

Sisters in the Building Trades

Building Trades  Building Women  Building our Future

[www.SistersintheBuildingTrades.Rocks](http://www.SistersintheBuildingTrades.Rocks/)

We would like to ask you to join us as we work to reach out to tradeswomen around the world to change the culture and diversity in the construction trades. We have done an amazing amount of work over the last several years, and are now in dire need of a little assistance and support, for a project we hope outlives us all.

We have packed 12,930 pounds, valued at $57,657 into a 20 ft. container that is now sailing 6,645 miles from Tacoma to Metro Manila, to arrive September 27th. We filled it with 304 backpacks, wheeled tool bags/boxes, of tools, safety gear, stock, and first aid kits to give to the women at the Manila Tradeswomen Conference. We are delivering training/educational materials to the TESDA Women’s Center, the only government vocational training center in the country for women.

We have packed tools for 152 welder/metalworkers, 10 Plumbers, 20 Painters, 50 electricians, 25 electronic repair/low voltage electricians, 12 mechanics, 11 carpenters, 10 tile setters, 3 masons, and 3 bricklayers with the power and hand tools they would need in an effort to facilitate the creation of the first union, all-woman Contracting Co. in Manila. We have packed tools and forged a formal partnership to adopt a Union Co-ed

Vo-Tech to facilitate the training of tradeswomen in Carpentry, Masonry, Plumbing and Painting.

As in 1970’s in the USA, women in developing nations are being trained in the trades and then left trying to battle their way into jobs in the industry. In the Philippines she makes about $10.37 a Day. Minimum wage in Papua New Guinea is 95 cents an hour, a “Good Job” is $3 bucks an hour. No, tools are not that much cheaper there.

Manila, currently in a building boom, is the most densely populated city in the world with 3.3 million “homeless” living in shacks without running water, toilets and electricity. Our Sisters need tools to work in their communities and compete for jobs.

There are no “apprenticeships” in the Philippines as we know the term, and certainly no pre-apprenticeships. Certification trades training is a total of 2 to 6 months depending on the trade. To be government certified to install wiring in homes and business is a 2 month course, here that is 5 years of training. We would like to enable our sisters the chance to have a year of on the job training to master their craft, much like our union apprentice training, before they end up the only woman on a jobsite of 200 men, struggling to learn to master their craft.

Last year the Sec. General of Vocational Education (TESDA) supported our outreach by attending as a keynote speaker (and will again this year) as we partnered with Building and Woodworkers International Federation and others to host the first Tradeswomen Conference in the country. The event was considered important enough to be on prime time Sunday evening news on the 3 largest stations in the country.

This year our goal is to;

Facilitate the creation of the first Union, All Women Contracting Co. in the Philippines

Host the 2nd Manila Tradeswomen Conference, October 13th, 2019

Attend the 3rd Australian Tradeswomen Conference in Sydney October 18th & 19th

Host the 1st Meri Tradies Gathering in Papua New Guinea, October 26 (Meri = Women)

It is hoped that we can find ways to help our sisters connect the governments vocational training and other vested departments to the women contracting ventures, much like our concept of a PLA that specifies a percentage of women, and our concept of school/discount business (e.g. Dentistry to Hair schools. Hiring students so they get

the hands on experience in a supportive environment). Our hopes are to find a way to create the Women Contracting Business under a nonprofit.

We are working with the Philippine Commission on Women, the Dept. of Public Works and Highways, the Philippines National Union of Building and Construction Workers, the Building and Woodworkers International Federation, the Association of Women Workers in the Construction Industry, Habitat for Humanity, and other local agencies and nonprofits to find ways to address the issues our sisters face getting into these nontraditional trades.

From the Philippines we fly to Australia for the 3rd Women in Trades Conference ever in the country, continuing to grow our sharing of knowledge on the industry, its issues and solutions for women in the trades.

SALT, Australia’s first nonprofit for tradeswomen, will then partner with us on our outreach to Papua New Guinea, where we will Host the Meri Tradies Gathering, the first conference for tradeswomen in the country. We have been mentoring and fostering the creation of the first Tradeswomen Nonprofit, organizing prior to our arrival. We will again be giving gifts to assist our sisters in the trades of tools, safety gear and first aid kits. We will be spending 6 days in Port Moresby learning of their challenges, issues, and proposed solutions.

We ask that you join us in this worthy cause by stepping up to sponsor this year’s outreach at $100, $250 or $500 to purchase, tools/gear/supplies, and cover the costs of hosting the two Tradeswomen Conferences, safety training, and related events. Just feeding the women at the 4 events is $6,400. Every donation counts. We have spent everything we got in, to fill the container. This is not some vague “your donations will help those overseas,” these are real tradeswomen in a historic effort with real tradeswomen in need on the other side. The more we can raise, the more impact we will have.

We are grateful for your sponsorship, support, partnership, advice, contacts, and donations that you give to this worthy project as we grow the Tradeswomen Global Outreach into the future.

If you work with a company that has locations in the Philippines or Papua New Guinea that you think may wish to know of our efforts or to partner with us in some way, please contact us.

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In Solidarity,

the Sisters in the Building Trades

The Sisters in the Building Trades Inc. is a Seattle based 501C3 nonprofit whose mission is to connect tradeswomen to provide mentorship and education to empower, share resources and knowledge that affect women in nontraditional trades, operating on donations and volunteer hours of Tradeswomen and their supporters since 2006.

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