



WORLDWIDE FISTULA FUND
HEALING WOMEN, RESTORING LIVES

Student Activism Toolkit



WorldwideFistulaFund.org

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I. Introduction

The Worldwide Fistula Fund (WFF), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in 1995 to support international medical education and research about obstetric trauma in the developing world. It is the oldest organization in the U.S. focused exclusively on this issue. The WFF provides obstetric fistula treatment and care for women in Niger, an extremely poor country in West Africa. In January 2012, we will open the Danja Fistula Center – a new hospital in the southern part of the country which will provide free fistula surgery and after-care, social reintegration services, prevention outreach, surgical training and research opportunities. Our U.S. operations are based out of executive offices in St. Louis, Missouri and Denver, Colorado.

An obstetric fistula is a hole in a woman's internal tissues that destroys her ability to "hold" her urine or feces. Caused by the pressure of the baby's head during obstructed childbirth, and compounded by lack of access to modern medical care, obstetric fistulas can vary in size and severity but all of them result in the uninterrupted flow of waste out of a woman's vagina. Terrified, ashamed and often grieving the loss of the stillborn child whose labor caused the condition, fistula sufferers are cast out of their marriages, homes and communities. They are unable to work, socialize or contribute to society in a meaningful way. Their medical condition can lead to infection, nerve damage, paralysis or even death. As one might expect, this condition is so devastating – so demoralizing – it can lead to severe depression and even suicide. Even worse? Fistulas – and their horrible aftermath – often strike the youngest mothers – 12-, 13- or 14-year-olds whose pelvises are not large enough to allow their babies through.

Depending on the degree of injury, the treatment of obstetric fistula can be relatively simple or incredibly difficult. Some women require lifelong care. Women who receive successful fistula surgeries and social reintegration services may go on to lead normal lives and have more children. With access to expert medical care, a high percentage of women with fistulas can be cured.

It is estimated that more than three million of the most impoverished and disenfranchised women in the world needlessly suffer from obstetric fistulas. Once common throughout the western world, the advent of modern obstetric care (including ready access to Cesarean delivery) has virtually abolished fistulas in developed countries. With proper treatment and improved maternal health care, we are confident that obstetric fistula can be eradicated everywhere.

Mission

The mission of the WFF is to promote excellent, ethical, comprehensive care for women with obstetric fistula. Our strategy is to band together and support a network of committed individuals with fistula expertise who share this common ideal.

To this end, we will:

- Support the direct provision of high-quality clinical care for women with obstetric fistulas
- Promote excellent training for fistula surgeons incorporating these values
- Advocate relentlessly for the unmet needs of women suffering from obstetric fistulas
- Encourage scientifically valid research in fistula treatment and prevention

More information about our history and mission can be found at WorldwideFistulaFund.org.

Current Goals

Due to the generous support of our donors, the WFF is excited to announce that it will open a fistula hospital, the Danja Fistula Center, in southern Niger in January 2012. The 42-bed hospital will provide year-round, free fistula treatment to women of Niger, Nigeria and other neighboring countries.

Within just five years, the Center will:

- Provide care for up to 2,500 women with obstetric fistula
- Train at least 30 doctors from Niger and other countries in fistula repair
- Develop community-based programs to aid in the prevention of obstructed labor (the leading cause of fistula)
- Institute far-reaching social reintegration/rehabilitation programs to help fistula patients develop economic opportunities for themselves and their families.

To achieve these milestones, the WFF is currently working on a development campaign to raise the nearly \$5 million needed to operate the Center for the next several years. Concurrently, we hope to advance the message of hope and healing by replicating this Center in other developing nations around the world.

II. Promoting Your Cause

Promoting your cause is an important process. Promotion is the key way to raise awareness about obstetric fistula in your school and community and mobilize more people to join the cause and help women in need. There are many ways to do this, so be creative!

