

April 2010

Girls in Action Expands Internationally to Guatemala



In March 2010, the Girls in Action Project based in Minneapolis, Minnesota and founded by Dr. Verna Cornelia Price expanded internationally into Guatemala in partnership with a girls program called "[Asociacion de Superacion Educativa](#)" where 100 Guatemalan girls and their mothers, and 20 local women leaders were impacted.



Dr. Verna Price accompanied by her husband, Brother Shane Price and oldest son, Justice Cameron, was hosted in Guatemala City, Guatemala by Lucrecia de Godoy founder of "Asociacion de Superacion Educativa" (above). The partnership between the two organizations was initiated and photo documented by Photographer and Visionary Leader, [Nancy Chakrin](#) of Minnetonka, MN who connected the two unique women leaders in 2009. Nancy states, "Both Dr. Price and Ms. Godoy are phenomenal, inspirational leaders and change agents. When I learned about each of their organizations and missions, I knew they had to meet. "

The week's visit to Guatemala was filled with amazing times of teaching, learning and connecting with the Guatemalan girls and their mothers, women leaders, and community leaders. The project began with Dr. Verna Price's first book "The Power of People: Four Kinds of People Who Can Change Your Life", the main text used in the Girls in Action Curriculum, being translated into Spanish and shipped to Guatemala where all 100 girls of "Asociacion de Superacion Educativa" read and studied in preparation for her upcoming visit.

In addition, [Sheryl VanderPol](#) of Plymouth, MN worked with a group of Girls in Action participants from Minneapolis (Photo on left with our girl locating Guatemala) to start creating a mural. Dr. Price states, "We are asking our girls in Minneapolis and Guatemala, to explore the question of what does it mean to be a positive, powerful and purposeful women in your world. How can you use the leadership skills learned from Girls in Action to explore your rights and create positive change in yourself, community, country and world?" Sheryl VanderPol then joined Dr. Verna in Guatemala to work with the girls on the mural.



(Photo Dr. Verna with Guatemalan girls & completed mural)

According to Lucrecia de Godoy founder of "Asociacion de Superacion Educativa", "The response to Dr. Verna and the Girls in Action Project has greatly impacted our Guatemalan girls, their families and communities. Dr. Verna has truly taught, inspired, and empowered our girls and mothers to find and use their personal power so that they will continue to pursue education, and create positive changes not only in their villages, and communities but in all of Guatemala!"



In Guatemala, the project kicked off with a conference at the Barceló Hotel in Guatemala City where Dr. Verna delivered a full day Girls in Action workshop to about 200 people which included 100 girls and their mothers, women and community leaders. The girls were not only inspired by the conference but many of the mothers were literally moved to tears as they learned for themselves the importance of understanding and using your personal power. Dr. Verna also facilitated a three day Girls in Action “Train the Trainers” for a group of 30 girls and women leaders (*photo below*) who were responsible for studying the Girls in Action Curriculum and learning how to integrate it into their work with all of the Guatemalan girls.



Dr. Verna was moved by the commitment of the Guatemalan girls and their mothers to learn how to infuse the lessons and core principles in the Girls in Action Project into their lives. The days she spent in the actual communities where the girls live was most impactful as she witnessed the tremendous challenges that our girls in Guatemala must overcome to stay enrolled in and finish high school. Despite their life’s conditions and circumstances, she boldly told them exactly what she consistently tells our girls in Minneapolis, “I expect you to stop fighting, come to school regularly, get good grades, graduate on time without having a baby first and go to college!” and the Guatemalan girls and mothers all cheered!

Girls in Action™ (GIA) is a weekly project that extends throughout the school year and is integrated into the regular school day. The project is an innovative four tiered program that strives to decrease and prevent violence among urban high school girls while positively reengaging them in academics and leadership.

Four Minneapolis Locations

1. Washburn High School
2. North High School
3. Roosevelt High School
4. Patrick Henry High School

Vision: To decrease and preven violence among high school girls while reengaging them in academics and leadership.

Mission: To motivate, empower, and educate girls about the importance of understanding their personal power, achieving academically, actualizing their personal leadership, creating positive social change in the local community and developing a career plan that includes post-secondary education.

Girls in Action™ is a project of *The Power of People Leadership Institute*, a 501c3 non-profit established to help empower people to personal excellence.

GIA Key Partnerships

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| The Minneapolis Public Schools | Achieve! Minneapolis |
| EJ Henderson Foundation | Northside YMCA |
| Youth are Here Bus | Local Community Organizations |
| Local Universities and Colleges | Corporate Partnerships |
| Girl Scouts of Minnesota & Wisconsin River Valleys | |

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at Park Tavern in St. Louis Park, MN

Sign up to bowl as a team or as an individual.
Registration fee: \$200/team or \$50/bowler

Various shifts available from 10:00am – 7:30pm

To register, or for more information, contact:

Kathy Anlauf
612-281-6959
anlaufk@aol.com

*all proceeds will benefit **Girls in Action™**