

Friends of Mwangaza  
Linda Milton, Treasurer  
2926 - 27th Street  
Rock Island, IL 61201

The Internal Revenue Service recognizes Friends of Mwangaza, Inc. as a charitable organization. Contributions are deductible to the full extent of the law.

### From the Director of Mwangaza, Seelah Kissioki

Mwangaza is one busy place!

Besides the professional staff, Mwangaza is blessed with a support staff that oversees many of the day-to-day operations of our facility.

Much of our success is due to their hard work, too. It's time you meet them!

Allen is our faithful Mwangaza driver. Since our project is national in its outreach, we rely upon the Mwangaza car and Allen's wonderful driving skills to take us to places near and far, helping us to provide our services to all twenty ELCT dioceses throughout Tanzania. Not a day goes by that our white car isn't washed and cleaned, presenting a positive image of who we are and what we do.



Nemayien is our project's bursar. Thanks to attending ongoing accounting courses throughout the years, her skills have grown. She is the purchaser of all the materials and supplies that we need--from pens and pencils to food for fifty guests when we host seminars. Every year, Mwangaza funds are audited by an outside agency, and Nemayien is the lead Mwangaza staffer for this financial audit.



Andrea is Mwangaza's on-site mechanic and grounds keeper. Thanks to the successful completion of electrical courses, he is able to make safe and quick repairs around our Mwangaza campus. When he is not using his electrical tools, he can be found adding more flowers here or another shrub there, the better to make the Mwangaza Centre even more inviting for the many guests we host year after year.



Rachel is the head of the Mwangaza kitchen. Planning nutritious and tasty meals for fifty people (or sometimes more) is among her many skills. When large groups are present, she has a part-time staff of women who help with preparing and cooking food, all done in Mwangaza's outdoor kitchen. Her ready smile makes her food taste



even better!

Lilly is Mwangaza's head matron. She sees to the cleaning of the entire Mwangaza property: the original Centre, the new Assembly Hall and volunteer guest rooms, the Mwangaza Hostel, and the Mwangaza Guest House. She sees that our many guests are greeted with sparkling clean facilities that create the safe and nurturing atmosphere that supports the learning that happens during Seminar sessions throughout the year.



We couldn't do it without them!

#### Mwangaza Speakers Bureau

Arrangements can be made for Mwangaza volunteers to speak to your group or organization. Such opportunities are synonymous with Mwangaza's international mission of education, both in Tanzania as well as in the United States.

Organizations are responsible for a speaker's expenses. Costs vary depending upon the location of the event and the home base of the Mwangaza volunteer. For more information, inquiries may be made by contacting Dr. Shoonie Hartwig at [ShoonieH@AOL.com](mailto:ShoonieH@AOL.com).

Friends of Mwangaza, Inc. strives to keep its constituents abreast of its programs and outreach. Should you wish to be removed from further communications, please inform Treasurer Linda Milton by mail at the address above, or via e-mail at [artmilton2926@sbcglobal.net](mailto:artmilton2926@sbcglobal.net)

March  
2008

M  
w  
a  
n  
g  
a  
z  
a

A Friends of Mwangaza publication

On the Web at [www.mwangazaeducationforpartnership.org](http://www.mwangazaeducationforpartnership.org)

# Reflections

Eleven years ago, Mwangaza began as a partnership between ELCA and ELCT secondary teachers. In fact, the sign outside its historic "home" identified it as the "Mwangaza **Teachers'** Resource Centre." Over time, other education-related needs arose that widened our understanding of how this partnership could build pathways of learning not only for teachers, but for mothers, fathers, children, pastors, and evangelists as well. Today, the sign reads "Mwangaza **Education** Resource Centre," reflecting Mwangaza's broader mission.

## Mwangaza Programs and Initiatives Promise New Possibilities for Education in Tanzania

One theme that has resonated at Mwangaza is the "challenge to change." In Mwangaza's early days, teachers attending its seminars were urged to take "The Mwangaza Challenge" by creating lesson plans that reflected their new understandings of effective teaching.

Now in its second decade, Mwangaza can say that it, too, has taken its own challenge evidenced by its plans for 2008, plans that do indeed include "change." New ventures are underway in its HIV/AIDS program, its Binti-Mama/Community Mediation program, Online Partnership program, and Secondary School program.

#### --HIV/AIDS--

Under the direction of staff member William Kivuyo,



Mwangaza will pilot the use of interactive drama to create positive behavior change in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Using Augusto Boal's "Theatre of the Oppressed," trained students and teachers will develop problem-posing scenarios, challenging their school audience to act out responses demonstrating changes in behavior.



