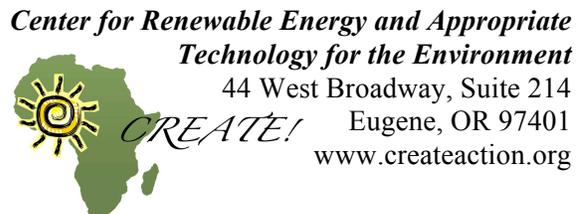


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Local NGO, *CREATE!* receives generous grant from national women’s giving circle

(Eugene, Oregon, April 1, 2013) –Thousands of women across the U.S. will come together to share food and friendship in support of the Eugene-based international non-governmental organization *CREATE!* Center for Renewable Energy and Appropriate Technology for the Environment during the month of April at meetings of the national women’s giving circle Dining for Women.

Each month Dining for Women selects one life-changing program that supports women and girls in regions such as Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia, to learn about and focus their collective giving. “Becoming a featured program is a rigorous and highly competitive process,” says Louise Ruhr, *CREATE!* Chief Operating Officer. “We are honored to have been chosen from among many worthy programs and are appreciative of the opportunities that this grant will provide for the community of Thieneba in rural Senegal.”

According to Dining for Women, *CREATE!* was selected based on the way in which its program addresses many basic needs of rural Senegalese women while focusing on environmental conservation through cooperative community gardens, clean water, improved cookstoves, and income generating reforestation efforts. With funding from Dining for Women, *CREATE!* will implement a program focused on self sufficiency for village women at the Thieneba, Senegal site.

CREATE!, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in 2008 by Eugenean Barry R. Wheeler, a former Peace Corps volunteer, international relief and development professional, and pioneer in the use of appropriate technology for sustainable rural development in sub-Saharan Africa. *CREATE!* has its international headquarters in downtown Eugene, where the organization contributes to the local economy by using locally based vendors and service providers.

CREATE!’s work abroad focuses on six rural village communities throughout Senegal. These communities are subjected to the increasingly disastrous effects of global climate change that threaten their access to water, their ability to grow sufficient food, their health, their livelihoods, their way of life, and ultimately their lives. Furthermore, the burden of climate change falls disproportionately on village women, whose daily work includes the increasingly arduous and time consuming tasks of obtaining water and firewood.

Since beginning its work in rural Senegal in May, 2010, *CREATE!* has worked with village populations to provide access to free, pure water from new and rehabilitated wells powered by solar pumps; establish community gardening cooperatives and gardening sites for raising

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vegetables and fruit and nut trees; provide training in year-round, sustainable agriculture; and train women and girls to construct fuel-efficient cook stoves made from free, local materials.

Over the next two years, Dining for Women will provide over \$50,000 in grant funds to help 358 women and girls participate in *CREATE!*'s programming in Thieneba. The total impact of this funding will ultimately impact and benefit the entire community of 1,200 people.

Dining for Women chapters will meet throughout the month of April to learn more about *CREATE!*'s vital work and the many women and girls impacted by the programs and education. To find a local Dining for Women chapter near you, contact Eugene chapter leader, Nicki Maxwell.

About *CREATE!*

CREATE! was established in 2008 with the mission of helping rural populations in the developing world cope with water, food and fuel shortages resulting from the impact of climate change on their communities.

Using a participatory approach and appropriate technologies, *CREATE!* works with communities in rural Senegal to identify and meet their needs in three primary sectors: water, food, and renewable energy. Learn more at www.createaction.org.

About Dining for Women

Dining for Women works to empower women and girls living in extreme poverty by funding programs that foster good health, education, and economic self-sufficiency and to cultivate educational giving circles that inspire individuals to make a positive difference through the power of collective giving. Their vision is to create a new paradigm for giving – collective giving on an immense scale while maintaining the intimacy of small groups with a focus on education and engaged giving. Learn more at www.diningforwomen.org.

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