

The Marquis Project

Linking Manitobans with the Developing World



Marquis e-Newsletter, Spring 2026

Hello Friend of Marquis,

Spring has sprung in Manitoba and hopefully another long winter is behind us. We can only hope that this is a metaphor for our world transitioning from the current onslaught of conflict and war to an age of rational communication and respectful co-existence. But, as our Prime Minister has said, “Hope is not a plan”! The Marquis Project, a small NGO with a long history of local thought and global action, calls upon good people to care, to share, and to take peaceful and thoughtful action to better our world. One way to do these things, of course, is to support the work of The Marquis Project initiatives described below.

Development Projects Update: Additional Funding – Extraordinary Results

Kusaidia African Life, Kampala, Uganda – The multi-year Women’s Sewing & Embroidery Training Project has received renewed and increased targeted funding support from the Manitoba Council for International Co-operation (MCIC) and the Blennerhassett Family Foundation, in addition to Marquis fundraising. This project includes classroom space, tailoring training, securing jobs for graduates and offering small loans for those wishing to set up their own businesses. The previous office and classroom space was dark, airless and insecure and the new funding has supported Kusaidia in the construction of a new building while continuing their on-going programs. Marquis and Kusaidia are grateful for this support.



Kusaidia phase iv
classroom renovation
for students safety



Semwanyi Steven
and Mrs. Kiyaga
front of the newly
finished Kusaidia
African Life
Initiative phase v
tailoring training
classroom and
office building

Improving Kusaidia’s Capacity to Lead

Part of every project budget is the designation “transportation”. Without the means to get around to get the job done, coordination and program delivery can be challenging if not impossible. Thus, as part of the Kusaidia project, we are asking our donors to consider a designated tax-deductible contribution to purchase a motorbike for use by Project Manager Simwanye Steven. We are not contemplating anything fancy! Thank you!



Tanzania Home Economics Association, Mwanza, Tanzania – We are grateful to MCIC for funding a second year of TAHEA’s project supporting Women & Youth in Agricultural Improvement and Climate Change Mitigation. We are also planning to support a visit by Simwanye Steven, Kusaidia Project Manager in Uganda, to Mwanza to spend time with TAHEA. This will be a great opportunity for learning and sharing experiences.

Tanzania Youth (Marquis File Photo)



The Marquis Project AGM & New Board

The Marquis Project held its virtual Annual General Meeting on January 13th to hear program and financial reports and elect its Board of Directors for 2026. Fundraising is up slightly and the organization is in a good financial position, while continuing to support two East African partners, and considering adding a third initiative. We’ve also continued our support for consumer education here in Manitoba on fair trade.

Board members Tony Berezowecki, David Gamey, Zack Gross, Lindsay Hargreaves and Patricia Malcolm continue to serve, while new members were elected as representatives of our two overseas partners, Mussa Masongo from Tanzania Home Economics Association (TAHEA) and Simwanye Steven from Kusaidia in Uganda. We also thank our volunteers who help with administrative duties, newsletter preparation, and promoting our efforts in their respective communities.

National Fair Trade Conference Comes to Winnipeg – Where Rights Take Roots, May 1 – 2, 2026

The City of Brandon and Manitoba’s other two Fair Trade Towns will be well represented at the upcoming 11th National Fair Trade Conference, “Where Rights Take Roots” in Winnipeg, May 1st and 2nd. Lindsay Hargreaves, City of Brandon Environmental Co-ordinator, will be a panelist at a session on Fair Trade Towns, moderated by Marquis Project Board President Zack Gross. We are a Partner in presenting the Conference, which was last held in Winnipeg ten years ago. Ten Thousand Villages Brandon will be represented by Manager Bhoomi Pokar and Board Chair Linda Dryden Friesen. More information on the Conference, being held at the University of Winnipeg and the Canadian Museum for Human Rights can be found at www.fairtrade.ca.



Ten Thousand Villages Brandon Fair Trade Rug Event, April 16 – May 6, 2026

**FAIR TRADE
RUG EVENT**
ON LOCATION AT
**TEN THOUSAND
VILLAGES
BRANDON**

APRIL 16 – MAY 6
829 Rosser Ave
Brandon, MB
204-726-8755

Classic to Contemporary
Hand-knotted, exquisite quality rugs
Natural dyes, bold design, lasting artistry
From 2x3' to 9x12'
plus square, round & runners

Meet Bunyaad Rug Experts April 16-18
Learn more about hand-knotted rugs and
come with all your rug questions!

