



**IWA**  
INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN  
ASSOCIATES

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Dear Friend,

The International Women Associates (IWA) will hold its annual fund-raising Gala on Friday, May 5, 2017 at the beautiful Four Seasons Hotel. Together this year IWA will be celebrating the centenary of Finland's independence and all things Finnish as we discover one of the world's pioneers in advancing women's rights. We invite you to help support IWA's mission by participating and making a contribution to the Gala

**Our Mission and Core:** Founded in 1978, IWA is the leading Chicago-area organization that connects over 500 women representing close to 60 countries through 130-plus globally inspired educational programs, activities, and special events per year. This programming promotes cultural exchange, dialogue, friendship, support, and provides community service and philanthropic outreach opportunities – all in pursuit of global understanding and universal human rights.

**Our Philanthropic and Community Service Initiatives Include:**

- 1) Partnership with George B. Swift Elementary:** IWA invests in the education of young students to become productive and engaged global citizens. We work closely with this port-of-entry school which serves low-income, multicultural, immigrant and refugee students from 55 countries speaking 65 languages and dialects. Our members volunteer as readers, tutors and mentors; and we fund educational enrichment workshops, coaching and test preparation classes; sponsor special school projects and an annual essay contest; and distribute books.
- 2) Culture in a Suitcase presentations:** IWA members visit classrooms to share their individual world cultures with Chicago Public School students in an effort to raise cross-cultural consciousness among students.
- 3) Doe Thornburg Scholarship Fund:** In honor of our founder and to encourage cultural enrichment as part of a well rounded education, IWA awards annual scholarships to female undergraduates to study abroad.
- 4) Woman Extraordinaire Award:** Since 1996, IWA has presented an annual Woman Extraordinaire Award to a woman with outstanding contribution in her field internationally, and recently started donating towards the humanitarian work our awardees undertake.

**Please consider these opportunities to support IWA** (see respective forms enclosed)

- Become a Sponsor at your chosen level: Benefactor, Partner, Sponsor, or Friend
- Place an ad or a personal tribute in the Gala Program Book
- Donate items for our Live and Silent Auctions

In addition to the exposure your contribution will receive with IWA members, friends, and partners, you will be acknowledged in the Program Book and other IWA publications.

For more information and to view the video about some of our work, please visit [www.iwachicago.org](http://www.iwachicago.org).

**If you have any questions please contact IWA at 312.263.1421 or [iwa@iwachicago.org](mailto:iwa@iwachicago.org). We look forward to your participation and support of the 2017 Gala, and would greatly appreciate your response soon, but no later than April 7, 2017.**

Warm personal regards,

IWA Member