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- Clint Cannon-  
Vice President
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- Judy Bartel-  
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- Zack Gross
- Jurjen Van der  
Sluijs

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- April 9-14:  
Last week of sales
- April 19:  
Meeting for prospec-  
tive Board Members

# Marquis Project Newsletter

MARCH 2012

## Marquis Project Wins Excellence in Sustainability Award

The Marquis Project has been awarded the 2011 Manitoba Excellence in Sustainability Award in the category of Education for Sustainability. This award recognizes demonstrated action and achievement involving public or private educational programs, enhancing teaching and learning of and for sustainability, and the adoption of sustainability policies

and practices.

Highlights of our nomination for the award included:

- Our long history of facilitating awareness of global issues in the K to 12 system, with an emphasis in the past two years on education about climate change and environmental stewardship.

- A unique collaboration over the past three years which teamed up Assiniboine Community College's Environmental Technology students, the Marquis Project, the Canadian Agricultural and Rural Extension Society (CARES), and the Tanzanian Society for Agricultural Education and Extension (TSAEE). Marquis Project personnel mentored  
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## Marquis Project Restructuring

This past year has been a difficult one at Marquis from both a programme delivery and financial point of view. As a result, the Board has made a number of decisions concerning Marquis' future.

Net income from retail sales has not been sufficient to justify continued operation of Worldly Goods. The cost of leasing, staff-

ing and maintaining the location are simply prohibitive. We will be closing this location as of April 14. Marquis will continue to operate as a "virtual" organization (with no physical office) at least until the next AGM.

Following the AGM and for the next year it is our intent to focus on a very limited number of core activities. These will include:

- delivery of the school program supported by a MB Education Grant
- continued support of small project activities in Tanzania
- 3-5 special Marquis events over the course of the year.

This plan, however, will only be possible with a new board and committee members who are

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## The End of an Era

opportunity to connect with our members and tell others about our work.

We have enjoyed serving you and talking with you over the years, and will miss all our regular customers and members.

Thank-you all very much for your patronage over the years, and we hope that you will continue to support the Marquis

Project as we continue with our educational programs.

### FINAL WEEK SALE

APRIL 9 TO 14

All merchandise, furniture and fixtures, and rummage sale items must go. Come in and make us an offer.

# Tanzania Update

## DINAH CEPLIS SENDS NEWS FROM TANZANIA

Ultimate snowbird Dinah Ceplis is again spending her winter “vacation” in Mkolani, Tanzania. As usual, vacation for her has more to do with “a change being as good as a rest” than with lounging on beaches. During the month of January, she organized re-roofing the house, “did in” the termites, set up a mouse trap-line, completed numerous funding proposals for TSAEE, played host and tour guide to several Canadian visitors, and continued to work with AIC via Skype.

Stories on these pages come from a recent e-letter from Dinah.

## BENY MWENDA COMPLETES MASTERS DEGREE

**Beny Mwenda** has completed his Masters Degree in Community Economic Development from the Open University of Tanzania—quite an accomplishment given his work, volunteer and community commitments. In his research he investigated a model of assisting underemployed youth aged 15 to 23 who had left school to become self-employed by establishing micro-businesses and a micro-credit fund. Dinah reports that 10 months after inauguration, things continue to go well for the youth. See “Nyamle Youth Group Update” for stories about some of the participants.

## KAZI NI MOYO UPDATE

Dinah reports:

*I visited the women’s group **Kazi ni Moyo** at Nyamle while Shannon (Scott) was here. The model used by the women to support the orphans is considered one to emulate, according to the government officials. Rather than placing orphans in institutions, the kids are invited to live with extended family members in the village where there are some supports for them. There are 47 kids this year, in the one small village. The women’s group has established a micro-credit fund and uses the interest to support extra costs the children and families encounter. This includes shoes for school, soap, exam fees, etc. The women’s group is comprised of 6 women who farm and produce hand-crafted baskets which are being sold at the Marquis Project in Brandon and the Icelandic Heritage Museum gift shop in Gimli, Manitoba. Thanks to you who sent funds for me to donate to the group’s micro-credit facility.*



## MARQUIS/TSAEE PARTNERSHIP YIELDS NEW GRANT

We are pleased to announce that we have once again been awarded funds through MCIC’s Theme Grant for a TSAEE capacity building project. The \$8000 will allow TSAEE to expand and build upon the innovative Tangible Goals Approach that formed the basis for Beny Mwenda’s Master’s degree research and a 2006 to 2011 CARES/AIC/TSAEE project in the three districts of Misungwi, Ukerewe and Magu.