Women such as these are active participants in Binti-Mama/Community Mediation Seminars held at Mwangaza Centre. Genderless dolls and innovative lessons provide opportunities for discussion and lead to new understandings and leadership.

This participatory process provides the community with tools of analysis and language as they identify risky behaviors and possible solutions that lead to a healthy lifestyle.

Schools will be taught how to initiate this theatrical model at their schools, empowering all school members to practice healthy lifestyles, thereby stemming the escalation of HIV infection.

Evaluations show that students and faculty who have been trained have been active in leading HIV/AIDS sessions at different class levels.

Many schools have allocated time for these sessions within their weekly schedules. Schools are asking that Mwangaza continue to share more and more information and publications, as well as provide programs that utilize drama and music.

#### --Binti-Mama-- --Community Mediation--

With twenty ELCT dioceses to service, Mwangaza has already trained women in twelve dioceses in 2007.

Given its background on role-play and with the use of genderless dolls, women were able to identify issues of stigma and abuse as well as behaviors that remain challenging.

The use of genderless dolls in role-play is a process introduced to Mwangaza by Ms. Julie Thorsheim, MSW.

Throughout the Binti-Mama program, issues of violence, stigma, abuse in community, home, and school are identified.

Trainees learn how to take on the voice of the dolls who represent the characters in each scenario, thereby articu-

(Continued on Page Two)

## Mwangaza Programs and Initiatives Bring New Education Promises

(Continued from Page One)

lating feelings and behaviors that are problematic.

In 2008 Mwangaza will continue to build its strong program that develops women leaders.

### --Online Partnership--

In 2007, secondary teachers in Tanzania and in the United States continued to use the Internet to develop not only lesson plans, but also personal relationships. Five U.S. teachers joined their Tanzanian colleagues last summer and co-facilitated seminars that included the lessons and insights that they developed during their email exchanges over many months.

Even today, the partners have continued to communicate, and several have shown their commitment to continue.

Online Partnership coordinator Valerie Goodmanson from Rochester, MN, reports that most of last year's American teachers

have once again expressed interest in continuing to work online with Tanzanian teachers.

"I could still use another math teacher as well as English teachers (ESOL teachers are ideal!). In addition, we could use a geography/earth science

teacher," she says. Goodmanson can be contacted at

VAGOODMANSON@rochester.k12.mn.us

Mwangaza Director Kissioki said, "This program is critical, as it serves the purpose of having lead teachers who will eventually facilitate during the summer seminars. Here at Mwangaza Centre, Tanzanian online teachers will meet in March and again in May to prepare for the summer seminars. We look forward to welcoming some of the ELCA online partners to meet their ELCT partners and co-facilitate the seminars."

### --Secondary School--

Mwangaza audited thirty ELCT secondary schools throughout the nation during 2007.

The Director stated, "The information gathered is invaluable.

"We have learned more about our schools than ever before, placing us in a better position to plan more effectively for teachers' seminars and other programs offered in schools.

"Reports contain data on teacher retention, teacher mobility, student

performance on national examinations, use of and lack of school facilities, the support of or lack of Diocese leadership, culminating in an analysis of how all these factors contribute to the overall management of ELCT schools."

Former Director Dr. Shoonie Hartwig noted, "Mwangaza is becoming an organization that not only provides current

programmatic offerings, but also is positioned to collect data for analysis that has far-reaching implications.

"This is new, uncharted territory in the educational world of Tanzania! Exciting!"

Dr. Hartwig reports that the Executive Committee of Mwangaza's Tanzanian Board of Directors met recently and were "impressed with the potential of all of this."

Headmasters of forty ELCT schools will gather mid-March at Mwangaza Centre for three days; there they will participate in a mini-seminar, experiencing the training Mwangaza offers their teachers every summer.

They will also study the audit information and provide recommendations for consideration at the July Educational Summit.

Mwangaza's professional staff has been increased by one.

We welcome Mr. John Kavishe who reported to the Centre on January 7th.

Kavishe was selected to join the staff after a search was conducted during the latter part of 2007.

Trained as a science teacher, Kavishe has a long history of education in the Lutheran school system. He

formerly taught at Lwandai Secondary School in Lushoto, Tanzania.

He has attended and facilitated many Mwangaza seminars in his many years of faithful attendance of programs at Mwangaza's Arusha campus.



## U.S. '08 Summer Volunteers Chosen; All "Veterans"

Mwangaza volunteers for 2008 create a historic group that will facilitate summer seminars with Tanzanian colleagues at Mwangaza Centre this June and July. All volunteers have previous Mwangaza summer seminar experience.

