

A B O U T

KIRSTEN CLOSE

Kirsten Close is a 17-year-old trailblazer and founder of MePower United, a nonprofit dedicated to addressing menstrual poverty in underdeveloped nations overseas.

Kirsten's mission to eliminate menstrual poverty was sparked in 2020 by a news segment detailing the struggles women in El Salvador face to secure proper menstrual hygiene supplies. After completing more research, she founded MePower United to empower Salvadoran women to take ownership of their periods and financial situations.

After raising over \$4k in reusable menstrual supplies and teaming up with a women's shelter in El Salvador, Kirsten traveled abroad to implement her plan. She met with over 50 trafficked and homeless women and demonstrated how to not only make and use the reusable pads but also how to sell them to other women to escape their own financial poverty. Since implementation, over 500 reusable pads have been distributed throughout the El Salvador community and seven women in severe poverty are actively sewing and distributing pads as a means of employment.

Kirsten is also an active advocate for menstrual poverty in America. She's recruited her fellow students to serve in MePower leadership positions and help with fundraising and program development. She also actively contacts to our government leaders to advocate for free menstrual products in American homeless shelters, jails and schools.

In Kirsten's free time, she enjoys playing tennis where she's played in multiple state finals and now serves as team captain. She is currently undefeated in the WPIAL #1 Singles position.