EVENT SUGGESTIONS

First things first: to promote your cause, you need to increase your visibility on campus. The best way to do this is to host and publicize events. The events can focus either on fund-raising, spreading awareness or both. Here are a few ideas:

- **Benefit shows:** Ask student bands, choirs, dance troupes, etc. to volunteer their time and talents, or bring in outside groups to perform. The show should be held in an on-campus venue or a place easily accessible to all students. Set up a table near the doors with information about obstetric fistula and a box for donations.
- **Screening of *A Walk to Beautiful*:** Show this moving documentary, which the WFF helped sponsor and acted as a technical advisor on, on campus. Host a Q&A after the movie. (*A Walk to Beautiful* is available on Netflix.)
- **Speakers and panel discussions:** Bring in speakers that are knowledgeable about fistula or maternal health issues in general. These could include local community members, professors, students or nonprofit representatives.
- **Art exhibition:** Rally art majors and other creative types to donate paintings, photography and crafts to sell at an art exhibition on campus. Artists will invite their friends and families to the benefit, which will increase your reach in the community.
- **Teach-ins:** Teach your fellow students about the issues in a casual environment, such as a back room at a coffee shop or a student lounge. This kind of event is good for discussion, idea-generation and recruitment.
- **Encourage professors to get involved:** Talk to heads of various departments (e.g., women and gender studies, anthropology, pre-med, psychology, political science, international relations, etc.) about assigning *Half the Sky* or showing *A Walk to Beautiful* in their classes.

EVENT PUBLICITY

Publicizing your event is vital for its success. There are many ways to go about this. Be sure to use current technology and more than one outlet. Here are some suggestions of places where you can post event information:

- School newspapers and publications
- School website's calendar of events
- Your own website (ask your school if it can provide a webpage for your group and use it for spreading information about your mission, members and events)
- Alumni calendar/publication/website
- Posters
- Student mailboxes (place a small invitation to the event in everyone's mailbox)
- School radio station
- Facebook: create an event and invite all your friends
- E-mail
- Local community newspaper or community website calendar of events

TABLING

“Tabling” refers to recruitment in any situation or area where people pass by or congregate. You can table to recruit activists, build visibility for a campaign, get signatures on a petition, collect donations, sell merchandise or distribute literature that will further inform people about an issue.

Where and When

- Pick high foot-traffic areas like a dining hall, student union or plaza
- Make sure that it's not too crowded – you want the table to get noticed and you want people to have the time to stop and talk
- Table in a variety of places and at a variety of times so as to get a good mix of people
- Table where you are allowed to table – find out from your school how to get permission and make sure you follow any rules or regulations

What Goes on a Table?

When a table is set up well, it can build the reputation of an organization as being credible and active. Some ideas for promotional materials include:

- Banners
- Posters
- Fact sheets
- Books
- Give-aways
- Newsletters
- Calendar of events
- Sign-up sheet/interest cards
- Donation box

Tabling Talk

Effective tabling starts with a memorable and efficient presentation or introduction. This likely includes an introductory question to get attention, a description of the organization, a quick version of the problem you're working on, what you're doing about it, and how the person can help. It should end with a request for them to make a commitment (e.g., fill out an interest card, agree to come to an event, make a small donation, etc.).

Conversational samples might include:

“Would you be interesting in signing a postcard to send to women who are recovering from obstetric fistula surgery at the Danja Fistula Center in Niger?”

“I am an activist for the Worldwide Fistula Fund, a non-profit organization that provides life-saving surgery for women in Africa. Fistulas are maternal health injuries that have devastating effects on a woman's physical, psychological and emotional health. But a relatively simple, \$450 surgery can change a woman's life forever.”

“Thank you for your support! We're working on some other great initiatives this month, like a luminary vigil and clothing drive. Would you be interested in possibly attending one of these events or coming to a meeting?”

