

WE CARE

Woman Empowerment through Collaborations, Awareness, and Resources for Education

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WE CARE, a Skyline High School club started by sophomore Deeya Sharma aims to empower girls and women through education. Deeya who is also the President of WE CARE, got the idea to start the club when she visited India last December. There, she came in touch with a school run by the organization Veerni—Veerni supports school girls who don't have the opportunity for an education. This experience motivated Deeya to start an organization that helps girls and woman gain access to schooling in cities where they otherwise would not have the opportunity. Thus, WE CARE, which stands for Women Empowerment through Collaborations, Awareness, and Resources for Education was put into action as soon as the 2016-2017 school year started.

Currently, the board members of the club include Deeya Sharma as President, Sanjana Kanumari as Vice President, Ajay Pai as Director of Communications, and

Emma Lapinsky as Treasurer. All five individuals go to Skyline High school and feel personally inclined to make a change for the girls and women who do not have access to quality education.

The WE CARE mission states: Empowering Girls through Education; WE CARE will collaborate with other organizations to help create educational opportunities for women by providing and funding educational resources.

The passion to make a change doesn't end there. Every member of WE CARE contributes to the decisions and goals carried out by the club; every voice and idea helps the club grow and be more impactful. Take their name for example: 'collaborations' stands for their teamwork with other domestic and international organizations also dedicated to same or similar cause. 'Awareness' is created through personal outreach, events, and data. 'Resources' include school supplies, computer programs and funds raised through awareness, fundraisers and donations. WE CARE is dedicated to help woman all around the world receive education in hope that society will acknowledge woman as no less than men. Their goal is to break gender boundaries and stereotypes that equate woman to doing more than managing families and households.

Regardless of their financial status, WE CARE works with helping girls to gain confidence, power, and an equal voice in society through learning. Deeya believes, "By providing these women with an education, we are giving them a voice, a voice to express themselves and leave their footprints on this world which they should have every right to."

WE CARE wishes to partner up with more organizations every year. This year, WE CARE has connected with the Veerni Project. Veerni is a non-profit organization that takes girls and child brides from rural villages in Rajasthan, India to bring them to the city to provide them with schooling at the Veerni institute, free of cost. The girls receive schooling of many subjects, which opens their potential and shows them the possibilities they hold for the future. In addition, Veerni provides independence and confidence to girls to break away from arranged marriages that they were forced into at such a young age. WE CARE's goal is to help raise resources and funds for Veerni to help them send as many of their high school students to college.

The girls at the Veerni institute learn how to make professional cards to give to others. WE CARE plans to order these cards and sell them during the holidays to raise funds and awareness. Along with that, the club is working to open other clubs that are parallel to it at other high schools near us like Issaquah, Eastlake, and Mount Si.

On the whole, WE CARE believes that everyone deserves to feel empowered through an education, regardless of their gender or financial status. They strive to bring change for women and girls all across the world starting from Sammamish.

For more information visit wecareskyline.wixsite.com/wecare