In this project, TSAEE members in four districts will be trained in the Tangible Goals Approach. They will then be mentored as they apply their learning by establishing new youth and women’s groups in 10 communities and guiding them through the seven steps of the tangible goals model. Groups will receive entrepreneurial training as well as agricultural training, and be mentored through the production phase, the marketing phase, and the management of earned funds.

Many thanks to MCIC and to Dinah Ceplis for her hard work on this proposal!

We now have an opportunity for you to invest in our partnership. One requirement of the theme grant is that the Canadian organization pay a 10 % levy to MCIC. Given Marquis’ straitened financial condition, we are trying to meet this condition through targeted donations. Thanks to CARES (the Canadian Agriculture & Rural Extension Society, and private Marquis member donations, we have already met more than half of the levy, but a few hundred dollars is still needed.

## THE PRICE OF THINGS

- 1 US dollar: ranges from 1540 to 1660 TZS in the past few weeks
- Petrol: 2100 per litre (\$1.30 CAD)\*
- Cucumber: 100 to 200 shillings each (.06 to .12)
- Bananas: 100 to 250 shillings each, depending on the size of the banana (.06 to .15)
- Avocado: 400 to 500 shillings each, large, perfectly ripe (.24 to .30)
- Sugar: 2400 shillings per kilo (\$1.49)
- 1 glass bottle of Coca-Cola: 500 shillings (made in Mwanza) (.30)
- 1 aluminum can of Coke Light: 1000 shillings (imported from Dubai) (.60)
- Dinner in a restaurant, 1 whole fried tilapia fish with choice of rice/ugali/chips/plantain: 7000 to 9000 ( \$4.39 to 5.60)

*Editor’s note:*

I’ve added Canadian Dollar amounts for comparison purposes. This has greater meaning when put into the context of the Tanzanian

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# Tanzania Update

## NYAMLE YOUTH GROUP MICRO-ENTERPRISE PROJECT A SUCCESS

In his research for the Master's in Community Economic Development, Beny Mwenda investigated a tangible goals model of assisting underemployed youth to become self-employed by establishing micro-businesses and managing a micro-credit fund. Several Canadians and Tanzanians contributed funds to the micro credit fund, and the youth group at Nyamle was inaugurated on March 1, 2011.

Ten months later, things continue to go well for the youth, with 12 of the 14 continuing in businesses, and the other two returning to school.

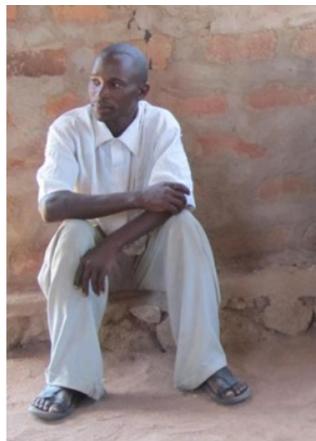


**Irene (seen here with Dinah and Beny)** has managed to start two businesses in the past year—selling fabric and operating a tea room in the village square where she sells tea, chapattis, sodas, and fried buns (mandazaazi). She borrowed 20,000 shillings (about \$14.00) to start her business. She purchased 40 fabric pieces, and has only 4 left, with each one selling for \$18,000 shillings.



**Above, Justin explains his chicken project** to Beny: Justin borrowed 10,000 shillings (about \$7.00) to purchase a hen and feed. Out of the 10 eggs from the hen, he sold 3 to raise some capital to purchase an exercise book, a pen, and make a church offering, and raised 7 chicks. He sold two of the grown chickens for gross sales of \$15,000, from which he paid his exam fees of 8000 shillings and bought shoes for 7000. He borrowed another 15,000 in April of 2011 and bought a cockerel and some feed. The hen kept laying eggs. He kept 5 chickens and traded 6 for a female goat, which he brought to mate with a male goat at his uncle's place. The goat delivered a male kid on January 13, 2012.

