



Contact: Melissa Bitter  
Phone: 888-677-0101 x756  
Cell: 630-335-6515  
Email: [melissa@opp-llc.com](mailto:melissa@opp-llc.com)  
Website: [www.opp-llc.com](http://www.opp-llc.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Fundraising Efforts Underway Supporting Dageno Girls Center**

*Nearly two scholarships result from first fundraiser ... Executive Director Andie Trotter arrives in Annapolis tonight!*

**Annapolis, MD, December 15, 2015** – A simple dinner party turned into a prosperous fundraiser with \$900 collected to help the Dageno Girls Center in Tanzania triple enrollment next year.

Members of the First Church of Oberlin, in Oberlin, OH were moved by the presentation made by Julia Slocum and the wares she brought back from the Center to sell. With costs to house, educate, feed and provide basic healthcare for the 10-month school year at \$650 each, the quiet dinner party changed the lives of at least one future student.

Slocum is a school mate and friend of Dageno Executive Director Andie Trotter. Trotter founded the Center with friends and family donations in 2011 and has been working without pay since then. In 2014, 80% of her funds came from Annapolis-based St. Margaret's Episcopal Church and Outreach Process Partners, LLC (OPP).

“When we saw Andie’s 2014 report, we realized she needed help so a Tiger Team of St. Margaret’s parishioners have been meeting weekly since September at my house, brainstorming ways to help Andie and the girls,” said Janice Roper-Graham, President of OPP, adding: “I can’t wait to meet this amazing woman.”



**Handmade jewelry and other items created by the students the Dageno Girls Center**

Trotter arrives in Annapolis tonight (Tuesday 12/15). Tiger Team members Bill Saur and Sue Synder, both of Annapolis, succeeded in getting her meetings with World Vision and USAID on Thursday.

Trotter is seeking help to expand the school from 50 to 120 girls in the Spring (the waiting list is 300 girls). The school also needs solar power, water catchment and reliable internet access.

The Tiger Team and OPP staff have put together a fundraiser at St. Margaret’s Church in Annapolis on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-3:00 pm. Dubbed “Christmas Shopping for Good,” the fundraiser will feature wares made by the girls, silent auction items and local vendors who will be giving a portion of their sales to Dageno. The Brotherhood of St. Andrews will be cooking and selling lunch and snacks with all proceeds to Dageno.

The event will also be a chance to meet the Andie Trotter, who will be presenting slides and answering questions about the Center.

-MORE-



The Center in Karatu, Tanzania offers an alternative for adolescent girls in the surrounding villages who are at high risk of early marriage, teenage motherhood, HIV infection, and exploitative pathways in life.

In 2014, a 14-year old girl ran away from home because she was being forced to marry a local drunk and her father would have killed her if she refused. She walked six days to reach the Center. Trotter gave up her office in the five-bedroom school house for this girl and other girls in crisis because she did not have the heart to turn them away.

It costs approximately \$650 per girl to cover one year of school (including housing, food, healthcare, uniforms, materials and teachers). These costs are low because Andie cultivated the tribal elders for the Dageno Girls Center - demonstrating for the first time in this society that their daughters might provide more economic benefit by becoming educated vs. their “bride head” for marrying them to older men.

In the 2014-2015 school year, the school had 50 girls. In December 2015, a UK non-profit helped Trotter buy an abandoned school building and 3.5 acres in Karatu that will fit 120 girls. St. Margaret’s provided a \$15,900 grant for beds, mattresses and a “Mama” to look after the girls in the new dorm.

**Interviews available with:**

- **Andie Trotter**, Executive Director of Dageno Girls School (in area 12/16-12/20/15)
- **Janice Roper-Graham**, President Outreach Process Partners

During this past year, the Tanzanian government facing an election sought to muzzle the opposition party based in Karatu. In that time, the power and internet to city residents, including the Center, was shut down. Trotter and her teachers held classes during daylight and they spent two hours each day fetching water for her and the girls.

OPP will match all donations raised this weekend dollar-for-dollar up to \$10,000. In addition to expanding to serve more girls, OPP is hoping to raise funds for solar power, rain water capture, satellite internet and increased security to protect the Dageno girls from local thugs, Roper-Graham said.

“We’re used to it. This is normal for us,” Trotter said.

The Center’s curriculum teaches the girls English (a valuable skill because Safari tours launch from Karatu), prepares them to pass the Form 4 exam required to get a Tanzanian High School diploma, and builds their entrepreneurial skills.

-MORE-

**Dageno Girls Center Presentation**

- ◆ **Date:** Sunday, 12/20/15
- ◆ **Time:** 12:30pm to 3pm
- ◆ **Location:** St. Margaret’s Church, 1601 Pleasant Plains Rd., Annapolis, MD
- ◆ **Holiday gifts and food** available for purchase
- ◆ **Tickets** (\$10 advance, \$15 door – includes raffle tickets)  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1625954184338383/>
- ◆ **Donate Now:**  
<https://www.gofundme.com/gn66a8ak>



In groups of 10, the girls find something to sell in the market -- donuts, plants, crafts. The girls put their sales revenues into a joint bank account that they will share upon graduation. Starting a business, paying for one online college degree program that all 10 will share are just a few of the futures the girls have been imaging for themselves upon graduation from the Dageno's four-year program.



In addition to the local fundraiser, donations can be made through the Center's GoFundMe account [gofund.me/DagenoGirlsCenter](https://gofund.me/DagenoGirlsCenter).

*Outreach Process Partners (OPP) specializes in helping organizations develop and apply integrated listening and communication strategies to engage more effectively with stakeholders, partners and decision makers.*

*We take a technology-savvy approach that enables our clients to stay abreast of stakeholder views and develop tailored messaging that results in measurable achievement of our client's objectives—often at a reduced cost over what previous firms charged for similar or even less service. OPP is passionate about helping our clients' achieve their public service mission. And we are committed to giving back. OPP donates 5% of all net profits to charity.*

-MORE-



## **Annapolis Dageno Girls Center Fundraiser Donors and Vendors**

### **SILENT AUCTION & RAFFLE DONORS (as of 12/15/15)**

<b>Totally Energized</b> , Gambrills, MD	<b>Handmade Jewelry</b> , by Dr. Judith MacGregor
<b>Exuberant Yes!</b> , Annapolis, MD	<b>Center Stage</b> , Baltimore, MD
<b>KinnCare (Dr. Koloski)</b> , Arnold, MD	<b>Golf DC</b> , Washington, DC
<b>ThirtyOne</b> , (Meredith Simpkins) Gambrills, MD	<b>Pigtails &amp; Crewcuts</b> , Annapolis, MD
<b>M&amp;D Financial</b> , Annapolis, MD	<b>“A Girl With a Cape”</b> (author Amy Logan)
<b>Discovery Theater</b> , Washington, DC	<b>Abodes Well Home Inspection</b> , Annapolis, MD
<b>Franklin’s Toys</b> , Annapolis, MD	<b>“Dancing with the Moon”</b> (author Janice Roper-Graham)
<b>Giant Food Stores</b> , Annapolis, MD	<b>Outreach Process Partners, LLC</b> , Annapolis, MD

### **VENDORS**

**Premier Jewelry Designs**, Heather Mullen

**Mary Kay**, Lakeisha Barrett

**Scentsy**, Margo Parker

**Thirtyone**, Stephanie Foster

**LuLa Roe**, Nicole Moore

**DoTerra Essential Oils**, Vanessa Daniel

**Exuberant Yes!**, Nina Gallant

*Additional Donations Welcome!*