

The Marquis Project

Linking Manitobans with the Developing World



Newsletter October 2022

Dear Marquis Supporter,

It's that time of year again, when we put the yard and garden to bed and clean out the garage (assuming we have all these things) for the winter. Fall activities have started up again, frost has appeared a few mornings, and some people have even started their Christmas shopping!

Project Activities

At the Marquis Project, we continue to focus on what we can do to support our community partners in the Global South, and to promote lifestyle and policy options that will make our trade practices fair and our consumer choices sustainable. Below are some of the project details related to the past year:

Kusaidia Tailoring Project

A new project Marquis has undertaken is the Kusaidia Tailoring Project, based in Kampala, Uganda, where we have provided the funding for two female sewing and embroidery teachers to train eight young women in this trade. The photos included here are a testament to their success in learning to make excellent clothing, while our project also aims to improve their business skills and to support them in assuring their personal health and gender rights as women. Your support as a Marquis donor or member, along with a generous grant from the Blennerhassett Family Foundation has made this initiative possible. We are now embarking on a second iteration of this project with a new group of young women.



This kitenge (shirt) worn by model “Kimbowa” was designed and made by Kusaidia Tailoring students who participated in the project funded by BFF and The Marquis Project.

TSAEE

We have also recently concluded our project in Tanzania, successfully working with the Tanzania Society for Agricultural Education and Extension (TSAEE) to build the capacity of leadership in the community of Usagara to dispose, recycle and compost their refuse. We hope in the New Year to start up a new project with TSAEE related to food security. We thank the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) for their support in this.

(Cont'd)

Brandon-Westman

In our work local to Brandon-Westman, the City of Brandon has again been designated as a Fair Trade Town and we hope that, as the COVID situation wanes, we will be able to hold once again our Fair Trade Feast, kick-start our local Fair Trade Committee, and participate in the national Fair Trade Conference coming up next spring in Montreal. The book which I co-wrote and co-edited, *The Fair Trade Handbook*, has been on store shelves for almost a year now, and has sold very well in Manitoba and across the country.

Annual General Meeting

Our Board of Directors has met virtually and regularly over the past year. We look forward to sharing program and financial details with our members and supporters at our upcoming Annual General Meeting, also virtually, on **November 23rd, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.** via Jitsi Meet. We will confer our 2022 Global Citizenship Award at the AGM as well! Please let Marquis know via email marquis@marquisproject.com if you plan to attend the

AGM so we can send you the link to Jitsi Meet in advance of the meeting. We will send out a reminder and meeting documents closer to the event.

Financial Support

Thank you to all our donors for their generosity allowing us to continue our work. To keep our projects going and to maintain our presence at home and abroad, we continue to need your support. If you are a monthly donor, thank you very much. If not, please send an email to marquis@marquisproject.com and we will make the necessary arrangements. If you'd like to make a one-time charitable donation, please go to our website marquisproject.com and click on the Donate tab. Or, if you prefer, you can mail a cheque to our Brandon mailbox number as shown below.

We thank you in advance for your continuing interest and support,

Zack Gross, Board Chair



Excerpts from midterm report on the Kusaidia African Life Initiative Sewing, Designing and Embroidery Project funded by The Marquis Project

The selecting board wants to take this opportunity to thank the The Marquis Project for the support through Kusaidia African Life Initiative students to learn the great art of tailoring such that students are now able to create different designs clothes, which has helped to uplift their self confidence in the community.

Students have mastered machine balancing, threading, taking body measurements and drafting the measurement on to the brown paper and transfer the draft to the material to make better garments and accomplish the results of the project within the planned time.

Student Nsinsiima Scovia comments about the sewing project:

“The tailor’s job is to repair and modify garments in simple terms to upgrade customers’ clothes according to what they want. Tailoring costs patience, practice and it is a highly skilled job which requires a steady hand, attention to details and precise working. Despite the fact that tailoring is a difficult task, tailors play a vital role in our lives like fixing the defected garments for customers. The tailor helps society by sewing clothes to suit different individuals at various events. I believe that with more practice and working hard I can start my own tailoring business and really appreciate the training extended to us”.

WE BELIEVE THAT, WHEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE A PRACTICAL EDUCATION, YOUTH CAN ESCAPE THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

Email: marquis@marquisproject.com
P.O. Box 50045, BRANDON, MB R7A 7E4

Web: <http://www.marquisproject.com>
Registered Charity Number: 12246 3276 RR0001