Tips and Tricks

- Make sure the table looks attractive and professional. Materials on the table and a large poster or sign project your presence into a flow of people and help get attention, but it is up to the tablers to actually do the outreach.
- Use the table as a base, not as a wall to hide behind. Get the more confident tablers to "float" out into the traffic flow to reach more people. Don't be afraid to actually walk up to people.
- Tabling is a great first activity for a new volunteer. The best way to train a new member is to have him or her learn by doing. Have the person watch you table for a few minutes, then alternate and give feedback. Then table near each other so you can give lots of feedback.
- Make your table fun and high-energy and it will attract more people. Consider giving away small tokens (e.g., stickers, candies, etc.) to draw more interest.
- Don't ever leave a table unattended. An empty table suggests disorganization or inactivity. If you have a schedule of tablers for the morning, don't leave the table up all afternoon thinking, "People will at least see our materials."
- Plan ahead and get a shift schedule built for your tabling event. When you have found an appropriate location and gotten the necessary approval, get a sign-up sheet going so people can commit. If you allow them to volunteer time and show up whenever, they may feel less obligated to come. Signing up allows them to pick a time that works best for their schedule and holds them to their promise. The chairperson or another member should always give reminders when people sign up to work events as well.
- Chances are you will be more successful at tabling event if you have more than one person working. You should also increase workers depending on the traffic in the area and the length of your event. In the case that someone forgets or cannot attend you always have a second person to man the station. It is a great idea to have backup volunteers and rotate shifts throughout the day.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The first step in building a strong activist movement is to educate yourself and others. Many people have never heard of obstetric fistulas and may not be aware of the suffering and alienation women with this condition face. Listed below are a few questions you may be asked regarding fistulas and ways in which to best answer them.

What is obstetric fistula?

Obstetric fistula is a severe medical condition in which a hole (fistula) develops between either the rectum and vagina (rectovaginal fistula) or between the bladder and vagina (vesicovaginal fistula) during childbirth. The fistula usually develops during obstructed labor when the baby's head is pressed into the mother's pelvis and interrupts the blood flow to her internal tissues. If the baby is not delivered in time, the tissues die and a hole is formed that allows urine, feces or both to leak out of the mother's birth canal.

Who suffers from obstetric fistula?

While it is impossible to know exactly how many women suffer from obstetric fistula, estimates range as high as 3.5 million women. Up to 130,000 new cases develop each year. Most of the women who have fistula today live in developing countries, where access to obstetric care is limited or nonexistent. Further, women with this condition are frequently young, illiterate, impoverished and unaware of treatment options.

What happens to babies in cases of obstructed labor?

Among women who survive obstructed labor and develop an obstetric fistula, fewer than seven-percent have a live baby at the end of their ordeal. Since childbirth injury typically occurs during the mother's first pregnancy, almost 70-percent of fistula victims end up with no living children. In the developing world, where family is usually one's only source of security, the lack (or loss) of children is devastating.

What happens to women who develop a fistula?

Without surgical intervention, a woman with a fistula will suffer a lifetime of incontinence, infection and shame. Women afflicted with this injury are subjected to a cascade of physical, social and psychological catastrophes, leaving them to suffer in pain and isolation with little hope for treatment.

In developing countries, there are very few places that treat obstetric fistulas. Women typically wait years between **injury and treatment**. By opening up a fistula hospital in Danja, Niger, the Worldwide Fistula Fund will provide accessible, free care for thousands of women with this type of injury.

Are there any side effects to obstetric fistula?

In addition to the leakage of excrement, women with fistulas may also experience nerve damage (from the labor itself and/or from remaining motionless in bed for months or years hoping the leaking will stop), infections, loss of sexual function, infertility, anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts.

How is fistula treated?

Obstetric fistula is often treated with a fairly straightforward surgery to repair the hole and restore proper function to the woman's organs. In some cases, where scar tissue, bladder stones or other complications have developed, the patient may require multiple surgeries or even a permanent catheter or colostomy bag to treat the condition.

How successful are obstetric fistula surgeries?

Although the surgery to close a fistula is successful in the vast majority of cases, "closure" of the fistula does not necessarily mean that the woman is "cured." About 15-percent of women whose fistula is closed continue to lose urine due to persistent damage to the bladder and urethra. Many women who have been through obstructed labor also have other injuries (including nerve damage, partial paralysis and/or traumatic pelvic conditions) that cause tremendous suffering and require ongoing physical therapy to address.

