

Friends of Mwangaza  
Linda Milton, Treasurer  
2926 - 27th Street  
Rock Island, IL 61201

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Internal Revenue Service recognizes Friends of Mwangaza, Inc. as a charitable organization. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law.

## Mwangaza Director Seelah Kisoso



*The world's economic turmoil is felt here in Tanzania, too.*

*We had a clear budget from the start, but the unexpected plays havoc with the numbers.*

*The U.S. dollar rate has been down throughout the year. Inflation and higher and higher fuel prices have not helped either.*

*Food prices have really escalated, and we especially "feel" them when we're hosting seminars at our Assembly Hall. Transport expenses paid to our participants to attend seminars have doubled in the past year.*

*Ever mindful of keeping within our budget, we have cut down on costs in areas where we could, and it has helped.*

*We look forward to Dr. Shoonie Hartwig's return in late February; it will be a time for more planning.*

*To our supporters in the United States, I must say that on behalf of all of us here at Mwangaza, we extend our thanks for your support in this ministry. Each one of you and the role or roles you play make this partnership a reality.*

*Asanteni!  
You are all in our prayers.  
Sincerely,  
Seelah Kisoso*

### Thrivent Donors

As an independent Lutheran organization recognized by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Friends of Mwangaza qualifies for the matching gift program of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

If you are a Thrivent Financial member, you can increase your contributions to Friends of Mwangaza by completing a simple GivingPlus form with each donation you make. Thrivent will add \$1 for every \$2 contributed to Friends of Mwangaza up to a maximum supplement of \$300 per year. (Individuals can donate to two different eligible organizations of their choice each year and have those donations supplemented by Thrivent.)

You can download the GivingPlus form by typing "Thrivent Financial for Lutherans" in your browser. Enter "GivingPlus form" in the empty box next to the box titled "Thrivent Search." Complete the form as directed and include it with your check to Friends of Mwangaza.

Don't have access to the form online? Just add a note to your donation and we'll send you one to complete.

### Support Mwangaza

The Internal Revenue Service recognizes Friends of Mwangaza, Inc. as a charitable organization. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law.

Donations are being received by Friends of Mwangaza Treasurer Linda Milton, whose address is shown above on this page.

Winter  
2009

# Reflections

*In 1996, Mwangaza established its headquarters at the end of Ilboru Road near Arusha, Tanzania. The sign outside our gate proclaimed "Teachers' Resource Center." We were happy to proclaim it! By 2004, however, the sign was changed to "Education Resource Center," since Mwangaza had broadened its outreach.*

*Indeed, we were a Teachers' Resource Center in our early years. We provided books, teachers' guides and seminars for teachers in ELCT secondary schools.*

*However, our understanding of the word "resource" has changed in our thirteen-year history because participants throughout the twenty dioceses of the ELCT increasingly look to Mwangaza as a resource for life-giving, life-changing education. As they do so, they are naming what they need.*

*Within this newsletter are examples of how Mwangaza is translating "resource" through programs, materials, and personnel. More than that, it shows how so many of you are creating resources that make it all possible.*

## Resources from USA and TZ Blend to Create Partnership, Programs, Pride, and Progress

Over the years, Mwangaza in Tanzania has thrived because of the quality of its personnel, one of Mwangaza's key resources.

Likewise, it has thrived because of the on-going efforts of resource-supporters in the USA.

One example of such support comes from Mwangaza friends in Illinois. For the past two years, Debbie and John Kogelman of Plainfield, IL, have hosted a Mwangaza Oktoberfest Dinner fundraiser in their home.

Its purpose?

To raise funds which enable them to ship teachers' textbook editions to Mwangaza. While some books are slated for Mwangaza's professional library, the others function as resources that the Mwangaza staff distributes during their visits to all of the nation's ELCT secondary schools.

Debbie, a science teacher at the University of Chicago Lab School (where the Obama children attended), was "taken" by the need for books in Tanzanian schools after hearing former Director Dr. Shoonie Hartwig speak at St. John Lutheran Church in Joliet, Illinois.

Husband John, a Certified Master Baker and Executive Pastry Chef, is the Corporate Director of Research and Development and Pastry Operations for Turano Baking Company. Their Oktoberfest Dinner featured pork, sauerkraut, German potato salad, chicken schnitzel, spatzle, sauerbraten, braised red cabbage, and onion pie. Tortes, Swiss chocolates, and custard tarts finished off the menu in high style.

Thierry Etienne, a pastry chef colleague of John's from Toronto, Canada, having heard "The Mwangaza Story," flew to Illinois this past October to help create not only the many desserts that topped off the evening's dinner, but also those raffled off to the evening's lucky participants.

Over the past two years, the Kogelmans have raised nearly \$2200. Thanks to the success of the Kogelman dinner, another major shipment of books is on its way to Mwangaza; the books will be welcomed warmly!

What joy it is to receive email confirmation from Director Kisoso when she reveals the safe arrival of these books filled with such valuable information, resources otherwise difficult to attain in Tanzania.

We say this:  
Hats off to the chefs!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



*Beautiful desserts that weaken one's willpower are on display before the Oktoberfest dinner at the Kogelman home where 35 diners tasted the results of the skilled efforts of the Kogelmans, Thierry Etienne, Bob Anderson, and Bruce Hawkins who prepared an Oktoberfest to remember!*

M w a n g a z a

On the Web at [www.mwangazaeducationforpartnership.org](http://www.mwangazaeducationforpartnership.org)

A Friends of Mwangaza publication

## Resources Raised to Help Mwangaza Increase Outreach, Thanks to Three Women, One Team, Training, and Heart

Testing the limits of their own physical, emotional, and mental resources, three Colorado women took on the Harvest Moon Half-Ironman Triathlon this past September.

