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W3 Mentee & Medical Student

1-844-500-WEST(9378)  
www.womenwalkingwest.org  
info@womenwalkingwest.org



Marian Glancy with Dr. George Sehi

### Featured Board Member: Marian Glancy

I came to the United States in 1994 under the Fulbright Program, one of several United States Cultural Exchange Programs that have the goal to improve intercultural relations and intercultural competence between American people and people from other countries. I spent a wonderful year teaching and travelling to many states, researching and studying public and private education systems. My Fulbright Program was ostensibly for one year but I enjoyed my time here and wanted to

continue with my education. I returned to the US in 1996 and completed my Masters and Doctorate in Education from the University of Dayton. On completion of my Doctorate, I secured a faculty position at Antioch University in 2003. I retired in June 2019 as Provost and CEO of Antioch University Midwest.

*“I am humbled to be able to honor my dear mother, Mary Glancy, in setting up the Mary Glancy Endowment Fund.”*

The mission and vision of the Fulbright Program is consistent with the mission of Women Walking West, so it was serendipitous that I crossed paths with Dr. George Sehi. The work of W3 resonates very powerfully with improving intercultural understanding so I did not need to be convinced about the relevance of an organization that would work to create educational opportunities for foreign-born women. My time on the board has been very fulfilling and I take great joy in seeing the transformation of women, who have come to the United States with ambition and determination, and are successfully achieving their educational goals.

I am humbled to be able to honor my dear mother, Mary Glancy, in setting up the *Mary Glancy Endowment Fund*. My mother was born in County Donegal, Ireland in 1918. Her education consisted of a one room school house until the age of 15. She left Ireland in her 20's looking for work and met my father in Edinburgh, Scotland. They married and had six children in nine years! Our mother instilled in us the empowering force of education. Education was a priority in our household and all of my siblings grew to understand how education created opportunity – and we have as a family all derived great benefit from the opportunities through our individual life journeys. Sadly, Mum passed away in March 2019 just shy of her 102nd birthday! She was a powerful influence in our lives and her profound belief in education is something my entire family has carried with us throughout our lives.

### Easy Ways to Support W3

#### 1. AMAZON

At [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) select Women Walking West as the organization that you support next time you shop.

#### 2. KROGER

Designate Women Walking West as your Kroger rewards organization. Sign in to your Kroger account (or create an account with your plus card at: [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)). Select our organization by using **W3 ID #DX899**. Then, every time you use your plus card, a portion of your purchase will come back to W3, without affecting your plus card points!



Advancing education for women from across the globe

W3 NEWSLETTER JULY 2021 | VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

## CARE

*Compassionate  
Academic Success  
Respect  
Empathy*



Advancing education for women from across the globe

## Mission

*W3's mission is to remove language, social, cultural, academic, and financial barriers that foreign born adult women experience in the U.S. This mission helps instill an environment of connections that creates a base of support to provide opportunities for women to overcome difficulties and therefore achieve their lifelong professional and personal goals.*

## Values

*To create a culture that includes our core values: Compassion, Academic Success, Respect and Empathy (CARE).*

## A Message from the Board Chair

Dear Friends,

I appreciate the opportunity to share with you another edition of CARE, our Women Walking West newsletter. Based on the events of 2020 and 2021, W3 has decided that it is best to continue our fundraising virtually for this year. We will be, once again, holding a virtual fundraiser throughout the rest of 2021 as well as a Bourbon Raffle. We would like to thank Bluegrass Carryout for their partnership and generous support of the bourbon raffle. We are excited to share our plans to again hold annual Gala in-person on November 3, 2022! I encourage you to watch our social media channels and website for more information and to stay up to date.

It is with sincere pleasure that we welcome Noah Koterba, Fatemeh Hajihosseini, and Su Chang, as respectable members of the board of directors of Women Walking West. We also welcome W3 Mentee & Medical Student Dr. Reham Gaafar as an Ex-Officio Board Member. Your participation and contribution will help greatly in our success.

W3 is grateful for the generosity and continued commitment of our board members and donors for their financial and in-kind support. It is because of you that W3 continues to sustain and grow funds to serve even more women.

I am pleased to inform you that W3 has served over 125 mentees from 41 countries, since our inception in 2015! On behalf of Women Walking West and its Board of Directors, I would again like to express our sincere gratitude to donors, mentors, and volunteer staff for your unwavering support and commitment to help us grow and succeed in our mission to support the educational needs of foreign-born women, *One woman at a time*.



Dr. George Sehi,  
Board Chair

Advancing Education for Women  
FUNDRAISER & BOURBON RAFFLE  
A Virtual Event  
Raffle pulled on November 4, 2021

Tickets can be purchased on our website soon at:  
[womenwalkingwest.org](http://womenwalkingwest.org)

Sponsored in part by Bluegrass Carryout.

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EDITOR:  
Alicia Farbstein

DESIGN:  
Jennifer Seifert

W3 Newsletter

JULY 2021 | VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2



Judith Kafando, W3 Mentor

## Mentee to Mentor

My name is Judith Kafando and I was born and raised in Burkina Faso, a country located in West Africa. I went to school there and graduated with a master's degree in Economics and Management. In 2014, I moved to the USA to join my husband. Once here, I started taking English as a second language classes so I could improve my understanding of English and be able to communicate with others. It was a fast learning process for me because I was determined to understand English well so that I could enroll in school here. I've always loved going to school and learning because to me, knowledge is the key to opportunities and to achieving many things in life.