**Elisha, the Chairperson of the group,** has been producing tomatoes and sweet green peppers. He has borrowed a number of times to buy inputs such as fertilizer, pesticides, water pump, and seeds. He has had very good harvests of peppers and gained 198,000 gross sales after expenses of 41,000 for net revenue of 157,000 shillings. He has had revenue of 472,000 shillings on his tomatoes after expenses of 85,000 for net revenue of 385,000 shillings. He has purchased timber, nails, iron sheets and stones and paid a technician labourer to start construction of a house.



**Micro Credit group with Beny Mwenda and TSAEE member**

### THE PRICE OF THINGS

(Cont'd from page 2)

Economy. In another document, Dinah reports that the average per capita income in Tanzania is 60,000 TZS per month, or about \$40.00 US. In the Lake Zone of Tanzania, typical reported incomes of rural households in 2006 averaged \$.50 US per day or about

The group meets at least once a month and has not encountered any problems to date. They were positive about the role of micro-credit. In August, they distributed 400,000 shillings and returned 550,000 three months later. The micro-credit fund has tripled since it began 10 months ago, and another 100,000 (\$67.00) were added in January when Dinah brought funds from Canada.





## MEETING FOR PROSPECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

### The Marquis Project

912 Rosser Ave.

Brandon, MB

R7A 0L4

Y

Phone: 204-727-5675

Fax: 555-555-5555

E-mail: [someone@example.com](mailto:someone@example.com)

Connecting Manitobans with the  
Developing world

Are you interested in helping the Marquis Project continue with its K to 12 education and public engagement programming?

The Marquis Project is at a crossroads. Without the heavy expenses of the store front location, we have an opportunity to return to our roots and focus on International Development and education activities. To do this, however, we need volunteers who will assist as board members, committee members and volunteers to carry on the work of human resource management, fund-raising, communication with members, grant writing, and other functions. To learn more about how you can help, attend the

**Prospective Board Members Meeting**

**5:30 April 19, 2012**

**RSVP to 727-5675 or [marquis@marquisproject.com](mailto:marquis@marquisproject.com)**



### MARQUIS WINS EXCELLENCE AWARD

*cont'd from p. 1*

students as they completed their capstone projects in an area of interest to TSAEE.

- A long standing youth committee, which has seen many members go on to participate in international development activities
- An active public engagement presence, with recent topics focused on climate change and conservation
- Continued partnership with TSAEE, with a focus on projects involving sustainable agriculture, climate change and agro-forestry.

Many thanks to Dinah Cepelis and Alanna Pryke for their work on the nomination, and to the countless staff, students, and volunteers who have made these achievements possible over the years.

### MARQUIS PROJECT RESTRUCTURING

*Cont'd from p.1*

Prepared to take on the administrative and supportive roles, as there will be limited staffing funds available. We believe this is possible and are currently recruiting board members in preparation for the AGM and the "New Marquis Project".

In the event that we cannot recruit a new board willing to take on the work of the organization we will have to re-evaluate the plan and consider the eventual dissolution of The Marquis Project.

We ask for your patience and continued support as we work toward this restructuring.

A meeting for people interested in board and/or committee positions will be held on April 19 at 5:30. If you are interested in helping us to chart a new course, please consider joining us on that date. Contact Judy Bartel at 204-727-5675 for details.

### DOWNTOWN BUSINESSES TO CARRY MAGAZINES AND FAIR TRADE COFFEE

For years, Worldly Goods has carried the best assortment—and been the only Westman distributor of some alternative magazines. Good news for our loyal readers of *UTNE*, *Shambala Sun*, *Adbusters*, *The New York Review*, and *The Nation* and other magazines: you need not miss an issue!

Graham Harvey, owner of **Cheaper Cheeper Copy in the Town Center**, is making arrangements with our distributor to carry all these mags.

The changeover should take place with the May issue for most magazines.

With the store closing April 14th, we suggest that you pick up your April issues as early in the month as possible!

Our new board will need to decide whether we will still sell Fair Trade coffee and chocolate as fundraisers. In the meantime, you can find **JUST US Coffee at Hurl's on Princess Ave.**