All three are colleagues with Life Force International, a direct sales company founded on philanthropic principles, so it comes as no surprise that they decided to seek sponsors, enabling them to give back to others.

The team was comprised of Julie Reynolds, Mari Gambotto, and Annie Taylor.



*Life Force International buddies Annie Taylor, Julie Reynolds, and Mari Gambotto celebrate the completion of the Aurora, Colorado, Half-Ironman Triathlon on a very cold September Sunday. Friends and colleagues sponsored their participation, enabling them to raise fifteen thousand dollars, to be shared by three charities. Reynolds, a lifelong friend (and former student) of Friends of Mwangaza Secretary Jim Talarico, chose Mwangaza as her non-profit charity.*

grass-roots gifts.

A moving note accompanied the team's check: "We have been inspired by your mission to provide educational support in Tanzania. It's what got us through the race!"

And what a race it was: 1.2 mile swim; 56 mile bike; 13.1 mile run!

After it was over, they were happy to announce, "WE DID IT!"

"Despite all the challenges we've had during our months of training, and the REALLY cold weather on the day of the triathlon, we took on the biggest race of our lives.

"Talk about personal development!"

A year ago, Mari did not know how to swim. Annie had never run. And Julie wondered how she was going to keep up!

How did they keep going?

Reynolds noted the following: "Throughout the race we kept photographs that represented the charities we believed in to remind us of our 'why!'"

Each woman completed the triathlon on behalf of a different charitable organization.

Reynolds chose Mwangaza.

Likewise, Tibetan Village Project and Ifakara (Tanzania) Bakery Project (founded by Taylor's parents) were honored recipients of the effort's philanthropic resources.

Each organization has received a check for five thousand dollars, providing opportunities for them to extend their outreach.

Mwangaza is humbled by such

## MW Resources Nurture Whole Communities Nationwide; Staff Key to Programs, Impact, Growth

Mwangaza's human resources--its professional staff of three and its many subsidiary staffers--function as a family in Tanzania. Together they play key roles in Mwangaza's success, with its imprint on the nation growing greater and greater with each passing year.

Mwangaza has advertised the use of its hostel and conference facilities throughout Arusha. Safari tour operators, hotels, and TZ dioceses have all received a brochure promoting its use. Several groups have responded and made bookings for 2009. This intentional effort will help to raise funds right in Tanzania.

Director Kisoso recently participated in a Women's Seminar in Mara Diocese. She was invited to teach three topics: Conflict and Conflict Resolution, Women's Health, and Violence in Relation to HIV/AIDS. At the seminar's conclusion, women found much new information, including violence against women, rape as part of violence, multiple partnering as an AIDS escalator, and the importance of education for women, especially young girls.

The women identified Mini-Books as one of the teaching methods they most enjoyed, saying they intended to share new information with family members, their daughters especially. Others said they felt empowered to return to their communities and mobilize teams to speak out against violence toward women.

One participant confided this to Director Kisoso: "I wish I knew this information long ago; my life would have been very different!"



*Staff members William Kivuyo and John Kavishe recently returned from a two-week tour of secondary school outreach. One highlight was a student-created AIDS drama.*

## Christmas Ornaments Send Books to Tanzania: How an Individual Develops Resources for Others

Teachers' Editions of textbooks are, indeed, valuable resources in schools world-wide. But it takes other resources to get them from HERE to THERE!

That's where Judith Engel Coope decided to enter the scene.

As a way to support her daughter-in-law Donna Engel, a two-time Mwangaza science teacher volunteer, Judith, a member of St. John Lutheran in Joliet, Illinois, single-handedly decided to raise funds to send books that provide the information resources needed in ELCT secondary schools in Tanzania.

Working from a concept developed by Gerry Lidstrom, himself a Mwangaza teacher volunteer and former Friends of Mwangaza Board of Directors member, Judith created beautiful Tanzania-specific Christmas ornaments and sold them to raise funds which will send texts to Mwangaza.

The costs of sending materials to Tanzania has escalated.

The U.S. Postal Service has recently quadrupled the per-pound cost of shipments. Previously, sixty pounds of books could be sent for sixty dollars. Today, sixty pounds of books now costs two hundred forty dollars!

To date, Judith's efforts have raised one thousand dollars.

How grateful is Mwangaza to honor people such as Judith Engel Coope who single-handedly decided to develop resources for Mwangaza's programs.



## Mini-Book Resources Developed in TZ and USA Prove to be a HIT!

As Mwangaza's outreach has expanded to service entire communities (nurturing the quality of schools, churches, and families), the importance of using printed materials in all its programs has become quite clear.

Ever-resourceful, Mwangaza in Tanzania has piloted the use of "mini-books," a single sheet of paper, folded to make a "book," one that can be left with all participants after the completion of their studies with Mwangaza.

Each "book" can contain up to 500 words, enough to give information on a single, important, and specific topic. Some are in Swahili, some in English.

Whatever the language, the response has been the same: "May we keep this book?" a woman recently asked the Mwangaza staff.

The room exploded with joy when they heard that indeed they could. Mwangaza is certain that information in these books will be extended to others when participants return to their communities.

Though the concept began with the Mwangaza staff in Tanzania, there are many U.S. volunteers who are

joining them by also developing mini books--and the important lesson plans that accompany them.

Books have been developed for Mwangaza's AIDS presentations, for the Mother-Daughter Program, and for math, science and English classes. More information about this emerging development will be forthcoming in future issues.



*National Honor Society senior students from John Marshall High School (Rochester, MN) Katie Cachiaras (L) and Lauren West collaborate on the development of Mini-Books for ELCT high schools in Tanzania.*