



The Marquis Project Newsletter

October/November, 2020

Hello, Marquis Project Members, Donors & Supporters,

It is my pleasure to bring you up to date on the work of our organization, to thank you for your support of our work, and to ask you to help continue that work with a generous donation or membership/renewal today. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all sectors of society all around the world, including non-profits and charities whose programs and fund-raising have been disrupted. Below, I'll tell you, in a nutshell, what we've been doing and what's coming up in the future.

Our Projects in East Africa

Marquis has had a long history of supporting development assistance projects in Tanzania and Uganda, dating back 30 years. We are continuing this work in the following ways:

Tanzania – with funding support included from the Manitoba Government Matching Grant Program administered by the Manitoba Council for International Co-operation (MCIC), we are embarking on a second year of a program promoting and delivering more sustainable ways of dealing with garbage in the Usagara district. Our longtime friend **Beny Mwenda** and his colleagues at the Tanzania Society for Agricultural Education & Extension (TSAEE) are very much involved in this.

Uganda – thanks in part to the Blennerhassett Family Foundation and with a current proposal submitted to MCIC, we are entering the second phase of an entrepreneurial youth project in the remote and poor Nalweyo district, building a series of small businesses and offering training in commercial practices. Marquis has also submitted a Concept Note to the Fund for Innovation & Transformation (FIT) for a project related to more effective education methodologies in rural schooling.

COVID & Gamey – Our former staff member and now Treasurer **David Gamey** of Strathclair, MB visits Uganda every year for a January to April stay. This year, he was “stranded” there until just weeks ago, due to COVID and airport shutdowns. During his time there, he was able to work on project delivery and new applications, and also raise funds through Marquis plus his own family and friends, to help people financially in his part of the capital, Kampala, who had lost their daily incomes due to the lockdown. Westman Weekly in the Brandon area covered this story and many Ugandans were grateful for our help in getting the basics for their families.

I don't believe that we can say enough about the long-term commitment that David has made to our organization and to people in need in East Africa. David reminds us that for each of the above projects, Marquis has an obligation to pay in our share, along with what our funders generously provide. Thus, he says, **we need YOUR support** with a tax-deductible donation or, even better, signing up to our monthly donation plan. Check this out on the Donate tab at www.marquisproject.com.

Fair Trade at Marquis

The Marquis Project continues to win awards for its work on Fair Trade in the Brandon area. We salute **Mireille Saurette** and the Brandon Fair Trade Town Committee for being named recipient of “Fair Trade Educator of the Year” at the national Fair Trade Conference in Calgary in March. Brandon's Fair Trade efforts, along with those of other communities around Manitoba, will be featured in the **Fair Trade Handbook**, which will be released in 2021 by Fernwood Publishers. Yours truly is one of the author/editors of this new volume. Local professor/artist extraordinaire **Curt Shultz** will have a graphic novel chapter in the book about Fairtrade coffee from Ethiopia! Finally, in fair trade at the national level, I sit on the Board of Fairtrade Canada, nominated by Marquis.

Global Citizenship Award 2020

Marquis will honour **Ten Thousand Villages** Brandon, its Board, Staff and Volunteers with our **Global Citizenship Award** at our virtual Annual General Meeting coming up in November. We are delighted that Brandon's store has remained open and active, despite the closure of most TTV stores across Canada.

Marquis Educating Locally on Global Issues

Like many non-profits involved in educating our youth and adult citizens on global social, gender, environmental and other issues, Marquis lost its provincial funding in recent years. Thus, our very successful schools program run by **Samantha Dellezay** is not currently in operation, but Sam continues to work very part-time for us and we thank her for her long commitment to Marquis. Both **David McConkey** and I continue to write regularly for the Brandon Sun on a range of issues that initially drew us to Marquis more than 40 years ago. You can find David's previously published columns on his website at www.davidmconkey.com and mine at www.zackgross.com.

In Memoriam

Marquis folks were saddened to hear of the recent death of **Brent Legg** in Brandon, who had worked in our Worldly Goods shop for many years. Brent was also well known for his involvement in Brandon's classical music scene and teaching at the School of Music at Brandon University.

We also mourn the recent passing of **Joyce Slobogian**, mother of **Lynn** and **Gail**, both longtime supporters of our organization. Lynn is also a former Executive Director of Marquis. Joyce was well known for her writing of mysteries. Former staff have warm memories of Joyce and her husband Tom dropping by our office/shop when Lynn worked there. The Slobogian family have asked that those who wish, can donate in Joyce's name to either Marquis or the Brandon Humane Society. Marquis' donations can be made at www.marquisproject.com.

Marquis To Hold Its AGM

Given the dangers and restrictions related to COVID-19, the Marquis Project will be holding a virtual Annual Meeting on Wednesday evening, **November 25th at 7 p.m.** If you would like to attend, email marquis@marquisproject.com and we will send you a link to the meeting. We will have reports on our work in East Africa, our work on fair trade, and our current finances. We'll also have elections to our Board of Directors. We meet six times per year and only for an hour, and on-line, so no travel time! If you'd like more information on this or to put your name forward, contact me: zackgross@hotmail.com.

- Our thanks to **Al Friesen** for helping us get this Newsletter into your Inbox or snail mailbox.
- Thanks to my collegial Board Members – **Patricia Malcolm, June Welsted, David Gamey** and **Immaculate Nabisere**.

Your Financial Support

Thank you to all who continue to support the work of **Marquis** through donations. The level of donor support largely determines how much we are able to do. You can send your donations via cheque to Marquis, by signing up for monthly debits to your account, or online through major credit cards or PayPal (see details on the Donate tab on the Marquis website). We were established 41 years ago by teachers, professors, clergy, farmers, and other community members – people who cared about our world and who wanted Manitobans to be able to participate in making it a better place. **With your help, that quest continues...!**

Be well,
Zack Gross
President, Marquis Board



“Linking Manitobans with the Developing World”

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

Phone: 204-727- 5675
Web: <http://www.marquisproject.com>

Registered Charity Number: 12246 3276 RR0001