

WFWP Northern California's *Gifts from the Heart* Schools of Africa Fundraiser

Myrna Lapres
December 10, 2023



The Northern California WFWP chapter held a Schools of Africa event on Sunday, December 10, 2023 at the Bay Area Family Church in San Leandro, California. Myrna Lapres gave the sermon entitled, "Gifts From The Heart" in which she spoke about the history of the founding of each of the schools in African countries that WFWP USA supports. She highlighted each school's characteristics and the demographics they serve. Quoting the words of the founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Ms. Lapres emphasized that supporting the Schools of Africa means giving from the heart to impact others positively.

"True love is the only thing people really are seeking. It transforms every sadness and pain into joy. The fallen world programs us to think that when we give something away, it is gone. In true love, however, the more we give, the more we receive. When our mindset changes from wishing to receive love, to wishing to give love, the world of peace will be at hand." Mother of Peace Memoir

As our chapter has done for the past few years, we organized an online donation website through WFWP.us where donations could be made. On Sunday, December 10, 2023 donations could be made in person. During the time of covid, a committee of WFWP members came up with the idea to offer a thank-you gift for those who donated online. Since it was a great success, we have continued the "Sweet Treats Returns" event through which WFWP members prepare baked goods that are given for each donation of \$25 or more.

This year's committee consisted of Patricia Fleischman, Monika Kellett, Hiroko Melosh and Myrna Lapres and over 25 WFWP members who donated pies, cakes, cookies, fudge, cream puffs, mochi and much more. Thus far, we have collected \$5,533.60 with the promise of several more checks. Each year, we are reminded of the desire of people to support projects that make a difference in the world.

We would like to thank everyone who contributed time and money to create opportunities for children in underserved areas of Africa.