



## News & Notes from The Marquis Project, Spring 2015

### ★ Annual General Meeting 2015

The 2015 Annual General Meeting of The Marquis Project will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm in the Elephant Room, Knowles-Douglas Building at Brandon University. The formal business will include financial statements, activity reports, and elections to the Board of Directors. This will be followed by presentations focusing on Marquis two-fold purpose: local education and overseas partnerships. The 2015 Global Citizenship Award will also be presented at the AGM.

### Late Marquis Supporter Leaves Lasting Gift

Cristine Winkler, a long-time friend of Marquis and passionate supporter of Marquis educational program, passed away last year. She believed that our work with students in schools was the best way to bring about change for the better in our world. In 1995, Marquis honoured Cristine as one of our "pioneers" and despite frailty and failing eyesight she continued to support Marquis financially and with her suggestions. As a final gesture of her commitment to Marquis, Cristine left a generous bequest to be used for "peace education in schools". Marquis is grateful for this wonderful gift. The funds have been put into an investment so that the proceeds can be used for educational work well into the future.

### Trivia Night Raises Funds for Tanzania Project

Fifty enthusiastic Marquis supporters and trivia buffs attended the second annual Trivia Night, held at the Blu Kitchen & Bar on January 17, 2015. Following a delicious dinner, attendees were organized into teams of four to compete in the trivia event. The team from Assiniboine Community College successfully defended their title as winners from last year. The event raised \$600 towards the MCIC levy for the Tanzania project grant. Thanks to all those attending and to the organizers of this event.

Marquis would like to thank the following merchants, organizations and individuals for donations to the silent auction: Applebees, Blu Kitchen & Bar, Boston Pizza, Qdoba Mexican Grill, Chef's Corner Palace, La Rive, Art Gallery of SW Manitoba, CAA Manitoba, Ten Thousand Villages, Canadian Fair Trade Network, Two Farm Kids, Linda & Al Friesen, Kim Burgess, and Mireille Saurette.

### MCIC Approves Funding for New Project with Tanzania Partners

The Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) has approved funding for a project proposal developed by Marquis in partnership with the Tanzania Society of Agricultural Education and Extension (TSAEE) and the Canadian Agricultural and Rural Extension Society (CARES). The proposal was in response to the Theme Fund of "Supporting the Most Marginalized in the Global South".

In this new project - *Facilitating Teenage and Youth Single Parents in Lake Zone of Tanzania To Increase Marketability through Community Economic Development* – TSAEE will act as a catalyst to increase local capacity through a combination of microenterprise training, identification of tangible goals and dissemination of improved cook stove technology use.



(Over)

With funds raised at the Marquis Trivia Night fundraising event held in January in Brandon and with a financial contribution from CARES, Marquis was able to pay the required levy to MCIC to proceed with this new one-year partnership project, which will wrap up in March 2016.

### **Fair Trade**

Fairtrade is about more than fair pay; it is about building connections, community investments, and environmental sustainability. Thanks largely to the Marquis Project and the community; Brandon proudly became Manitoba's second Fair Trade Town on May 20<sup>nd</sup> 2014, the 19<sup>th</sup> Fair Trade Town in Canada! There are hundreds of Fairtrade products in 16 stores right here in Brandon. Fairtrade coffee is available at A&W, Blue Hills Bakery, Coffee Culture, Forbidden Flavours, Lady of the Lake, Wildflower Café. The Dock offers Fairtrade wine.

Brandon Fairtrade product facts:

- 117 kinds of Fairtrade coffee
- 82 Fairtrade tea varieties
- 76 types of Fairtrade chocolate bars
- 21 Fairtrade wines

May is Fairtrade Month and May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 is World Fair Trade Day. Think globally and act locally; vote with your dollar by choosing Fairtrade products. To learn more about Fair Trade and Brandon initiatives, visit the Marquis website and click on the Fair Trade tab.



### **Marquis Debt-Free – Thanks to Generous Anonymous Donor!**

The New Year marked a major change to the financial status of The Marquis Project. Thanks to our members and supporters who raised \$13,000 in a major initiative last year, and the matching funds from a very generous anonymous donor, Marquis is now debt free and even has a small surplus! This is a real game-changer for Marquis. We can now focus fully on our two-part mission to help educate Manitoba youth in issues related to social justice, equity and global citizenship and to work with our overseas partners to improve the quality of life in the global south.

The Marquis Board cautions, however, that we should not become complacent with this new financial reality. We continue to rely on the generosity of our members and friends for financial support and sustainability to carry on with our programming and administrative costs. Please continue to give generously through mail-in cheques, online donations or through automatic monthly debits to your account (see 'Donate' tab on the Marquis website). Donations qualify for charitable tax receipts.

### **Stay Connected**

If you are not already a supporting member of Marquis, please consider taking out a membership. Membership fees are a source of reliable income and help us budget wisely. Student - \$15; Regular - \$30; Family - \$60; Supporting - \$120. For further details and online purchase, please visit the Donate page on our website.

We also invite you to visit our website for more details on the work of Marquis and for updates on the AGM. If you are receiving this newsletter via Canada Post, please consider sending us your email coordinates so we can simplify the process of staying connected. Thank you!

### **The Marquis Project**

Email: [marquis@marquisproject.com](mailto:marquis@marquisproject.com)

Website: [www.marquisproject.com](http://www.marquisproject.com)

Twitter: @MarquisProject

Facebook: The Marquis Project

Telephone: 204-727-5675

Reg. Charity #12246 3276 RR0001