Rug Kick-Off Event
April 18 | 10:30AM 48
Join us for some coffee tasting and
Pakistani Kheer (rice pudding) while
our Bunyaad rug experts share more
about these stunning rugs!

Learn more at bunyaad.com



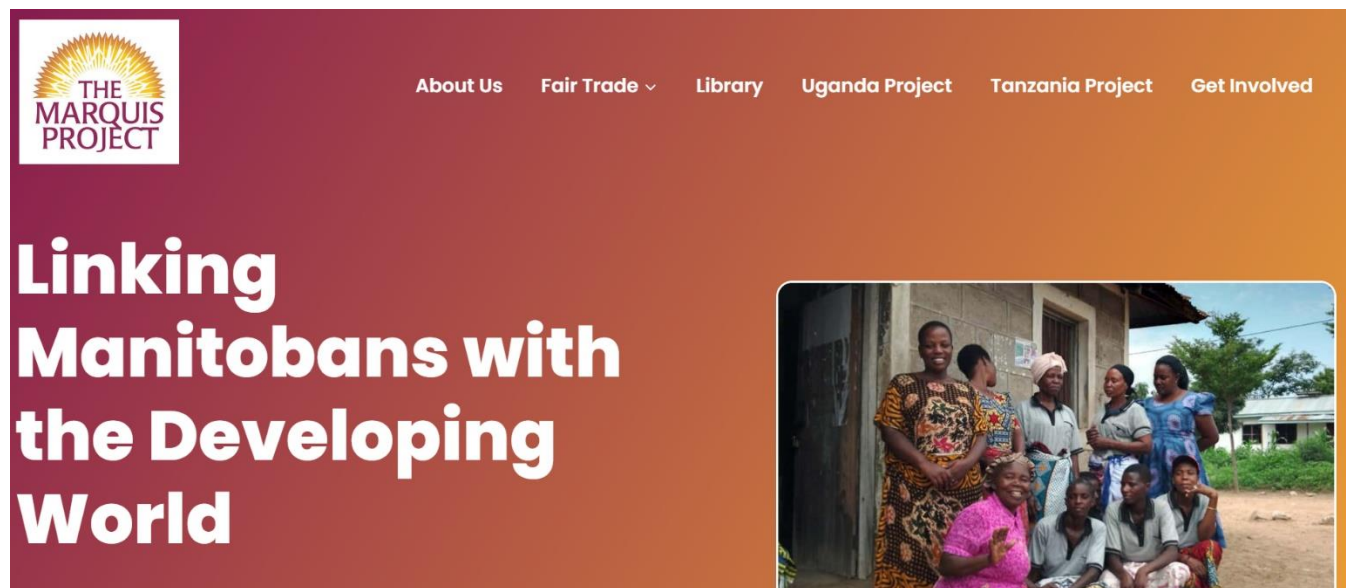
Acknowledging support for Marquis initiatives

Our sincere thank you to the **Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC)** and the **Blennerhasset Family Foundation** for funding the Marquis initiatives in Africa covered in this newsletter.

And thank you to our **Marquis friends and supporters** for your ongoing generous financial support, it provides life-changing opportunities for families and communities in Uganda and Tanzania. In these troubling times when cutting funding for international development programs has become prevalent, your financial contributions make a huge difference and are more important than ever.

To **donate** or to become a supporting Marquis member, please visit <https://marquisproject.com/donate/>

To **learn more** about The Marquis Project, please visit <https://marquisproject.com>



The screenshot shows the website header for The Marquis Project. The logo is a sunburst with the text "THE MARQUIS PROJECT". The navigation menu includes "About Us", "Fair Trade", "Library", "Uganda Project", "Tanzania Project", and "Get Involved". The main content area features the headline "Linking Manitobans with the Developing World" in large white text on a dark red background. To the right of the headline is a photograph of a group of people, including women and children, standing in front of a building in a rural setting.

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