I knew that being in a foreign country with a different language would certainly be challenging, but I was willing to learn and get to where I wanted to be. Once I felt comfortable enough with my communication and understanding skills of the English language, I enrolled at Cincinnati State to start my Accounting degree. The beginning of my school year was not easy because I had a baby girl who I was nursing at the time, and I was also working full time. At some point, I asked myself if I was going to be able to accomplish anything since I had so much to do at the same time. It was very tiresome, but worth it. Looking back now, I wouldn't change it for anything because the time I chose to continue my education was just the right moment. I just knew that I needed to work hard to achieve my goal, which I did, and today I am very proud of my accomplishments. I graduated with honors and I received the top graduating student's leadership award. I was also the student speaker

at my graduation. All this to say that in this country, anything is possible if we put our mind to it and work hard for it no matter where we come from. My next goal is to become a CPA and open my own firm one day. Right now, I am working on the process of sitting for the exam.

I wouldn't be able to get to where I am today if it weren't for God and wonderful people in my life. My husband was and still is a great help and support throughout achieving my academic goals. I had incredible instructors who taught me with care and patience. In fact, one of them introduced me to Women Walking West. Mrs. Maggie Olivera was my English as a second language instructor at Cincinnati State and she saw that I was applying for scholarships. She talked about this organization that helps foreign women to pursue their education through scholarships and mentorship. I was amazed to hear that! I visited the website and applied. I received a call from Dr. Sehi and in a couple of weeks and I was assigned a mentor and received a scholarship. I used the scholarship toward my books and fees.

My mentor has been a true mentor and wonderful friend. He helped boost my confidence in ways that he doesn't even know. He helped me trace my career path. I am grateful to have met someone like him through W3. I am glad that an organization like W3 exists to give hope and an opportunity to women who strive to build a better future for their children and society. After having such a good experience with the organization, I thought what's a better way to pay it forward than to volunteer and become a mentor to other women? Now, I am mentoring a woman who is in a similar situation as me when I started to go to school, meaning she also is married with kids and she's working. I know how I can help guide her so she too can achieve her academic and career goals. W3 sees the need and cares for foreign women who legally came to this country looking for a better life and are trying to pursue their education. By doing so, it is helping build an army of strong, courageous, smart and successful women who will make our society a better place. I am encouraging each and every one to join this mission because helping educate a woman is educating a whole nation!

*"I am encouraging each and every one to join this mission because helping educate a woman is educating a whole nation!"*

## Community Partner:

### MAI Capital Management



MAI Capital Management ("MAI") is a leading independent registered investment adviser that specializes in comprehensive investment and financial planning for high-net-worth individuals, families and athletes. MAI's vision is built on three core pillars that unite and guide their employees. These pillars are: 'Take care of our clients, take care of each other, and take care of our communities'. This approach is reflected in everything MAI and their associates do. The vision unites members of the firm and yields an organization that is clear in its shared goals and its mission of serving clients' financial management needs in the most personal, professional and comprehensive way possible.



John D. Dovich, MAI Regional President

*"W3 has impacted the region by creating a more diverse workforce, resulting in a stronger community."*

Diversity and inclusion are at the center of MAI's business. MAI believes diversity and inclusion are two sides of the same coin—diversity further builds the strength of inclusion. When an individual feels comfortable bringing their authentic self to work, they feel more deeply connected to and trusting of the company and their peers. MAI is committed to building an inclusive culture that celebrates the differences in ideas of all team members. These elements are crucial in order to continue to grow and thrive as a firm and fulfill our mission of helping our clients achieve their financial goals.

MAI believes in W3's mission to create an environment that allows women from across the world to achieve their dreams by eliminating language, social, cultural, academic and financial barriers. W3 has impacted the region by creating a more diverse workforce, resulting in a stronger community. MAI is proud to support W3 as they continue to provide opportunities for foreign-born adult women.

The effectiveness of W3 in helping the workforce in the region is evident by the compelling stories shared by the women impacted by their services. MAI's Regional President in Cincinnati, John Dovich, periodically receives notes from women who express their gratitude for MAI's sponsorship of an organization that has benefitted their lives. They are so sincere and appreciative of W3 and the opportunities the program has offered to help them succeed.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@Womenwalkingwest



# GOOD NEWS!

W3 has given almost \$23,000 in cash awards and \$17,000 in scholarships.

Mentee, Adriana Prieto Quintero, wrote a children's book "Where are we From" that was released in March 2021.

Six mentee's graduated with various degrees this Spring.

Mentee, Samera Hossain, was accepted to begin her Doctorate Degree in her chosen program.

Three W3 mentees finished their programs and have become Mentors!

W3 has over 90 volunteer professional mentors providing one on one mentorships to the women we serve.

*Thank You!*

Women Walking West would like to thank Peoples Bank for their continued support, not only by generously donating but also supporting all of our banking needs.

Thank You!



Pictured: Corey Bradford, Peoples Bank Mason Branch Manager, Alicia Farbstein, W3 Operations Coordinator, and Kristen Dhacroi, Personal Insurance Agent.