



UNFCU FOUNDATION 2023 ANNUAL GALA

#RISINGTOGETHER

Rising Together
Empowering Women
Strengthening
Communities

Honoring



Ambassador
Linda Thomas-Greenfield
Representative of the United States
to the United Nations



Rebecca Davis
Founder/Executive Director
MindLeaps



Moza Mariam Mendes
Master of Public Health
Candidate
Columbia University
Mailman School of Public Health;
and Social Justice Advocate



Executive Director

Distinguished guests, honorees, grant partners, our incredible family of supporters.

We are thrilled to host the 9th Annual UNFCU Foundation gala reception. At this our first in-person gathering since the COVID-19 pandemic, it is with renewed purpose that we celebrate women's empowerment achievements. Our grant partners, sponsors, and each of you- our steadfast supporters - make our progress possible. Together, we have enabled more women and youth to sustain paths out of poverty. This has had a positive ripple effect strengthening communities and reflects our direct action to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We are honored this evening to present the 2023 UNFCU Foundation Women's Empowerment Award for Lifetime Achievement to Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations. Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield's decades-long work to fight for women and girls education, security, and gender equality is a mission we share.

We also applaud the work of Rebecca Davis, Founder and Executive Director of MindLeaps, an NGO providing at-risk youth with educational tools to succeed. Transformative journeys are inspired by the diligence of teachers, doctors, health care advocates, and the courage of women who persevere, despite incredibly difficult circumstances. In awarding the inaugural Young Women's Empowerment Award to Moza Mariam Mendes, we are reminded that effective partnerships offer the way forward.

As we tonight celebrate **Rising Together, Empowering Women, and Strengthening Communities** we can be proud of our collective efforts to build a better world.

Thank you for your steadfast support and for joining us to commemorate a remarkable year at a fitting moment, the UN International Day of the Girl.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yma Gordon', written in a cursive style.

Yma Gordon

Executive Director, UNFCU Foundation



At UNFCU Foundation, our mission is to sustain the path out of poverty for all women and youth.

We know that by investing in women we improve not only one woman's life, but that of her children, her family, and her community. Likewise, by supporting youths we can end the cycle of poverty and promote equality for all future generations.

From rural communities in Kenya to the inner cities of the United States, we foster lasting change by focusing on today's essentials.

We want to create a future where these are the standards in every person's life, *not the exceptions.*

Healthcare

With equal access to healthcare, developing countries could see a 99% decrease in maternal deaths.

Education

When there is equality in education, an entire country's gross national product increases by 33%.

Livelihood Training
When women work, they invest 90% of their income back into their families, compared with 35 percent for men.

Humanitarian Relief

When there are emergency supplies and services, people receive help within days, not weeks, saving countless lives.

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- Our close relationship with the UN gives us better insight into where support is most needed.
- Our global offices give us direct access to the communities we support.
- Our staff of UNFCU volunteers bring with them 70 years of financially sound practices of our credit union.

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STRATEGIC RESOURCE MANAGEMENT



Event Emcee

Maame Afon

Chief Steward, MILT

(Mindsets for Impactful Leadership & Transformation)

Vision Keeper & Team Lead, AfriWomen Network

An internationally recognized thought leader, Maame Afon is a passionate advocate for women, girls, and leaders globally. She is a recording artist who uses her music to promote social change and philanthropy.

Maame has leveraged her vast experience, principles of intersectionality in the areas of leadership, philanthropy, facilitation, and coaching to support organizations, including AWDF-USA, Global Fund for Women, We Care Solar, the World Bank, United Nations Federal Credit Union, Mastercard Foundation, World Connect, Blue Lake Project, AWEC, Street Business School, Nurturing Minds and MILEAD Fellowship. She is a consummate networker who makes joyful connections happen. As a facilitator, she holds space for brave and essential conversations.

