

On Thursday, October 6th 2011 we hosted our Second Annual Scholarship Fundraiser at Moore Brothers Wine Company here in NYC. The funds raised are going to women microfinance practitioners from the Global South to attend specialized training programs and conferences to strengthen their skills and leadership opportunities. **We had an ambitious goal to outdo last year, and topped that!**

The evening started with a few words, and many pours of delicious wines from Moore Brothers Wine – our generous host second year running.



We had many friends and supporters join us for the festivities, and the crowd swelled to capacity as we approached 7pm. Long time supporter and friend, Ray came out to sample the wine and mingle, seen below with our Steering Committee member Alicia. Katherine and Tom sampled the wine and enjoyed delicious food from Spina, Delicatessen, Trader Joes.



In addition to the Steering Committee, we had a Host Committee who proved to be ardent marketers of our event and the cause. Below, Steering Committee member, Archana, fellow work colleague and Host Committee member Lara, and her guest Sonia.



We started the formal part of the evening with a few words from our Fundraising Chair, Stacey Rivers, who encouraged the crowd to bid on our fabulous 33 auction items and buy raffle tickets! We had a few bidding wars! Below, guests sneaking in bids



We followed this by reading testimonials from three of our five 2010 scholarship recipients - Carolyne Atieno Jalang'o; from Kenya, Wafaa William from Egypt, and Wilma Longdon from Ghana. Steering Committee members Denitza, Archana and Sarah represented their voices.



This year, we were very excited to have **Ms. Donna Katzin, CEO of Shared Interest** as our keynote speaker. Donna spoke about the importance of supporting women in the field of microfinance, citing many first hand examples through her extensive work experience. For many non-practitioners, her explanations made the cause tangible. Below, Donna addressing us.

