The Florence Nightingale International Foundation received record-breaking support at its Biennial Fundraising Luncheon in Melbourne, Australia, raising over $20,000 in on-site pledges, as well as the generous sponsorship of the Luncheon by Pfizer. The event also established a record in attendance with 450 participants. Proceeds from the Luncheon go towards the FNIF's Girl Child Education Fund which is currently supporting 155 orphaned daughters of nurses in primary and secondary school.

Guest speaker Mastisela Mhlanga of Swaziland replaced GCEF Ambassador Sheila Tlou, who was unable to attend the event. Mr Mhlanga’s heartfelt speech touched everyone at the Luncheon and brought home the true purpose of the GCEF and how it changes the lives of the girls as well as the nurses in Africa. Paula Decola, Senior Director, External Medical Affairs, Pfizer, Inc. also addressed the Luncheon guests, speaking of the changes she has seen as a result of the project.

David Benton, ICN and FNIF Chief Executive Officer, expressed his gratitude for the donations, saying, “Pfizer has been a long-time supporter of the Girl Child Education Fund and we are incredibly grateful for their loyalty and generosity to this important project. I would also like to thank all those participants who opened their hearts and their wallets to help keep these girls in school.”
GCEF Coordinators meet in Kenya

The GCEF Coordinators’ workshop took place in Nairobi, Kenya this year. It was highlighted by an emotional and inspirational event celebrating the graduates of the Kenya GCEF. The special celebration organised by Kenya GCEF Coordinator Faith Mbehero and the National Nurses Association of Kenya, brought together 26 of the Kenya GCEF graduates from across the country, along with guardians, family members, nurse volunteers and representatives of the ministries of education and health.

The graduates used the event to launch the first ever GCEF graduates network, which aims to build long lasting friendship and connections among GCEF alumnae and support for GCEF beneficiaries currently in the programme.

The GCEF Coordinators workshop is funded by Pfizer and provides an annual opportunity for the four in country GCEF Coordinators to come together for capacity building, problem solving and skill sharing.

Nokero Solar Lamps – a winning story

The GCEF not only supports the education of girls through funds, it also covers other needs to help girls make the most of their education. One such need is access to clean, reliable light – to study and do homework by and to enhance personal security. Many GCEF girls either have no electricity at home to provide lighting by which to study, or use candles or kerosene lamps which cause eye and respiratory problems due to the smoke. Thanks to the GCEF, a donation of Nokero solar bulbs was provided to ensure that every girl in the project had access to a reliable and healthy light source.

In Kenya, bulbs were also given to girls living and attending school in the inner city Kibera neighborhood, which is off the electrical grid.

An evaluation of the solar-lighting initiative presented at the ICN Congress this year showed that for both the GCEF and Kibera girls the average study time after school was much longer post-solar bulb introduction and homework increasingly completed on time. This was particularly true for those girls without any access to electricity at home or at school, with study time increasing by up to five-fold. Average grades also improved remarkably after solar bulbs were introduced.

The solar light provided an additional bonus for the girls’ families, lighting the way for other children in the home and neighbourhood to study or for the family to care for livestock.

In Kenya, bulbs were also given to nurses working in rural clinics, with limited access to electricity, giving a very positive impact. Here is what one nurse had to say: “I have been referring women seeking delivery services at night but now I can conduct a delivery safely because I don’t worry about poor light if I need to stitch a mother post-delivery.”

“\textit{The bulb has helped me complete my homework on time. It has helped me do my studies at home. May God bless you more and if possible add us some more bulbs.}”

Betty, Form 4

“\textit{It’s amazing this small bulb has enough light and it helps me see properly. My grades in school have improved}.”

Alice, Class 6

“\textit{My eyes are now well because I no longer use the candles to study. Thank you very much and may God bless you.}”

Pauline, Form 2
New Mobile Library delivered to nurses in Gabon

Nurses in Gabon were delighted to receive a ICN/MSD Nursing Mobile Library, donated by the Secrétariat international des infirmières et infirmiers de l’espace francophone (SIDIEF); l’Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec, the Hospital of the University of Montreal and the International Francophone Network for the Promotion of Health. An innovative resource bringing up-to-date health information to nurses working in remote areas of developing countries, the Library contains approximately 90 nursing and health publications including books, manuals and fact sheets.

