

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021-2022

NYQM Great Lakes Region (Africa) Education Committee

New York Quarterly Meeting July 16, 2022

Our committee's year has been one in which much has been accomplished, but also one in which much has changed, with additional changes anticipated during the coming year. Members during the past year were Marna Herrity, Clerk; Margery Cornwell; Mary Ann Baily, Corona Macherer, and Tony Shitemi. Margaret Mulindi continued as an inactive member. Jim Morgan continued as co-opted project manager (but see below). We met 10 times during the past year, once in person at the New Apollo Diner in Brooklyn, but otherwise virtually.

Enabling children to attend primary and secondary school

In December 2021, we sent \$17,881 to Project Zawadi, a non-profit located in Arusha, Tanzania, which acted as our agent in East Africa for the last time—see below, to provide uniforms, shoes, educational materials, and other necessary equipment for 125 children and young people in extreme need, many of them orphaned by AIDS, who are attending Kisangura Primary and Secondary Schools, founded by Friends, in Tanzania, East Africa.

Distribution Day, which has become a joyous community event, was held in mid-January 2022, and was managed by Head Guardian Teacher Florence Focus. As usual, we received convincing documentation of students receiving their supplies. We also sent funds to enable all the secondary school girls we sponsor to live in on-campus dormitories, which makes a huge difference in how well they can do in school.

Guardian Teachers and Further Education

Our Guardian Teacher Program in the two schools has proved so effective that in December 2021, all of our sponsored students in Form Four (equivalent of seniors in high school in the US) passed the national exams, making them eligible to go on to further education. Of these 8 students, 6 were girls!

Now, at the outset of the 2022/2023 higher-education academic year, we have a total of 23 students enrolled in various 2- or 3-year further-education programs. Two of the 8 who passed their exams last December are attending advanced high schools to prepare for university.

We have committed ourselves to making sure that all our sponsored students who pass the exams will be able to go on to further education. For the 2022/2023 Academic Year, the amount of money needed to fulfill this promise is approximately \$28,000.

That this commitment (on top of the approximately \$18,000 needed for Distribution Day in January 2023) represents a fundraising challenge goes without saying. But we feel it is vital to meet this challenge if we can. As Tony Shitemi, one of our committee members from Kenya, writes: "The inability of many talented high school graduates in Africa to afford the cost of continued education limits not only their own potential, but that of their communities as well. Advanced education for just one family member can make an enormous difference in lifting a family out of subsistence living for generations. That family member may help the immediate and extended family to further their education, may assist with farming costs, may help pay medical bills, and much more. Beyond the most highly educated doctors, lawyers, and bankers, who tend to gravitate to the cities, the smaller communities and towns 'our' students come from desperately need civil servants, skilled contractors and technicians, healthcare workers, entrepreneurs—all possibilities further education brings."

Kisingura Children Foundation

In December 2021, the Tanzanian government approved the establishment of the non-profit Kisangura Children Foundation, headquartered at Kisangura Secondary School. As an official Tanzanian non-profit, the Foundation has its own bank account, and will replace Project Zawadi in managing our relationship with the Kisangura schools and our sponsored students. We have appointed Florence Focus, Academic Master of the Secondary School and Head Guardian Teacher, as Foundation Manager. The Foundation,

which will be monitored by our committee, will select the students to be sponsored; will manage Distribution Day (purchasing the supplies and overseeing the distribution itself); and will be responsible for the Further Education Program, as well as other projects.

Finances

Since last year's report, our committee has received \$44,721.95 in donations as of June 30, 2022. In addition to the \$17,881 we transmitted in December 2021 to Project Zawadi (see above), since July 1, 2021, we have sent an additional \$16,358 to cover Further Education expenses for 17 scholars during the Tanzanian academic year that began in June 2021. An additional \$8,700 for Further Education was sent in July. We also spent \$650 to cover the costs of registering and setting up the Kisangura Children Foundation; in addition we paid the four guardian teachers a total of \$750 to compensate them for the extra work and responsibility the position entails.

In addition to our remarkably loyal and generous donor base, whose gifts mostly cover the expenses of the primary- and secondary-school cohorts, and include substantial donations from Brooklyn, Fifteenth Street, and Morningside Monthly Meeting, several donors, including the New York Quarterly Meeting Ministry & Counsel Committee, gave generously to the Further Education Fund. Currently, we are raising money to meet upcoming 2022-2023 Further Education needs, estimated at \$21,600, which must be sent to Tanzania by October. We are deeply grateful for every contribution sent to us this past year and are hopeful that many people in the Quarter will donate in the coming months.

Fundraising and the Project Manager's Role

Before the advent of the Guardian Teacher Program, only two or three of our sponsored students did well enough on their national exams to qualify for any kind of further education, and almost all were boys; they enrolled mostly in one-year vocational programs. The statistics for this academic year, detailed above, show how much has changed. While we as a committee cannot help but be thrilled by this success, we are all too cognizant of the fundraising burden that is an inevitable consequence. In 2018, our Further Education budget was less than \$7,000. This year it is more than four times that amount. Friends should keep in mind that, while the need for further education funds grows, this vital program constitutes a bargain: The average cost per year per student is a little more than \$1,100.

For years our co-opted Project Manager, Jim Morgan, whose leading resulted in the establishment of our committee over twenty years ago, has not only donated hours of his time and all the expenses associated with committee operations, he has also been our most prodigious fundraiser. His health will no longer permit him to continue doing what he has been doing, and we must find a way to manage going forward.

All this means that our committee needs new members, particularly Friends with the skill to help us develop our website and the social-networking presence that is essential to outreach in this day and age. We are also hopeful that the new Witness Committee of the Quarter, recognizing the vital importance of our Further Education program, will help with its funding.

This report has been read by and approved by the committee.

Signed: Marna Herrity, Clerk