



Chapter Formation Starter Kit

Everything you need to find or start
a **Sew Powerful Chapter**



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About Sew Powerful

THE BASICS



Sew Powerful was founded by Jason and Cinnamon Miles in 2009 after a “chance” meeting that was all part of God’s plan. Sew Powerful is a 501(c)3 charity registered in the state of Washington. All positions are held by volunteers.

Our Mission:

Sew Powerful is a Christian ministry that works to combat extreme poverty by creating jobs that provide training and tools to facilitate the creation of purposeful products. These include purses, school uniforms, reusable hygiene pads, soap, and farm fresh food. All designed to promote and enable the academic success of children throughout Zambia, while providing the dignity of work for adults.

Sew Powerful volunteers – sometimes individually, sometimes as part of a Chapter – from around the world make and send their purses to the Sew Powerful headquarters in Seattle. At the same time, Sew Powerful has hired, trained and paid moms in Zambia to sew reusable feminine hygiene supplies. The pads, shields, underwear and soap go into the purses made by the volunteers. The filled purses are gifted to Zambian schoolgirls as an incentive to stay in school all month, improving their chances to live life in all its fullness. Visit the SewPowerful.org website for more information.

About Sew Powerful **ON VIDEO**



Links To:

- 7-minute purse distribution video: [CLICK HERE](#)
- 6-1/2 minute presentation about Sew Powerful: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Beginner and intermediate purse making tutorials: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Sew Powerful on YouTube: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Videos on the Sew Powerful Facebook page: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Market and find members for your newly formed Chapter: [CLICK HERE](#)

Why We Need Your Help

Girls who stay in school all month long are much more likely to pass their 7th grade exam, allowing them to pursue secondary education in Zambia. Failing this test ends all educational opportunities.

Imagine girls missing a week of school every month because they don't have the supplies to manage their periods. It won't take long before the girls are so far behind in their studies that they drop out of school, ending their chance for formal education, better job opportunities and hopes of breaking the cycle of poverty.

Girls in Zambia are waiting for our assistance so they can attend school all month, even on their period. We've helped thousands of students, but there are many more waiting for our help. By 2030 we hope to make our program available to all 3,800 schools in Zambia.



Why Form a Chapter?

In a 2021 survey conducted by Sew Powerful, we discovered:

- More than 85% of all respondents had some level of interest in meeting with other Sew Powerful purse makers
- Nearly 50% were interested in attending meetings held monthly
- More than 80% were willing to drive between 10-30 miles (or kilometers) to attend such meetings

By choosing multiple options, our survey respondents told us that the most appealing aspects of these meetings would be:

- Service to others (69%)
- Opportunity for friendship (68%)
- Sharing materials and supplies (51%)
- A set meeting schedule/place (40%)
- Sewing instructions (28%)
- Presentation from experts (26%)

According to a 2021 research project at the University of Richmond, we learn:

“Joining groups satisfies our need to belong, gain information and understanding through social interactions, define our sense of self and social identity, and achieve goals that might elude us if we worked alone.”¹

¹ Forsyth, D. R. (2021). The psychology of groups. In R. Biswas-Diener & E. Diener (Eds), Noba textbook series: Psychology. Champaign, IL: DEF publishers. Retrieved from <http://noba.to/trfxbkhm>

Sew Powerful Chapters Defined

| A Chapter IS | A Chapter IS <u>NOT</u> |
|--|--|
| A local group of 3 or more enthusiastic people, meeting regularly, at least 4 times per year, organized for the sole purpose of encouraging and enabling the production of Sew Powerful purses and/or notecards | Not a group that only once, or occasionally, does a service project in support of Sew Powerful |
| Formed to support the Sew Powerful mission and purpose | Not formed for alternate reasons |
| Friendly, welcoming to all, encouraging, knowledgeable about Sew Powerful through contacts with Sew Powerful leadership, website, social media, newsletters, books, etc. Also reaching out to individuals and outside groups to encourage support of Sew Powerful | Not discouraging or disparaging of individuals or their contributions |
| Responsible for making key decisions: choosing its own name, leader, meeting frequency, location, meeting structure, attendance guidelines, materials, supplies, safety protocols, shipping costs, expense management, etc. | Not supported financially by Sew Powerful |
| Lead by an individual chosen by the members of the Chapter. The leader supplies chapter metrics to Sew Powerful and creates a sense of community, accountability and commitment; ensures that the Chapter follows quality guidelines, adheres to the latest patterns and stays up to date on Sew Powerful policies and processes | Not a legal or financial agent of Sew Powerful |

**Generate enthusiasm
for forming a Sew
Powerful Chapter by:**

How to Get Started

#1: Sharing this
starter kit with friends
and family who might
like to form a Chapter
with you

#2: Printing flyers from
our website and sharing
them with your members

[CLICK HERE](#)

#3: Watching videos
together as a group

SEE PAGE 2

#6: Invite interested
parties to the first
Chapter meeting

**#5: Choose a
meeting time and
location and then:**

#4: Inviting a Sew
Powerful volunteer to
talk to you via Zoom

SEE PAGE 9

#7: Choose a
Chapter leader

#8: Start making key
Chapter decisions

SEE PAGE 7

#9: Register your
Chapter on the Sew
Powerful website

[CLICK HERE](#)

Once your Chapter registration is received, Sew Powerful will give you access to a special Chapter Leader page on the Sew Powerful website. There you will find a dynamic list of resources to aid you in guiding your Chapter.

| KEY DECISIONS TO BE MADE | YOUR DECISION |
|--|---|
| Chapter Name | |
| Name/email address of Leader | |
| Meeting Location | |
| Meeting Frequency (select one) | <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly <input type="checkbox"/> Monthly <input type="checkbox"/> Quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> Bi-Monthly |
| OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER | |
| Meeting Activities | |
| Acquiring and sharing supplies and materials | |
| Ensuring safety of members | |
| Covering costs when sending finished goods to Sew Powerful | |
| Chapter expenses | |

10 Ways

CHAPTER MEMBERS CAN SUPPORT SEW POWERFUL

- 1 **Make purses.** Get the free patterns here: [Beginner Pattern](#) and [Intermediate Pattern](#)
- 2 **Write notecards.** To find ideas and inspiration: [CLICK HERE](#)
- 3 **Make a donation.** With a low overhead rate of under 5%, you can be assured we watch every penny. 95 cents of every dollar you contribute will go to those in need in Zambia. You can [DONATE HERE](#)
- 4 **Buy/share/gift** the “We Are Sew Powerful” book: [ORDER ON AMAZON](#)
- 5 **Buy/share/gift** the “Sew Powerful Parables” book: [ORDER ON AMAZON](#)
- 6 **Buy/gift** Sew Powerful branded t-shirts & hoodies: [ORDER HERE](#)
- 7 **Listen to our weekly Sew Powerful Podcast** on your favorite platform, or [LISTEN HERE](#)
- 8 **Share your Chapter news and photos** on social media in your personal accounts AND on:
 - Facebook: [Sew Powerful Page](#) | [Sew Powerful Purse Project Group](#)
 - Instagram: [@SewPowerful](#)
- 9 **Invite your friends/family** to attend/join your Chapter meetings
- 10 **Encourage other groups** to make Sew Powerful purses as a service project. Learn more [HERE](#)

Sew Powerful *Leadership*



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** Available to speak to your group via Zoom*



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**For Chapter related inquiries,
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