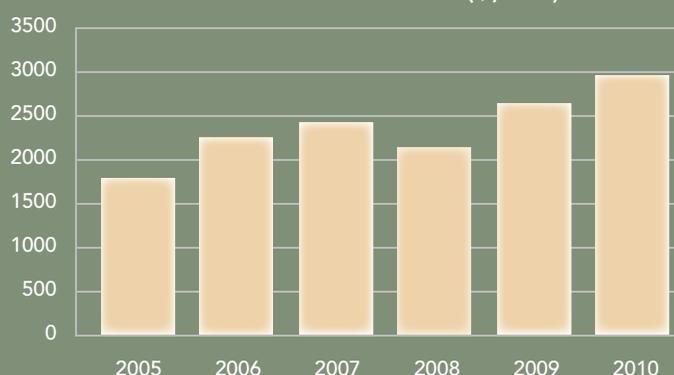
## The Fistula Foundation Statements of Activities for the Year Ended December 31, 2010

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>Revenues and support:</b>				
Contributions	2,428,366	531,809	-	2,960,175
Net Investment Income (loss)	100,836	-	-	100,836
Net Assets released from restriction for purpose	509,394	(509,394)	-	-
<b>Total revenues and support:</b>	<b>3,038,596</b>	<b>22,415</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,061,011</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
Program services	2,420,329	-	-	2,420,329
Management and general	234,904	-	-	234,904
Fundraising expense	328,527	-	-	328,527
<b>Total expenses:</b>	<b>2,983,760</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,983,760</b>
<b>Change in net assets:</b>	<b>54,836</b>	<b>22,415</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77,251</b>
Net assets at beginning of year:	4,683,944	-	32,155	4,716,099
Net assets at end of year:	4,738,780	22,415	32,155	4,793,350

### EXPENSES



### TOTAL FUNDS RAISED (\$,000)



“We take our role as financial stewards seriously. Our unofficial motto is ‘lean but never mean.’ We manage the donations you make to us with the goal of getting as much from every dollar as possible. Why? Because your donations change lives.”

~ Kate Grant, Executive Director, the Fistula Foundation

# Best Practices

## We Hold the Highest Charity Ratings

We adhere to the highest standards for financial management and are dedicated to keeping operating expenses low. Since 2006 we have earned the Better Business Bureau Seal for meeting its Standards for Charity Accountability. For the fifth consecutive year, Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator, has awarded us 4 stars for far exceeding industry standards — its highest ranking achievable. Only 5% of all U.S. charities have earned this exceptional designation, indicating that the Fistula Foundation consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way and outperforms most other charities in the U.S.



[bbb.org/charity](http://bbb.org/charity)

## Accountability

The Foundation Staff and Board work together to ensure that the organization's operations are conducted efficiently and ethically. In order to do so, the Foundation uses the following practices to ensure accountability:

**Independent Audit:** The Foundation Board has an audit committee composed of Director Members. The Committee retains an independent public accounting firm to undertake the Foundation's annual audit.

**Board Oversight and Governance:** The Board contains a group of talented individuals who are leaders in their chosen fields including three physicians, two attorneys, four existing or former non-profit leaders, and two experts in investment and finance. The Foundation's annual operating budget is reviewed in detail by the Board's Finance and Investment Committee. The budget is then reviewed and approved by its 11-member Board. In its quarterly review, the Finance Committee compares the Foundation's performance against its goals.

**Employee Compensation:** Fistula Foundation staff compensation is determined each year following the recommendations of a major nonprofit survey conducted among more than 15,000 nonprofit employees in nine counties in northern California. The Executive Director’s performance is reviewed twice a year by the Board of Directors’ Executive Committee.

**Transparency:** The Foundation makes its audited financial statements and annual tax returns (IRS Form 990) available on our website. For those without internet access, the Foundation will send copies of these documents to anyone requesting them.



“What has impressed me most about the Fistula Foundation is how relatively small sums, from an American’s financial perspective, are able to help so many women with an otherwise intractable medical problem. The Foundation may be small but its use of local, regional, and even international partners enables it to have a major effect on this otherwise hidden problem of some of this world’s most helpless women. This is why I will continue to support this organization and why I hope that you might also contribute whatever you can to aid the Fistula Foundation’s effort on behalf of these women.”

~ Larry William, MD, Fistula Foundation Board member since 2000

**“Only 5% of the charities we rate have received at least 5 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that the Fistula Foundation consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America.”**



139 Harristown Rd • Glen Rock, NJ 07452  
phone (201) 818-1288 • fax (201) 818-4694  
[www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)

February 1, 2011

Kate Grant  
The Fistula Foundation  
1900 The Alameda  
Suite 500  
San Jose, CA 95126

Dear Kate Grant:

On behalf of Charity Navigator, I wish to congratulate The Fistula Foundation on achieving our coveted 4-star rating for sound fiscal management.

As the nonprofit sector continues to grow at an unprecedented pace, savvy donors are demanding more accountability, transparency and quantifiable results from the charities they choose to support with their hard-earned dollars. In this competitive philanthropic marketplace, Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator, highlights the fine work of efficient charities such as your own, and provides donors with essential information needed to give them greater confidence in the charitable choices they make.