Maame Afon is the Founder and Chief Steward of MILT (Mindsets for Impactful Leadership & Transformation), and serves as a Chief Guide for Chief, a private membership network focused on connecting and supporting women executive leaders. Furthermore, she serves as the Visionary and Team Lead for the AfriWomen Network. She is the VP & Chief of Strategy & Relationships with the Blue Lake Project.

Maame holds a BA in French and Spanish, and an MA in Human Rights, Gender, and International Policy Studies. She is the recipient of several awards and recognitions for her contributions to social change and movement-building.

Maame enjoys partnering with her husband to raise 3 phenomenal children. She is deeply grounded and led by her Faith.



Awardee

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield

Representative of the United States to the United Nations

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations as well as the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations on January 20, 2021. She was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on February 23, 2021, and sworn in on February 24, 2021 by the Vice President of the United States of America.

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a career diplomat, returned to public service after retiring from a 35-year career with the U.S. Foreign Service in 2017. From 2013 to 2017 she served as the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, where she led the bureau focused on the development and management of U.S. policy toward sub-Saharan Africa. Prior to this appointment, she served as Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Human Resources (2012-2013), leading a team in charge of the State Department's 70,000-strong workforce.

Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield's distinguished Foreign Service career includes an ambassadorship to Liberia (2008-2012), and postings in Switzerland (at the United States Mission to the United Nations, Geneva), Pakistan, Kenya, The Gambia, Nigeria, and Jamaica. In Washington, she served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of African Affairs (2006-2008), and as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (2004-2006).

After retiring from the U.S. State Department in 2017, Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield led the Africa Practice at Albright Stonebridge Group, a strategic commercial diplomacy firm chaired by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. She was also the inaugural Distinguished Resident Fellow in African Studies at the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University from fall 2017 to spring 2019.

Ambassador Thomas-Greenfield was the 2017 recipient of University of Minnesota Hubert Humphrey Public Leadership Award, the 2015 recipient of the Bishop John T. Walker Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award and the 2000 recipient of the Warren Christopher Award for Outstanding Achievement in Global Affairs. She holds a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University and a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin, where she also did work towards a doctorate. She received an honorary Doctor of Law degree from the University of Wisconsin in May 2018 and an honorary Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Liberia in May 2012.



Awardee

Rebecca Davis

Founder/Executive Director
MindLeaps

Rebecca Davis is the Founder and Executive Director of MindLeaps.

She has choreographed and taught in Canada, Russia, Ukraine, Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Guinea and the United States. She was classically trained in the Russian Vaganova method of ballet and received a degree in choreography from The Saint Petersburg Conservatory under the tutelage of Nikolai Boyarchikov (former Artistic Director, The Mussorgsky Ballet). She is a two-time Fulbright scholar and summa cum laude graduate of Temple University with a Bachelors of Business Administration in Entrepreneurship. She holds a Masters of International Relations with a concentration in Peacekeeping from American Military University. In 2010, she was awarded the Carl Wilkens Fellowship from the Genocide Intervention Network.

Rebecca has appeared on The Melissa-Harris Perry Show, given two TEDx talks, and been a guest speaker at several universities, including Brandeis and Princeton. In 2014, she gave presentations at the Pan-African Film Festival, United Nations Film Festival, and Fulbright's International Institute of Education Seminary.

Over the last two years, Rebecca's work has been featured in many publications, including: Dance Studio Life, The New Times (Rwanda), Dance Magazine, and Dance Teacher Magazine.

In 2015, Rebecca received Dance Studio Life's "Generous Heart Award" and was selected as the Greater New York City's Fulbright Alumnus-in-Residence for her work involving arts, technology and education in conflict zones.



Awardee

Moza Mariam Mendes

Master of Public Health Candidate
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health;
and Social Justice Advocate

Moza is a Master of Public Health (MPH) Candidate at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, in the department of Health Policy and Management with a certificate in Environmental Health Policy. Outside of her academic studies at Mailman, Moza is a teaching assistant, tutor, student leader, and fellow for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

In 2022, Moza graduated Summa Cum Laude from SUNY Purchase College, where she received her Bachelor's in Sociology and an Economics minor. For the last year and a half, she's worked as a Fellow at the NY Birth Control Access Project, where she focuses on fundraising, advocacy, and policy to increase access to birth control and further Reproductive Justice.