Kirsten Stallknecht donates prize money to GCEF

Kirsten Stallknecht, former President of the International Council of Nurses, the Danish Nurses Organisation and the Nordic Nurses Federation, who was awarded the 2013 Christiane Reimann prize at the ICN Congress in Melbourne, has generously donated half the prize money to the Girl Child Education Fund. Named after the ICN’s first full-time Executive Secretary, the Christiane Reimann Prize recognises outstanding nursing achievement and is known all over the world as nursing’s most prestigious international award. Stallknecht was awarded the prestigious prize for her enthusiasm and passion for nursing and her encouragement of nurses around the world to strive for excellence in nursing. She donated the rest of the money to the ground foundation of the Danish Nursing History Museum.

More information on the award and on Kirsten Stallknecht can be found on the Danish Nursing Organisation’s website: www.dsr.dk/Artikler/Sider/Fag/Internationalt/ChristianeReimann/Kirsten-Stallknecht-receives-the-Christiane-Reimann-prize-2013.aspx

Florence Bear presented to People’s Choice Award winner

Dr Lindsay Smith of the University of Tasmania’s School of Nursing and Midwifery teaches a course on project management for health professionals to postgraduate students from across Australia, 90% of whom are registered nurses. Every year, at their Annual Showcase of Project Proposals, students vote on the People’s Choice Award for the Most Fascinating Project Poster. This year the winner of the People’s Choice Award is Meg Lane, pictured here, who was delighted to receive a Florence Nightingale Teddy bear. The Florence bear is sold in support of the Girl Child Education Fund.
Flight for Every Mother

Flight for Every Mother (FEM) is an innovative project which raises awareness about maternal health, particularly in sub-Saharan African countries furthest from reaching the Millennium Development Goals related to maternal and child health (MDGs 4 and 5). Directed by obstetrician and pilot Dr Sophia Webster, the all-female team is en-route from Cape Town to England via 23 African countries. The Girl Child Education Fund is one of seven charities selected to benefit from FEM.

Along the way, Sophia and her team have been hosted by representatives of ICN’s member NNAs, Wellness Centres and GCEF Coordinators in Kenya, Lesotho, Swaziland and Uganda. They also organised programmes and opportunities for the Flight for Every Mother to raise awareness about maternal health with the public and health policy stakeholders. In Swaziland she also met with GCEF graduates at a special luncheon organised by the Swaziland Wellness Centre.

Pictured above is Dr Sophia Webster with three of the GCEF graduates, staff from the Swaziland Wellness Centre and representatives from the Swaziland Ministry of Health in Mbabne.

From left to right: Jeremiah Mainah, NNA-Kenya President; Dr Sophia Webster; Winnie Shena, NNA-Kenya Deputy President; and Claire, a daughter of a nurse currently on internship at the NNA-Kenya Secretariat.

If you would like to support the Florence Nightingale International Foundation and the Girl Child Education Fund, please make a donation at www.icn.ch/shop/en/8-donations.html. FNIF also sincerely thanks everyone who supported the GCEF through the purchase of a Florence Nightingale teddy bear. If you would like to give the Florence Nightingale teddy bear as a gift for the holidays, we encourage you to get your orders in early at www.gcefbear.com

FNIF thanks its most generous donors in 2013

We are pleased to present our most generous donors this year. In particular, we would like to thank the many Australian nurses who donated to the cause through the Australian College of Nursing’s Nursing and Health Expos, which are specifically dedicated to enhancing the profile of nursing as a profession and promoting recruitment to and retention of the nursing and midwifery workforce in Australia.

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- American Nurses Credentialling Centre
- Australian College of Nursing
- National Council of State Boards of Nursing Inc. (NCSBN)
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