

The Marquis Project

Linking Manitobans with the Developing World



Marquis Project e-Letter to Members, Donors & Friends (October 2021)

Hello Everyone,

In these “interesting times”, our organization continues to fulfill its mandate to support community development projects in the Global South and to educate and inspire to action people here in our own province, and indeed across the country. I want to share with you some information about Marquis Project activities, as we near our next **Annual General Meeting**. While COVID has brought frustration to most non-profits, in curtailing our ability to engage with the public and to fund-raise through face-to-face events, we realize that people here in Manitoba are generally pretty fortunate, that a better day is coming, and that there is much we can do to make the world a better place.

Our **AGM** is being planned as a virtual event, to take place the evening of **Wednesday, November 17th**. We’ll be sending out a link for you to join the meeting closer to the actual date. We’ll deliver full financial and program reports, hold our Board elections and bestow our annual Global Citizenship Award. We welcome your interest in joining our Board, just let us know (email Zack at zackgross@hotmail.com).

The AGM date is often when members and donors make their annual **tax-deductible financial contribution** to Marquis. You can do this by sending a cheque to the address on this letter, or by making an on-line payment on our website link below. Alternatively, we invite you to sign up to make a monthly donation to Marquis of \$10 or more, also on the donate link.

<https://www.marquisproject.com/donate/>

Marquis continues, with your help, to support projects in both **Tanzania and Uganda**. With our partners at the Tanzanian Society for Agricultural Education & Extension (TSAEE), we are into the second year of a

project to establish garbage disposal, recycling and composting in the Usagara district, through advocacy, training, and community mobilization.

Working with our partners, the Kijwenge Youth Entrepreneurship Organization (KYEO) in Uganda, we are supporting the building of a set of small shops and mentoring young business people in an under-served, remote part of the country. Meanwhile, in Kampala, we have been supporting the Bunga Project, which makes small amounts of money available to families where parents have lost their jobs due to COVID, so that they are able to access basic food supplies.



Nalweyo Motorcycle Shop, Kijwenge, Uganda

Here in Manitoba, over the past year, Marquis has worked with our good friends at People to People to present two Zoom webinars, one on issues around funding, and the other looking at the impact of climate

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change in the Global South. Marquis also was able to renew its designation as a **Fair Trade** Workplace and Brandon's designation as one of 26 Fair Trade Towns in Canada. Unfortunately, COVID made it impossible to hold our Fair Trade Feast, a great evening and important fund-raiser for us. Hopefully, we will be able to resume this very successful event in the spring!



Fair Trade City Signage at Brandon Global Market

Finally, we'd like to introduce *The Fair Trade Handbook: Building a Better World, Together*, which was just published by Fernwood. This 240-page book, edited by me and two colleagues, with chapters by authors from across Canada, Europe and Latin America on climate change, gender, human rights, colonialism and more, is available from bookstores or can be ordered online at www.fernwoodpublishing.ca. A great feature of the book is a graphic novel chapter about coffee production in Ethiopia, drawn by Brandon artist and educator **Curt Shultz**.



The Marquis Board meets regularly to manage our small organization and support its activities. Volunteers jump in when needed to take on specific tasks and, when needed, we contract someone to make sure that our work is completed and top quality.

Marquis is currently looking for people interested in paid contract work to handle some administrative duties as well as website improvement and a greater social media presence.

We'd like to acknowledge the on-going project support of the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) and the Blennerhassett Family Foundation. As well, thanks to the members who keep up their support, many on a monthly basis. We've always been "the little organization who could", and we still can!

Best wishes,

Zack Gross, President

The Marquis Project

Board of Directors:

- Zack Gross, President
- Patricia Malcolm, Vice-President
- June Welsted, Secretary
- David Gamey, Treasurer
- Immaculate Nabisere, Director
- Tony Berezowecki, Director

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Community Announcement!

Ten Thousand Villages Brandon has launched an online store www.villagesbrandon.ca The site has over 1,000 fair trade items, with new items added weekly! Shipping is available across Manitoba or choose the curbside pick-up option. Ten Thousand Villages Brandon is located at 829 Rosser Avenue in the heart of Downtown Brandon.

