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From: Shaun Irlam

**Anne Robinson Wadsworth Receives Alison Des Forges Memorial Award  
for Human Rights Activists in Western New York**

The Alison Des Forges Memorial Committee will present its second annual award to Anne Robinson Wadsworth, a Founder and Executive Director of the Girls Education Collaborative (GEC), Inc., a Buffalo-based non-profit organization, founded in 2012 and committed to educating girls in partnership with community-based entities in developing countries. Created to honor the legacy of internationally-recognized human rights activist, Alison Des Forges, who died in 2009 in the Clarence crash of 3407, the award is given each year to an individual or organization whose actions exemplify Alison's uncompromising commitment to advance the cause of human rights and social justice, either in Western New York or around the globe.

Wadsworth, described as having "relentless energy, drive and determination," was the inspiration and initiating force behind collaborating with a locally-led initiative to build a secondary school for girls in rural Tanzania. The Kitenga Girls School, which opened in 2017, currently serves more than 70 girls in two grade levels. It is owned and run by the Immaculate Heart Sisters of Africa (IHSA), GEC's partners. The secondary school is projected to grow by an additional 400 students over the next few years. GEC's vision is "to equip girls in developing countries to transcend their circumstances, realize their fullest potential and become catalysts for change in their communities." As Executive Director of GEC, Anne's leadership has been marked by wisdom, persistence, and unflagging commitment to GEC's vision and goals. She spearheaded the raising of significant funds for buildings and operations, and has made 18 trips to rural Tanzania in the past six years to supervise the planning and construction of the infrastructure, and to assist the IHSA in meeting the school's operational challenges.

Born and raised in Buffalo, Anne is a graduate of Park School, Bowdoin College, and the Maxwell School of Public Affairs and Administration at Syracuse University. She resides in Orchard Park with her husband, Bill.

