



Woodland for Women Worldwide

Spring 2011

Points of Interest:

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“Investing in girls and women is likely to prevent inter-generational cycles of poverty and yield high economic and societal returns.”

—Ban Ki Moon

Somaly Mam to Attend the Run for a Revolution!



Somaly Mam was named one of TIME Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People (2009), a CNN Hero (2007), and Glamour Magazine’s Woman of the Year (2006). To her list of many awards, Somaly Mam will now be able to add the Woodland for Women Worldwide Heroine Award for 2011! Last year’s

recipient AnnaLynne McCord, star of 90210 and anti-trafficking activist, will present Somaly Mam with the award.

Somaly Mam, author of *The Road of Lost Innocence*, is one of the inspirations behind Woodland for Women Worldwide. At 12 years old Somaly was sold into sexual slavery. On a daily basis, she was horribly tortured and raped for the next ten years of her life.

As Angelina Jolie wrote for TIME Magazine, “But Mam was able to escape. With the help of an aid worker from France, she fled Cambodia in 1993.

The fact that she escaped makes her unique, but what makes her truly extraordinary is that she went back. While, understandably, most people would spend the rest of their lives quietly

recovering from their wounds, Mam decided to confront the system that continues to victimize Cambodian girls. Most people would have walked away. Mam continues to fight back so that others can be spared the pain she once suffered.”

Woodland for Women Worldwide members hold Somaly Mam in the highest esteem for her bravery, compassion, and in-



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Woodland for Women Worldwide Attends Vital Voices Global Leadership Awards

In recognition of our commitment to improving the lives of women around the world, Woodland for Women Worldwide was invited to attend the Vital Voices Global Leadership Awards On April 12, 2011. The awards ceremony was the organization’s 10th anniversary celebration of recognizing women around the world for their leadership in the areas of hu-

man rights advancement, political participation, and economic empowerment.

Vital Voices Global Partnership was established in 1997 by then First Lady, Hillary Clinton and Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright. Its mission is “to identify, invest in and bring visibility to extraordinary women around the world by unleashing their leadership

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Woodland for Women Worldwide attended the 10th Annual Vital Voices Global Leadership Awards April 12, 2011.



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“One woman can change anything, many women can change everything.”

—Christine Karumba,
Women for Women International

potential to transform lives and accelerate peace and prosperity in their communities.”

Four senior student representatives of Woodland for Women Worldwide, Chloe Flanagan, Amanda Gagne, Alyssa Klancic and Shipojn Rifati were selected to attend the ceremony in Washington, DC. In reference to the night’s honorees Secretary of State Clinton stated, “Now, each hail from different cultures and parts of the world. But they share important values and attributes. They each look for ways to make systemic change – to lift the lives of thousands, even millions of people. They each have paid a price for their work in arrests or abuse or ridicule, insults, and isolation. Their courage has inspired others to stand with them despite the risks and the consequences – to believe in the possibil-

ity of a better future and their own ability to help build it.”

The students listened to inspirational women from India, Afghanistan, Cameroon, Burma and Israel. The honorees championed women’s rights by fighting human trafficking, bridging cultural barriers, promoting economic independence for women as well as new political advancements. It was inspiring to hear the stories from around the globe that resonate Woodland for Women Worldwide’s mission.

In addition to the Vital Voices ceremony, the students were invited to a chat on Capitol Hill with Connecticut Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro. Congresswoman DeLauro spent a very personable half hour listening attentively as Alyssa, Amanda, Shipojn, and Chloe talked about

their work with Woodland for Women Worldwide and shared their future plans and aspirations. Congresswoman DeLauro then talked about her experiences on a recent trip to Afghanistan and encouraged them as young women to take advantage of internship opportunities and continue taking on leadership positions.



Congresswoman DeLauro’s Office

(L-R) Lisa Olivere, Shipojn Rifati, Chloe Flanagan, Congresswoman DeLauro, Alyssa Klancic, Amanda Gagne, Deb Flaherty



CAMFED

Camfed, or the Campaign for Female Education, seeks to “fight poverty and HIV/AIDS in Africa by educating girls and empowering women to become leaders of change.” Their goal “is to improve the lives of two million children by 2013.” Camfed is well on its way to their goal—since its founding 1993 they have provided education to 1,451,600 children.

In addition, Camfed has provided scholarships for 47,810 girls to go to high school, trained 4,878 teacher mentors

and helped 1,027 young women go to college.

Research shows that when girls in Africa are educated, she will earn 25% more money and invests 90% of her earnings in her family. An educated girl is three times less likely to contract AIDS, and she will have fewer children that are healthier with a 40% better chance of living past the age of five.

Consider the story of Yactina, a 13 year old domestic servant from Tanzania. She worked 18 hours a day for 13 dollars per month. Camfed is now support-

ing her throughout secondary school. When she graduates, she hopes to get a job so she can then send her younger siblings to school, so they don’t have to work like she did.



“I couldn’t wait for the day to come when I could go and study.”