Based on the most recent financial information available, we have calculated a new rating for your organization. We are proud to announce The Fistula Foundation has earned our fifth consecutive 4-star rating for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. Only 5% of the charities we rate have received at least 5 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that The Fistula Foundation consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America. This “exceptional” designation from Charity Navigator differentiates The Fistula Foundation from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.

*Forbes*, *Business Week*, and *Kiplinger's Financial Magazine*, among others, have profiled and celebrated our unique method of applying data-driven analysis to the charitable sector. We evaluate ten times more charities than our nearest competitor and currently attract more visitors to our website than all other charity rating groups combined, thus making us the leading charity evaluator in America. Our irrefutable data shows that users of our site gave more than they planned to before viewing our findings, and in fact, it is estimated that last year Charity Navigator influenced over \$10 billion in charitable gifts.

We believe our service will enhance your organization's fundraising and public relations efforts. Our favorable review of The Fistula Foundation's fiscal health will be visible on our website as of February 1st.

We wish you the best in all of your charitable endeavors.

Sincerely,

Ken Berger  
President & Chief Executive Officer

## Board of Directors



*First Row, Left to Right*

**Kassahun Kebede**

Chair, Board of Directors, PANTON Capital Group  
*New York, New York*

**France Anne Donnay, MD, Ob/Gyn, MPH**

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
*Seattle, Washington*

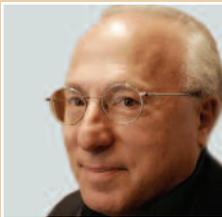


**Linda Levee Samuels**

Mesa United Way Community Volunteer (Retired)  
*Scottsdale, Arizona*

**C. Stephen Saunders, Esq.**

Saunders, Norval, Nichols & Atkins, LLP  
*Austin, Texas*



**Gerald Shefren, MD**

Stanford University School of Medicine and Stanford Hospital (Retired)  
*Stanford, California*

**Mary Tadesse**

Former Ethiopian Vice-Minister of Education and Culture (Retired)  
*Fairfax, Virginia*



**Robert Tessler, Esq.**

Toberoff, Tessler & Schochet LLP  
*New York, New York*

**Whitney Tilson**

T2 Partners LLC  
*New York, New York*



**Linda Tripp**

Vice President, World Vision Canada (Retired)  
*Mississauga, Ontario*

**Larry William, MD**

Medical Director, Pacific Partners Management Services, Inc. (Retired)  
*Foster City, California*

## Staff



**Kate Grant**

Executive Director and Member, Board of Directors  
(Ex Officio)

**Carol Brill**

Office Manager/Administrative Assistant



**Shaun Church**

Program Advisor

**Anne Ferguson**

Operations Director



**Sharon Howe**

Director of Donor Relations

**Melissa Johnson**

Development Director

These well-respected corporate, nonprofit, and media partners provide significant support to the Fistula Foundation, greatly strengthening our ability to treat more women each year.



Since 1948, Direct Relief International (DRI) has worked to improve the quality of life for people in need. DRI focuses on health by providing essential material resources to locally run health programs in poor areas around the world and during times of disaster. Since 2003, DRI has worked with the Fistula Foundation to supply our grantee hospitals with essential medicines, medical supplies and equipment, including general and ob/gyn surgery kits, wheelchairs, analgesics and antibiotics.



Women and Health Alliance International (WAHA) is an international non-profit, nongovernmental organization based in France founded by Her Highness Sheikha Shamsa bint Hamdan Al-Nahyan of the United Arab Emirates, with the goal of addressing maternal and neonatal health in disadvantaged communities throughout the world. Her Highness has a longstanding commitment to women's causes and believes that "no woman should die while bringing new life into the world or suffer needlessly for the rest of her life due to a lack of appropriate medical care." WAHA implements a wide range of activities to promote women's health, and advocates for increased action to be taken to reduce maternal deaths. The Fistula Foundation works in close partnership with our WAHA colleagues, whose experienced surgeons and staff oversee a range of initiatives promoting women's health in regions where obstetric fistula treatment is critically needed.



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is spearheading a global Campaign to End Fistula, the first-ever to address this issue. The long-term goal is to make fistula as rare in developing areas as it is in industrialized countries today. The campaign seeks to raise awareness about fistula and the importance of emergency obstetric care, determine the needs in each country, and expand services for prevention and treatment. A partnership with such organizations as the Fistula Foundation is the cornerstone of the campaign and making motherhood safer for all women is at the very heart of UNFPA's mandate.



Johnson & Johnson is the world's most comprehensive and broadly based manufacturer of health care products and provider of related services. Johnson & Johnson has been a loyal and generous donor to the Fistula Foundation since 2001. No company in the world has done more to prevent and treat fistula than Johnson & Johnson.



Google, the world's largest search engine, has been a generous in-kind contributor to the Fistula Foundation since 2007, providing free advertising to our organization. More than 10,000 new potential friends are finding us every month through Google searches by clicking on free Google AdWords. It is one of the most powerful ways that people find out about our work.