How does the Worldwide Fistula Fund help?

The Worldwide Fistula Fund helps by providing free fistula surgeries, and social reintegration services for women in southern Niger. Although fistula surgery is very challenging, it can still be performed with a high degree of success in low-technology settings throughout Africa. The WFF also is implementing prevention programs to raise awareness about fistula and maternal health care throughout neighboring communities.

RAISING FUNDS

Fundraising is central to nonprofits. Here are some tips for effective fundraising:

- **Set a goal:** Decide how much money you want to raise and by when. Consider aiming for cost breakdowns such as \$450 for one fistula surgery or \$250 for one woman's participation in a social reintegration/vocational training program.
- **Brainstorm:** Have your group come up with ideas for fundraising events and be creative! The more you can distinguish your group from the others on campus, the more likely your cause will receive attention – and donations.
- **Start early:** Give yourself enough time to reach your goals.
- **Educate your donors about your cause:** Stress the benefits of contributing and try to connect donors with the women they're helping by sharing pictures and stories (available on the WFF website).
- **Follow through:** Send reminder e-mails to your target donors or to donors who have pledged funds but haven't followed through.
- **Send thank you notes:** Tell donors how much you and the fistula patients appreciate their concern and help.
- **Set out donation boxes:** Give people chances to donate at all of your events, even if they're not specifically focused on fundraising.
- **Leverage student group resources:** Schools typically offer support for student groups. Investigate your options!

Important tip: Many schools have very specific rules and regulations about fundraising. Some schools prohibit donation boxes, soliciting within dormitories and/or soliciting local businesses. Be sure to check with your school before beginning any fundraising campaign.

III. Getting Connected

There's no question that networking will be key to your group's success. The more people you can educate about obstetric fistula and the lack of maternal health care in the developing world, the more people you will empower to make a difference and the more resources you will have to work with.

Networking offers an important avenue to reach the general public, other advocates, and potential donors. It allows you to present yourself and your objective in a much more personal way than an advertisement, promotion, or a mass-produced letter can. Although the idea of approaching strangers can be intimidating initially, the more you get connected the more you will realize how large your community is – and what an impact it can have. The main point to remember is that networking for a cause is about relating to people through core values. Most everyone cares about their world around them, but while some individuals will be more willing to engage than others, it is important to recognize any and all contributions, no matter how big or how small.

Tips and Tricks

- **Create an e-mail account for your group:** This account can be used to send out e-mails to all your members and partners. You can also use this account to sign up on websites like that offer activism and fundraising advice.
- **Always ask for contact information:** When you meet new people that seem interested in your group or obstetric fistula in general, ask for their contact information and follow up with them by e-mail and/or a phone call. Thank them for taking the time to meet or speak with you, remind them of your objective and offer to provide them with additional information.
- **Keep a spreadsheet of your valuable networking contacts:** Follow-up at least once a quarter to see how things are going for them and keep your objectives fresh in their minds. Be mindful of their time and be sure to cut back contact if they do not seem interested anymore.
- **Don't be afraid to partner up:** Other student groups or instructors who teach classes related to the study of women's health or culture may be interested in learning more about your cause or working together to raise awareness. You'll never know unless you ask!

- **Use your school:** Colleges and high schools can be a great place to start working on your activism initiative. If you are a current student you have a built-in network of all the current students, student groups, faculty, staff and alumni at your fingertips. (Remember that if you start an organization through the school itself, it may require licensing and/or have specific regulations. Basic information typically can be found on the school's website or by contacting a faculty member who oversees student life or student groups.)
- **Plan your events in advance:** All student organizations are expected to follow school policies and procedures when on campus. These policies include, but are not limited to: registration of events on the campus life calendar, completion of the event review and approval process, risk management assessment, catering and vendor agreements, reservations and multimedia services for equipment. Many of these items take a considerable amount of lead time, so start planning for your event as far in advance as possible and contact the Office of Campus Activities or similar administrative agency for assistance in getting your event approved.



