



2013 GREAT Award Nomination

Audrey Gardner, *Ambassador, Activist, Career College Graduate*

Born the eleventh of twelve children Audrey Gardner has always had a passion inside of her; a desire to create change for the world and the people around her. In 1989, with two children of her own, she became a Project Director for an inner-city sports program, Soccer in the Streets, which would become a launching point for the rest of her career. Her mission: to help children realize that they can do whatever they set their minds and hearts towards; making a positive difference in the world.

Audrey later joined a speaker's circuit encouraging elementary and high school students to "dream big and to deposit seeds of life in others". In February of 2010, while a student at Herzing University, she would found the United States arm of, "Youth Actions Without Borders" (YAWB) (<http://www.youthawb.org>). YAWB is an organization designed to raise awareness of communication technology, educational opportunities and modern day farming techniques to youth in Darkar, Senegal. Building a consortium of businesses and organizations, Audrey raises funds to provide mentorships, equipment and supplies, and educational and vocational opportunities.

Audrey started this non-profit organization with her personal funds and travels to Senegal several times a year providing opportunities for learning, clothing, and seeds to plant. The George Washington Carver F.A.R.M.S, Growing Globally Project was named in memory of Dr. George Washington Carver, while honoring President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama. Audrey has had a long and successful career with Delta Airlines in various capacities which has allowed her to do much of her traveling and has been given several awards at Delta including the Most Valuable Player. Delta Airlines is a key player in her success who has allowed her time off and assistance with shipping donations of books, clothing, and other materials for the children of the camp in Darkar. Between working, traveling and changing the world, she graduated from Herzing University in December 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She credits her education with providing her tools to manage her non-profit especially in the areas of marketing, strategic planning, and day to day business applications. She incorporates some of what she's learned in college into the camps in Africa, sharing her knowledge with eager youngsters who are excited to learn. Taking her courses online allowed her to continue her travelling and work overseas uninterrupted while accomplishing her academic goals. Other achievements include being awarded a 2010 Humanitarian Award for her work with youth from the Croix-Rouge Red Cross of Dakar, Senegal and in March of 2012 she became their Goodwill Ambassador, the first US citizen to be offered this distinction.

The size of Audrey's heart is shadowed by the size of her passion for kids from all corners of the world. She exemplifies what our schools stand for: developing career skills, lifelong learning, service to one's community and caring for the world around us. Please consider Audrey for the 2013 GREAT Award.



