



[www.grameenamerica.com](http://www.grameenamerica.com)

### Financial and Social Impact

Since opening in 2008:

- Over \$1.5 billion invested in 132,400 women entrepreneurs across 15 U.S. cities
- 567,000 loans disbursed
- 139,000 jobs created or maintained
- \$1,785 additional income boost achieved for businesses served

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Photo by Vera Robstova

# GRAMEEN AMERICA

Founded by Nobel Peace Prize recipient Muhammad Yunus, Grameen America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit microfinance organization dedicated to helping women who live in poverty build small businesses to create better lives for their families. The organization offers microloans, training, and support to transform communities and fight poverty in the United States. Since opening in January 2008, Grameen America has invested over \$1.5 billion in more than 132,400 low-income women entrepreneurs. Started in Jackson Heights, Queens, Grameen America has expanded to 15 cities in New York City, Austin, TX, Boston, MA, Charlotte, NC, Indianapolis, IN, Los Angeles, CA, Newark, NJ, Omaha, NE, Oakland, CA, San Jose, CA, San Juan, PR, and Union City, NJ, Miami, FL, Houston, TX, and Fresno, CA. Learn more at [www.grameenamerica.org](http://www.grameenamerica.org).

### CDFI Story: Lasting Impressions Hosiery and Accessories, Harlem, NY

Sheila owns Lasting Impressions Hosiery and Accessories, a mobile boutique on 125th street in Harlem, next to the iconic Apollo Theater. She started her business selling hosiery, jewelry, and accessories from a table as a street vendor. It was physically demanding and the harsh New York winters made it difficult for Sheila to work outside year round. Through her resourcefulness, Sheila purchased and refurbished a truck to house her mobile boutique. By expanding her business to a nimble truck, Sheila is now able to travel with her mobile boutique and run her business throughout the colder months. With her first loan from Grameen America, Sheila added contemporary and vintage clothing to her store and the business began to thrive.

“Having my own business gives me the freedom to do what I want with my life. With Grameen America’s support, my credit score has increased. I’ve made great strides.”