# Thank You for Supporting Our Work in so Many Ways During 2010

## Charitable Donations

The gift of dignity is priceless. We are so deeply grateful to the thousands of friends — old and new — who made life-changing charitable donations to help women suffering from obstetric fistula.

## Tribute Gifts

Throughout 2010, hundreds of supporters did something very special. They made a donation to the Fistula Foundation as a special way to honor someone they love — a mother, grandmother, wife, sister or good friend. In appreciation, we were delighted to send a unique Dignity Gift item to these donors or their loved ones.

## Memorial Gifts

We are sincerely grateful to all who chose to honor the memory of a loved one in 2010 by making a charitable donation to the Fistula Foundation. These thoughtful contributions helped many women receive a most beautiful gift — their bodies repaired, their lives restored, and their families and children benefitted as well. Many lives have been touched and changed forever thanks to these very special contributions.

## Love-A-Sister

During 2010, hundreds of individuals made the personal decision to help by making a one-time donation of \$450 or a monthly donation of \$37.50 to cover the cost for one woman's free, safe obstetric fistula surgery. During the holidays and throughout the year, many supporters made Love-A-Sister donations as tribute gifts to honor someone they love and to celebrate special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and motherhood. We find that deeply touching. Nothing could be better than sharing the satisfaction this donation brings with someone close to you.

## Circle of Friends Volunteer Ambassadors

Throughout the year, and around the world, people who want to do something more to help us are organizing small fundraising and informational events (and a few larger ones). People learn more about obstetric fistula and donations come in as a result. The collective results are making a big impact. To our incredible Circle of Friends volunteer ambassadors, and to all who support them, warmest thanks.

## Local Volunteers

Local volunteers help us keep our expenses down by providing a couple of hours of their time at our San Jose office for hands-on assistance assembling outreach projects during our busiest times of year — the winter holidays and prior to Mother's Day. We know your time is precious, and we're so very grateful for your support!



No one is more generous than Jerry Goldstein (at left). Jerry has been volunteering weekly at the Foundation since 2005. Days when Jerry is helping at the Foundation are always brighter.

# Meet a Few of Our Champions

What motivates a person to become a champion of obstetric fistula? A book? A conversation with a friend? A documentary film? All of these things. And something even more powerful — an inner voice that whispers, “This is tragic. I have to do something.”



**Eva Hausman** decided to be a part of change through the Fistula Foundation’s Circle of Friends program. Eva sent an e-mail asking her friends and loved ones to each contribute at least \$20. In a short time, Eva had raised \$10,000. Impressed with her efforts, Nicholas Kristof featured her story in his special Mother’s Day column for the *New York Times*. On behalf of the many women you have helped, deepest thanks, Eva.



Former Marine Officer **Kit Brazier, his wife Lorraine and their faithful Golden Retriever, Rascal**. One day, he hopes to completely fund a new medical clinic devoted to fistula treatment in the next most important region in Africa. Kit shares, “I am a prostate cancer survivor and am incontinent. This gives me great sensitivity to the women who are suffering from fistula.” We are so grateful and deeply touched.



“I was particularly struck by how fistula embodies the global problem of what women, and people, face as a result of being born a ‘have not,’ as opposed to being a ‘have’ in our world. I am impressed by the integrity of how the organization is managed and also by the amount of work the Foundation does given how small it is - a staff of only four people! I look forward to continuing to support this organization financially and creatively, and to feeling proud to be associated with it.” **Eleanor Dubinsky**, artist/performer and Fistula Foundation supporter.



Nurse midwives and friends **Sandra Wilkinson (left) and Ginny Gladwin (right)** know more than most about the beauty of childbirth and also the potential complications. In 2010, Sandra hosted a dinner with a great steel band and silent auction in Thousand Oaks, California. Her invitation said simply “Please Help.” Indeed, this is just what Sandra and her friends did. They raised \$10,000, twice what Sandra expected, to give young girls and women back their lives and dignity.



**Mame Templeton** wanted to do something to help. “When I heard about how these women suffer, I just had to do something,” she said. Mame certainly did something – something very special. On a glorious fall Sunday afternoon in 2010, **Mame and members of Investing Women** hosted a gathering at the Washington D.C. Ethical Society. In addition to viewing the Emmy award-winning film, “A Walk to Beautiful,” Foundation Executive Director Kate Grant gave a talk and engaged in a lively and

informed discussion with participants who collectively contributed more than \$7,000 to support our work.



Photos credit: WAHA International

Thanks to donations to the Fistula Foundation, this all-terrain ambulance vehicle designed by our partner Women and Health Alliance International transports patients where no paved roads exist in Senegal's Kedougou region.



*The Mission of the Fistula Foundation is to raise awareness of and funding for fistula treatment, prevention, and educational programs worldwide.*

THE FISTULA FOUNDATION  
1900 The Alameda, Suite 500, San Jose, CA 95126-1427  
Ph: 408-249-9596 | Fax: 408-244-7328  
info@fistulafoundation.org | www.fistulafoundation.org | Tax ID: 77-0547201

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