



BACKGROUND

Rachel O'Neill founded Little Dresses for Africa in 2008, after a trip to Africa for her 50th birthday. Her passion to help others and empower women, found a space to blossom in the red dirt of Malawi by working with little girls to "plant in their hearts that they are worthy" resulting in the formation of a Christian 501c3 that soon branched out from not only the distribution of little dresses but to offering relief through clean water, education, and community. Rachel continues to work toward racial unity and her passion is her family.

CONTACT

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AWARDS

Stevie Awards- Most Innovative Woman in Non-Profit Silver 2023
She Leads Michigan 2020
Points of Light 2019
Common Threads Award 2017
City Certificate of Recognition 2017
Global Society of Empowered Women 2017
Global Impact Award 2017
Salute to Women 2017
LifeTime Achievement Awards 2016
Soroptomist Award 2012
Making a Difference NBC 2011

Rachel O'Neill

Founder and Director,
Little Dresses for Africa

EDUCATION

University of Michigan
Bachelor of Arts 1978

Central University
Master of Science in Administration

PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

AVL Engineering and Atlas Oil (Executive Assistant to the CEO)
1998-2020

Combined experience of 23 years in managing all aspects to coordinate a highly confidential and dynamic business for the owner of Atlas Oil and to the CEO of AVL North and South America.

CURRENT POSITION

Little Dresses for Africa
2008-present

- Since establishing LDFA as a non-profit 501c3 in 2008, Rachel continues to grow the non-profit to a global effort. Little Dresses are distributed all over the globe in remote villages to empower young girls and offer relief through clean water, education, and community.
- Over 30,000 volunteers sewing and inspiring others to offer relief in 97 countries with a goal of inspiring communities to help the less fortunate.
- Fundraising efforts support operations of \$500,000+ annual budget including shipping and relief projects in Malawi, Africa. Projects include supplying a warehouse in Africa to receive 40ft shipping containers twice a year, operate 3 schools and ongoing projects for widows and orphans.
- Speaking at events, community group meetings, churches around the United States and Africa, to encourage participation.
- Development of marketing materials, volunteer involvement and maintaining relationships with other humanitarian groups, advancing the mission and collaboration of like-minded groups.
- Management of social and web platforms as well as correspondence and Board Meetings in the USA and Africa.
- Rachel and her husband, Michael, are very active in their church and community and have been married since 1973. They are very close with their 2 adult children and their spouses and are blessed with 7 grandchildren. Rachel is the youngest of 6 daughters born to her father, a minister, and her mother, an educator, to whom she attributes the inspiration of her work.