III. Getting Connected

SAMPLE E-MAILS/LETTERS

E-mails and letters are a great way to keep in contact with your acquaintances and let them know you appreciate their efforts. If possible, be specific about how the recipient has helped your group and why his or her input is important. Include further “calls to action” (e.g., “Come to our meeting on December 12th!) or information to get them more involved.

Casual Meeting Follow-up

Dear [NAME],

It was a pleasure meeting you at our [EVENT] last [DATE]. I thoroughly enjoyed our conversation and our group is excited to hear about your interest in our work with the Worldwide Fistula Fund [MENTION OF THE CONVERSATION]. We will be holding an awareness event next month and would love to see you there if you are available! [INSERT UPCOMING EVENT INFO AND/OR ADDITIONAL INFO ON HOW THEY CAN GET INVOLVED OR CONTACT YOU.]

Thank you for your time and interest. Enclosed is a bit more information about obstetric fistula and the Worldwide Fistula Fund [INSERT FAQs FROM WFF WEBSITE OR OTHER MATERIALS YOU HAVE DEVELOPED]. I also invite you to visit the organization’s website at <http://WorldwideFistulaFund.org> to find out more.

I will be contacting you shortly with details about our next event and wish you luck in all your current activites.

Warm regards,

[NAME/CONTACT INFO]

Thank You for Your Support/Donation (General)

Dear [NAME],

Thank you so much for your support for the Worldwide Fistula Fund and [NAME OF ACTIVISM GROUP]. We are truly humbled by your consideration for our cause [and generous contribution of MENTION DONATION HERE IF APPLICABLE]. Individuals like you are invaluable to our efforts to achieve the mission of the Worldwide Fistula Fund. Your candor and perspective is, as always, extremely important and helps build awareness and transform the lives of young women and mothers in need.

On behalf of myself and the entire organization, once again, thank you!

Warm regards,

[NAME/CONTACT INFO]

Thank You for Your Support (Specific Event)

Dear [NAME],

It was so great to see you at our luminary vigil last [DATE]! We had a great turnout and were glad that you were able to attend. We truly appreciate all you do to support our cause. We are having a surprise guest speaker at our next group meeting on [DATE] and would love if you could join us! I'll send you more information regarding the meeting shortly.

On behalf of myself and the entire organization, once again, thank you!

Warm regards,

[NAME/CONTACT INFO]

Event Invitation

Dear [NAME],

I would like to personally invite you to the [EVENT NAME]! This exciting event will be held on [DATE at TIME] at the [LOCATION].

The Worldwide Fistula Fund (WFF) is a non-profit organization focused on the treatment and prevention of obstetric fistula, a devastating childbirth injury. In January 2012, it will open the Danja Fistula Center – a new hospital in southern Niger providing free fistula surgery and after-care, social eintegration services, prevention outreach, surgical training and research opportunities. This [EVENT] will be in honor of this joyous occasion!

Please come show your support and gain a great opportunity to network and discover ways in which you can help save women across the world.

I hope you will be able to attend! Please contact me with any questions!

Warm regards,

[NAME/CONTACT INFO]

IV. Running Your Group

In order to be successful, groups must be well-organized and committed. This section is designed to help identify your group's goals, augment your resources, and develop a plan that best utilizes all of your members' talents, educates the public, and advocates the mission of the Worldwide Fistula Fund.

Much of your activity will be determined by the size of your group, the activism experience of your individual members, and the structure of your strategic plan. Newly established groups will need to spend more time and effort to educate members about the general fundamentals of fundraising activities, while older groups likely will have established procedures that can easily be adapted to serve different nonprofit needs.

Building a Strategic Plan

The goal of developing a strategic plan is to clearly determine and outline your group's short-term and long-term goals, what resources will be needed and how your group will integrate recruitment into all events and activities.

As stated previously, the mission of the Worldwide Fistula Fund is to promote excellent, ethical and comprehensive care for women with obstetric fistulas. By forming your own activism group you can help us achieve our goal of creating a supportive network of committed individuals with fistula expertise who share a common ideal.

