

# The Marquis Project

Linking Manitobans with the Developing World



## Newsletter, Autumn 2023

Greetings from the Board & Volunteers at the Marquis Project! We want to bring you up to date on our activities and let you know that our Annual General Meeting is coming up at the end of November. Marquis was established 44 years ago in October of 1979 by a small group of church, university and farming folks from Brandon & area and has, through thick and thin, continued to connect Manitobans with the developing world through local educational programs and international development projects.

### Our Projects Overseas

Marquis' long-term relationship with the Tanzanian Society for Agricultural Education & Extension (TSAEE) in **Tanzania** continues with a project supporting rural smallholder farm women to improve production of traditional food crops such as legumes, maize, and cassava.



Participants at training event in Sengerema, Tanzania  
(Photo Credit: TSAEE)

Ninety women and their families are benefiting as they deal with the impact of climate change on agriculture. Our thanks to the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) which has provided the majority of funds for this effort.



Participants at training event in Misungwi, Tanzania  
Photo Credit: TSAEE

Marquis also continues to fund a tailoring project in **Uganda** which trains young women in sewing and embroidery, helps them to find work or set up their own small businesses, and now will also develop a micro-lending scheme for those involved. Participants in this training regimen have their qualifications examined and certified by government officials and excellent results have been delivered so far. Our thanks to MCIC and to the Blennerhassett Family Foundation who have both contributed, along with Marquis, to this endeavour.



(Photo Credit: David Gamey)

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## Our Local Work

**Fair Trade** – thanks to the efforts of Marquis Board Members, **Brandon** continues to be a “Fair Trade Town” as recognized by Fairtrade Canada, along with active town committees in Selkirk and Winnipeg. **The Fair Trade Handbook**, published a year ago, authored/edited by Marquis’ Zack Gross, along with Sean McHugh in Vancouver and Gavin Fridell in Halifax, has sold well and recently was translated and released in Spanish as an e-book. Zack also continues his involvement in both Fairtrade Canada and the Canadian Fair Trade Network (CFTN).

We are pleased to continue to work with **Ten Thousand Villages** on Rosser Avenue in Brandon and invite our members and supporters to shop there for fair trade foods, clothing, and accessories. Villages is organizing an off-site seasonal sale in Winnipeg later in November (see below for details).



Zack continues to write his monthly “**Small World**” column for the Brandon Sun. Those who don’t subscribe can access his articles at [www.zackgross.com](http://www.zackgross.com). Finally, we are hoping to have a visitor from our project in **Uganda** with us in 2024

which will create a great opportunity for direct engagement with our membership, with schools and with communities around the province.

## Our Annual General Meeting

Marquis will again hold a virtual AGM on **Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** The agenda will include reports from the Board President and Treasurer, highlights of our overseas and local work, handing out the 2023 edition of our **Global Citizenship Award**, and holding elections for our Board of Directors. If you have an interest in joining the Marquis Board of Directors, let us know at [marquis@marquisproject.com](mailto:marquis@marquisproject.com). The Board meets virtually for an hour about eight times per year to manage our administrative and program activities.

**If you wish to attend our AGM, please email us at the above contact and we’ll send you a link closer to the date.**

Marquis would like to thank members of the Board and volunteers David Gamey, June Welsted, Lindsay Hargreaves, Tony Berezowecki, Patricia Malcolm, Immaculate Nabasere, Zack Gross, Dinah Ceplis and Al Friesen for their contributions of time and talent to keep Marquis moving forward.

## The Ask

The world seems like a darker place these days, with violence, authoritarianism, intolerance, pandemic, and climate change. Marquis seeks not to curse the darkness but to shine our small light, supporting community to community projects in needy and deserving places in East Africa, and informing people here in Manitoba about world issues. Have no doubt that **your tax deductible support** to Marquis has a big impact on our small organization and its efforts. You can click on the Donate button on our website at [www.marquisproject.com](http://www.marquisproject.com) or you can mail a cheque to Marquis at PO Box 50045, Brandon, MB R7A 7E4.

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

**Mail:** P.O. Box 50045, BRANDON, MB R7A 7E4

**Web:** <http://www.marquisproject.com>

**Registered Charity Number:** 12246 3276 RR0001