**Mary Jo Huelle**, from Mitchell, Nebraska, is President of Friends of Mwangaza and returns for her ninth round of volunteer work this summer. She currently teaches English to grades 7 - 12. This summer she will co-facilitate the English seminar sessions. In addition, she will attend the Mwangaza Board of Directors meeting as an ELCA representative, be present throughout all the weeks of seminars, and be part of the National Education Summit in July.



Like Huelle, **Jim Talarico** was a member of the first group of U.S. teachers to participate in the Mwangaza Teacher Exchange in 1996. Talarico, editor of this newsletter and Secretary of the Friends of Mwangaza Board of Directors, returns to participate in the National Education Summit. This is his ninth round of volunteer work. A retired teacher-trainer, Talarico resides in Shorewood, Illinois.



## Mwangaza Calls July Summit; Honors Legacy of Anza Lema



*The late Dr. Anza Lema, a member of the Mwangaza Board of Directors, leads a session for ELCT Education Secretaries in Mwangaza's Assembly Hall in 2001.*

In another initiative, Mwangaza has called a first-ever National Education Summit to convene in July in Moshi, Tanzania. This Summit honors the legacy of the late Dr. Anza Lema, the first Tanzanian headmaster of Ilboru Secondary School and the first Tanzanian head of school in the nation.

Prior to joining the Mwangaza Board of Directors, he was Associate General Secretary of Lutheran World Federation in Geneva, Switzerland.

At the Summit there will be representation from ELCT, ELCA, the Tanzanian Ministry of Education, heads of schools and inspectors, Tumaini (TZ) University Colleges, and others in the field of education including colleagues of Dr. Lema.

**Donna Engel** of Channahon, Illinois, returns to Mwangaza after participating in an Online Partnership and conducting science seminars at Mwangaza last summer. In her twentieth year of teaching, she notes: "Teaching is my passion. Being part of Mwangaza allows me to share my passion with my colleagues in Tanzania!"

Retired after teaching for thirty-eight years, **Mike Wadle** of DeKalb, Illinois, returns to Mwangaza for the fifth time. "Since 2001, I've been blessed to work and learn with my Tanzanian brothers and sisters in classrooms and online. We all grow through sharing ideas and methods."



Morris, Illinois, resident **Alexa Schlosser** returns to co-facilitate science seminars after last year's work as an Online Partner and Seminar co-facilitator in Tanzania. "Working through this global partnership has become a dream and a passion for me," she notes. She is in her third year of full-time teaching.

**Phil Wilder**, of Champaign, Illinois, returns to Mwangaza for his second time, this time to co-facilitate seminars in history. Currently, Wilder is employed by the College of Education at the University of Illinois and conducts literacy coaching with middle school and high school teachers.

**Pat Arends** returns to Mwangaza after her first stint in 1998, when she worked with teachers in Singida. Having taught for fifteen years, this Rochester, Minnesota, resident now has a degree in Library Media and Technology. She will teach computers to seminar participants this summer.



## The Voice of Tanzania

*Does Mwangaza Make a Difference?*

*Daniel Mlambo Answers the Question*

"On May 22, 2007, I met my U.S. co-facilitator, Mr. David Neale at Mwangaza Centre, a U.S. volunteer. We worked on a lesson plan that we would present on Monday as a mock lesson.

"I learned a lot of things from both U.S. facilitators as well as from the seminar participants. Some had thirty years of teaching experience, so I learned a lot from them!"

"Though I was much worried at the beginning of teaching the mock lesson because so many teachers present were so experienced, it was wonderful at the end.

"After that lesson, I had the task of helping participants develop their own lesson plans, especially helping them complete the library research needed for the respective subject areas.

"I learned so many teaching strategies! And apart from what I learned academically, I was able to share the love of God with all the participants despite our different cultures and religions.

"I thank God who provides us with his overflowing love and his great gift of knowledge. Also thanks must go to the Mwangaza Directors and



*Mwangaza Summer '07 Seminar Co-Facilitators Daniel Mlambo (L) and returning U.S. volunteer David Neale (along with wife Tricia and son Andy) meet at Mwangaza Centre upon their arrival to work collaboratively on methods for teaching English in Tanzanian secondary schools.*

both Tanzanian and U.S. teachers for their efforts that equipped us with such valuable teaching methods--especially because U.S. volunteers are here on their holiday time!

"To think that one year ago I was a participant, and THIS year, I was a co-facilitator!! God has blessed us all.

"Prepared by Daniel Mlambo, English teacher"

Check out our new and evolving website at  
www.mwangazaeducationforpartnership.org

Many thanks to Rochester, Minnesota volunteer  
Lynn Dosch for her tireless efforts!