In order to best help the WFF achieve its mission, your strategic plan should not just concentrate on fundraising but also emphasize raising awareness about obstetric fistula and maternal health in general. While raising funds can be an important part of any activism, it is equally important to spread the word about this condition – and what can be done to help. Very few people have ever heard the word “fistula” or have any idea how terrible its effects can be. Educating your peers about what is happening to women around the world and what can be done to help is an incredibly important service that will have a lasting impact for generations to come.

Setting Strategic Goals

When determining your goals, keep in mind that goal-setting is not the same as planning specific action steps. Goals outline your initiatives; action steps determine how these goals will be achieved. Goals should be SMART: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant/Realistic and Time-Oriented. Most times there will be more

IV. Running Your Group

- **Goal:** Educate 150 people about obstetric fistulas and the Danja Fistula Center.
- **Action Step:** Prepare and distribute informational fliers and promotional materials at all tabling events for the two months.

Action Step: Serve as a guest speaker in a women's studies class.

- **Goal:** Recruit 15 new members in the next six months.
- **Action Step:** After meeting individuals who express interest, follow up by phone, text, or e-mail and invite them to the next meeting or event.
- **Action Step:** Incorporate newcomers into the group right away by getting them involved at their first meeting, connecting them with a group sponsor and encouraging them to invite a friend to your next event.

- **Goal:** Have 50 people participate in a September awareness day event.
- **Action Step:** Send out informational e-mail with information and options for volunteer sign-up.
- **Action Step:** Set up Facebook page to publicize event information.

How to Hold an Effective Meeting

Meetings are generally the best forum for making group decisions, developing a plan for a group, delegating responsibilities to a group and building a sense of accountability and community. Running a group meeting in order to give information to your partners, receive valuable feedback and come to group consensus is an important part of an effective campaign.

Once you have determined if it is appropriate to have a meeting you need to prepare by:

- Defining goals
- Preparing an agenda
- Developing a list of attendees
- Identifying who will be running the meeting
- Determining an easily accessible and appropriate location
- Ensuring that all materials are printed and ready
- Publicizing meeting information
- Following up to increase attendance

Sample Meeting Agenda

1. Review minutes from the past meeting
2. Reviewing the current meeting agenda, goals and context
3. Introductions
4. Share information, reports and updates with the group
5. Discuss plans for the week: consensus-building, troubleshooting, brainstorming, planning and voting
6. Delegate and sign-up for tasks
7. Review decision
8. Announce social plans or other events
9. Adjourn meeting

How to Recruit and Retain Members

Recruitment is a key tactic for activism groups and offers a number of benefits:

- **Goal Achievement:** Simply put, manpower is the most efficient way to get the job done. Recruitment provides the raw number of people needed to effectively divide work, review and critique your progress, and formulate new ideas.
- **Visibility:** Recruitment campaigns create visibility for the organization and build numbers which, in turn, translates into a powerful voice.
- **Education:** Recruitment campaigns are intrinsically valuable as they get people thinking about the issues.
- **Skill Development:** Recruitment campaigns sharpen your skills and arguments, and keep you in touch with what people are thinking about and how your group is viewed.
- **Community-Building:** Increasing a sense of teamwork and camaraderie is essential to achieving goals. The more members you have the more ideas your group will be exposed to. This allows ample opportunity for every member to get involved and feel as though they can contribute on any level.

