

Annual Report to NYQM for 2018-2019

NYQM Great Lakes Region (Africa) Education Committee

July 13, 2019

Our committee has had an active, fruitful year. Membership is remarkably constant (actually for almost two decades): Margery Cornwell; Marna Herrity, clerk; Corona Macheimer, treasurer; Margaret Mulindi and Tony Shitemi; having joined Brooklyn Meeting recently, Mary Ann Baily is now also a full member. Jim Morgan continues as Project Manager. We held 9 meetings since last July, almost always with good attendance.

Enabling Children to Attend School

Providing funds for uniforms, shoes and other necessary equipment for 125 needy children and young people, many orphaned by AIDS, at the Kisangura schools in rural Tanzania remains our primary task. Once again, in January 2019, with the help of our agent in East Africa, Project Zawadi, Distribution Day at the schools saw this obligation fulfilled at a joyful community event.

Guardian Teacher Program

Now at both schools, our Guardian Teacher Program appears to be making a difference; for one thing, we now receive detailed reports on the academic progress of each sponsored student. For another, our support enables all of our sponsored female secondary students to live on campus during the week in one of the dormitories there.

Further Education

This past year we accommodated twelve Kisangura graduates pursuing advanced academic or vocational training through our Further Education Fund. For 2019-2020 we anticipate another dozen, five of whom are continuing on in a two-year course.

A Recent Visit to the Schools

In March 2019, Marna Herrity returned to Kisangura for her fifth visit, this time accompanied by Emmy Gay of Brooklyn Meeting and her daughter, Willow Bennison, a student at Oakwood Friends School. They spent several days at both schools, meeting with Tanzanian students and teachers. Some of those conversations were videotaped and subsequently shown during the May 11th symposium, "YES, a better world is possible!" With other NYQM committees, we co-sponsored this event at Brooklyn Friends School. Marna also used her trip to strengthen our committee's involvement in the Guardian Teachers Program, to become better acquainted with Project Zawadi staff, and to meet with young adults whom we, in the past, sponsored to attend these schools. As captured on cellphone video, they express their gratitude for that help with heart-warming enthusiasm.

Financial information

Since July 2018, we have received a total of \$35,326.00 from 80 donors; \$15,176.00 of that went into our General Fund supporting students at the Kisangura schools; \$20,150.00 was for further education of graduates of the secondary school. The General Fund received substantial gifts from Brooklyn, Fifteenth Street and Morningside Meetings as well as from the Brooklyn Friends Middle School Student Council. Our Further Education Fund is funded this year by on-going support from the Block Family Foundation, Mary Rusnak and an anonymous donor.

This report has been read and approved by the Africa Education Committee.
In Friendship,

Marna Herrity, Clerk