Moza began her public health journey in 2017 when she joined the Mount Sinai Adolescent Health Center as a patient, she then went on to intern in their summer MAPSCorps program. The robust healthcare and mentorship that the Adolescent Health Center offered ignited Moza's passion for community health and improving health outcomes for marginalized populations.

While she's originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma, Moza spent most of her life in the Middle East. She has a global perspective that has been strengthened through her equity work. Moza aims to use her international background and life experiences for a career that eliminates barriers to healthcare through equitable policy, racial justice, and advocacy.



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TOGETHER WE BAKE

Empowerment is baked into everything we do!



SCAN TO ORDER

Together We Bake is a nonprofit workforce training program for underserved women. Our program is centered around a small baking business through which women actively learn and participate in food production, food safety education, and business skills. We teach empowerment and life skills classes to help women develop self-confidence, healthy coping strategies, and a strong support network as they move toward self-sufficiency.

CUMULATIVE RESULTS:

263 ALUMNI TEAM MEMBERS

60% OF STAFF ARE TWB ALUMNI

90% SERVSAFE EXAM PASSAGE RATE

83% GRADUATION RATE

70% EMPLOYMENT RATE

6% RECIDIVISM RATE (COMPARED TO 70% NATIONAL AVERAGE)

A DECADE OF EMPOWERMENT: TWB celebrated 10 years of empowering women in 2022! In 2012, Stephanie Wright and Tricia Sabatini mixed together their skills in social work and baking to create a recipe for success that continues to empower women in our community today.

TWB SPANISH-SPEAKING PROGRAM: TWB piloted a new workforce training program for Spanish-speaking women in our community. After recognizing the need for Spanish-language programming, we made it happen through a partnership with fellow nonprofits. We held the program in Summer of 2023, which resulted in the graduation of 9 incredible, empowered women!

EXPANDING POST-PROGRAM SUPPORT: Once team members graduate, their relationships with TWB don't end. We offer extensive post-program support through regular check-ins, employment matching, newsletters, and quarterly alumni events. In summer 2022, we launched our first alumni summer camp. Outreach and post-program support keep Alumni Team Members connected and provide opportunities for further personal and professional growth.

SOME GOOD NEWS: The Stop Hunger Foundation honored TWB with its women's empowerment award for 2023. They filmed a video of our Fall '22 class and honored Executive Director Stephanie Wright with the award in Paris in March 2023!





IMAGINE HER

Empowering young women, girls & youths as amplifiers of their own change.



Imagine Her-IH works with communities to accelerate the power and potential of women, youth, and girls-preparing them to be active leaders and social entrepreneurs who create sustainable solutions to problems within their communities.

Why we do it

Uganda is ranked 10th in the world, with the highest economic dependency rate at about 87%. This is attributed to multiple barriers, including youth unemployment (6.6%), with women at 4.9%. Uganda's young population needs extensive educational and economic support to unlock its potential, strengthening Uganda's economy as a whole. Despite numerous efforts to reduce youth unemployment, economic dependency remains high due to limited access to resources such as capital, land, and the skills needed to gain employment. Young women, girls, and youth – particularly those in rural areas with lower socioeconomic status whom we focus on – suffer an outsized impact from climate change and food insecurity. Without the skills and resources needed to overcome these barriers, women, girls, and youth are trapped in a cycle, unable to access economic opportunities, quality education, and health care services.

Impact



600+ Women & Youth Trained in social entrepreneurship



90% of ventures launched are sustained beyond 2 years after our exit.



Entrepreneurs' income is on average 40% higher than other comparable businesses.



6X Return on Investment 6 months down the road for every social venture we support.



Unlocked \$100,000 in investment capital for our rural women entrepreneurs within 6 months



Girls in our Becoming program have improved academic outcomes, creativity, graduation rates, and improved reproductive lives.