Principles of Recruitment

- **Go Broad:** The biggest mistake you can make is to seek out only people you know will get involved and to assume people will not be interested simply because of the group they belong to. People will surprise you.
- **Vary Methods:** In order to reach potential members you must first get their attention. Use posters, tables, newspapers, events, online outreach and the like. The more creative you are, the more talent you will attract.
- **Have a Simple Message:** Simple is better. It should reflect your goals, the issue, and the kind of people you are and want to recruit.
- **Follow-up Immediately:** Give yourself a 24-hour deadline for following-up with any potential members. Be professional, supportive and encouraging. Strike while the iron is hot!
- **Ask for Involvement:** Make sure your follow-up includes a direct “call to action” for the person to respond to (e.g., attending a meeting, volunteering at an event, etc.). Ask for direct and immediate commitment.
- **Use Networks:** Build a base of support and do not ignore other organizations that have the potential to participate in (and help with) your efforts.
- **Have Materials Ready:** Have either a website to direct potential members to or reading material about your group and/or obstetric fistula that you can print or e-mail with further information.
- **Always be Recruiting:** Members will come from the strangest places. Make it your priority to publicize and promote your group in every forum you can.
- **Collect (and Use) Information:** Interest cards (see example in Section V) allow you to keep track of potential new members and donors. Your cards should contain any and all information useful to your group. For example, if someone marks they are interested only in donations, you should group this contact separately from contacts you will send notice to regarding upcoming meetings. When you send out follow-up letters, use the contact’s interest card for reference and to make the letter more personalized.

V. Additional Resources

Below we have listed some great resources in order to learn more about obstetric fistula and the organizations working to end it:

- **A Walk to Beautiful** (www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/body/a-walk-to-beautiful.html)

This award-winning documentary follows several Ethiopian women seeking treatment for obstetric fistula at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital (operated by the Fistula Foundation). The hour-long film is available to watch for free on YouTube or for rent on Netflix and would be a great way to further educate your members on the issue of obstetric fistula.

- **Campaign to End Fistula** (www.endfistula.org)

The United Nation' Population Fund's initiative to end fistula and make the condition as rare in developing countries as it is in the industrialized world.

- **The Fistula Care Project** (www.fistulacare.org/pages/index.php)

Fistula Care (USAID's fistula prevention program) supports a network of facilities offering a continuum of services, from emergency obstetric care, referrals, and family planning to complex fistula repairs and advanced surgical training.

- **The Fistula Foundation** (www.fistulafoundation.org)

The Fistula Foundation is a U.S.-based charity that supports fistula work in several developing countries.

- **Half the Sky** (www.halftheskymovement.org)

This site has online information and resources related to Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn's groundbreaking book *Half the Sky*. In the book, the authors tackle emancipation of slaves, prostitution, maternal mortality and injury (including fistula), family planning, misogyny, and the importance of educating and empowering females. Many gender studies courses teach *Half the Sky*; don't be afraid to contact these professors to discuss ways in which you can collaborate.

- **Hamlin Fistula USA** (www.hamlinfistulausa.com)

The Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital was founded by Drs. Reginald and Catherine Hamlin in Ethiopia in 1959 and is the oldest continuously operating fistula hospital in the world. The hospital is a model of fistula care and research. Dr. Hamlin's book, *A Hospital by the River*, explores her and her late husband's work with fistula patients in Ethiopia.



WORLDWIDE FISTULA FUND
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Eight Easy Ways to Get Involved

1. Join [\[OUR GROUP\]](#)
2. Sign up for the newsletter on the Worldwide Fistula Fund website
<http://worldwidefistulafund.org/contact.php>
3. Follow the Worldwide Fistula Fund on Twitter
<http://twitter.com/fistulafund>
4. Like the Worldwide Fistula Fund on Facebook
<http://facebook.com/worldwidefistulafund>
5. Like the Worldwide Fistula Fund on Facebook Causes
<http://causes.com/causes/350>
6. Follow the Worldwide Fistula Fund on Jumo
<http://jumo.com/worldwidefistulafund>
7. Follow the Worldwide Fistula Fund on Crowdrise
<http://crowdrise.com/wffund>
8. Tell your friends, families and professors about this important cause.

INTEREST CARD

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____



Year:

- Freshman
- Sophomore
- Junior
- Senior
- Graduate student
- Other

Please select what interests you:

- Worldwide Fistula Fund
- Women's health
- More information on obstetric fistula
- More information on our group
- Volunteer opportunities
- Membership/meetings
- Upcoming events
- Donation

May we contact you by:

- Phone/Text
- Email
- Mail
- Facebook/Twitter

Comments/Notes: _____
