
HOW ACHIEVING OUR DREAMS CAN BRING ABOUT TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE FOR FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY

Sydney, 1 May 2017 - Opportunity International Australia Ambassador Suzanne Laidlaw says when you break your big dreams into small actionable steps you can achieve success in your own life and bring about transformational changes for families living in poverty. Suzanne will explore a process for achieving your dreams at the Inaugural Opportunity Women4Women conference in Perth on 13 May 2017.

Opportunity Chief Executive Officer, Robert Dunn, said: "I'm greatly looking forward to Opportunity's conference, which will celebrate women from all walks of life and acknowledge that everyone has the right to exercise choice, experience social and economic empowerment and pursue their dreams.

"Suzanne will share her family's story of tragedy and resilience to inspire conference participants to take charge of their dreams by creating goals and making action plans," he added.

Suzanne said achieving your dreams involves a process of creating goals, plans and most importantly, actions. "There are things that people have been wanting to achieve for a long time but there's that missing link, and often that's the action.

"People have the goals; they have the dreams but they forget to put time in their diaries to actually take the actions necessary to realising their dreams," she explained.

Suzanne hopes she can give conference participants a simple structure to help them achieve their dreams, and hopes they can be inspired to transform their actions to make a difference in their own lives and the lives of women living in poverty.

"What I want is for us to inspire conference participants enough so they act now, go out and achieve their own goals and in so doing help women living in poverty to achieve their dreams," she said. "Just like us, these women dream of caring for their family and educating their children and they dream of the empowerment that comes with a steady income. But women living in poverty often need a hand up to reach their dreams.

"We might ask ourselves: how can I, as just one person, help a family free themselves from poverty? But it's simpler than we think. A small gift of \$70 can provide one woman living in poverty with a small loan. With this loan, she can start a business, earn a regular income, buy nutritious food and send her children to school.

"The small action of a loan has a lasting impact on the life of a woman, her family and her community. The small action of providing a loan grows into a plan, which can realise a dream.

"The dream of poverty alleviation may seem daunting, but when people like us take small actions towards change, like providing a loan to a woman living in poverty, progress is made and the dream becomes more and more achievable," she exclaimed.

EVENT DETAILS

DATE: Saturday 13 May 2017

TIME: 9am-3pm

WHERE: Lifestreams Christian Church, Murray Street, Como, WA

All profits from the event go towards empowering women through Opportunity International Australia.

TO REGISTER click [here](#).

ABOUT OPPORTUNITY INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

Opportunity International Australia enables you to invest in a mother living in poverty so that she can use a small loan to buy an item like a sewing machine and start a small business. For a family in a developing country who can't afford the basics, a gift as small as \$70 can be life changing. With this hand up, a mother can put food on the table, send her children to school and transform her family's future for generations. Mothers want what is best for their children, and as businesses become successful (98% of Opportunity's loans are repaid), your help means they can make their dreams for their children come true. For more information, visit www.opportunity.org.au

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