100 university students impacted through our career pathways program



Overall 15000+ people have been impacted indirectly through our programming.

[Click here to watch some of our proximate leaders in action](#)

What we do

At the core of our model is the belief that those we work with decide what they want to do and choose the support and resources they need to do it. We partner with communities, particularly women and youth groups, and implement a human-centered impact model that equips them with the skills they need to respond to the needs and challenges in their communities.

Our Programs



Social Enterprise & Innovation Program

Through Imagine Academy, we invest in women, youth and girls as builders of trans-formative solutions to today's and tomorrow's pressing problems (climate change, food insecurity & sustainable rural housing challenges) through tailored design thinking, adaptive leadership, and social entrepreneurship training coupled with direct lean start-up financing within our communities.



Career Pathways:

We invest in transforming the university education experience in Uganda by equipping semi and final-year students with desirable employability and entrepreneurial skills for workforce readiness & job creation.



Becoming Program

We improve academic outcomes and retention rates for girls in sugarcane growing communities through experiential learning, social entrepreneurship, and adaptive leadership training while strengthening teachers' skills through gender pedagogy training and empowering caregivers through livelihoods improvement initiatives.

PLAN

1,000 DAY GOAL

Support us replicate scale out & deep our model into more rural and peri urban communities to create last mile actors.

Amount needed: \$5.5M

HOW YOU CAN HELP

1 CHAMPION
Community Progress

2 INVITE
others to be ENGAGED

3 INVEST
with a COMMENSURATE COMMITMENT



Congratulations

UNFCU Foundation's outstanding honorees

Thank you for your commitment, leadership, and inspiring work to create opportunity for women and youth globally.

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year's gala sponsors and applaud
the award winners for their
impressive work!





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Foundation for your dedication
to credit unions and our joint
mission of people helping people.**



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John Lewis & Elisabeth Alpert

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the UNFCU Foundation
and its grant partners.**

Rising Together. Empowering Women.
Strengthening Communities.

For more information about Engageware please visit www.engageware.com



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congratulates everyone in the room tonight.

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pathways that empower women around the world
is unparalleled.

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180 Park Avenue | Florham Park, NJ
845-300-0561 | bryan.lotto@usi.com



At FRB, community is at the heart of what we do.

Michael Moskowitz, Richard Weltman, and the entire FRB team
congratulate the UNFCU Foundation on their collaborative
achievements in strengthening communities by empowering
women and youth!

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UNFCU FOUNDATION AND ALL THE 2023 HONOREES:

Women's Empowerment Lifetime Achievement Honoree
Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, **Representative**
of the United States of America to the United Nations

Women's Empowerment Honoree
Rebecca Davis, **Founder/Executive Director,**
MindLeaps

Young Women's Empowerment Honoree
Moza Mariam Mendes, **Master of Public Health Candidate**
Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health;
and Social Justice Advocate

#RISINGTOGETHER



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Dear Moza,

With every passing year, we have watched you grow more determined to share your talents and compassion with the world, finding ways in work and through your educational pursuits to address issues of gender, racial, and reproductive equity. We couldn't be more proud of you and we wish you all the best as you receive this prestigious award from UNFCU. Well done!

*Your loving parents,
Mari Eva and Queenie Mendes*

Dear Moza,

Watching you grow into your own strength fills me with pride.

Watching you share that strength to uplift others, even when you might not feel that strong yourself, inspires me to want to do the same.

I am proud of you, I am inspired by you, and I love you.

-Ibrahim

Congratulations

2023 UNFCU Foundation Award Honorees

Lifetime Achievement Honoree

Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, US Representative
to the United Nations

Women's Empowerment Honoree

Rebecca Davis, Executive Director of Mind Leaps

Young Women's Empowerment Honoree

Moza Mariam Mendes, Social Justice Advocate

*Thank you for your efforts to making a more inclusive and
equitable world for all.*

Pam and Mike Agnone