



## A Brief Intro To Able & Willing

Welcome to our new readers and thanks to all who support Able & Willing. To celebrate our progress, we offer this brief history. Please visit <http://AbleAndWilling.org> for newsletters, photos and more.

The work of Able & Willing began in 1995 with the construction of a two room school building in Tshamalale, Zaire (now, the Democratic Republic of Congo), then a village with no electricity, wells, toilets or schools. With the support from generous volunteers and donors, **Myrt School** expanded each year to include all levels through high school as well as a technical school with fully equipped shops, computer labs and library. A second campus, **Myrt 2**, was started in 2007 in

Poleni village a few miles away.

Our goals are to provide quality education, to help disadvantaged students, to make the existing schools self-supporting and self-governing, to build more elementary school classrooms, and to finish construction on a clinic and nursing school.

With two new board members, we are branching out and developing projects for nutrition and clean water. (Please see articles on page two.)



Above: Boys and girls lineup in their Scout uniforms at regional contests hosted by Myrt School in DRC.

## A Word From The Founder

Friends,

First, let me thank you all for your support, especially in the time of sorrow since the death of my daughter. Know that I really appreciate all the words of wisdom and comfort that you sent to me in post cards, letters and phone calls.

With her death weighing heavily on my heart, my arrival in Congo this time was not a happy one. Before I left the States, I believed that I was strong, able to handle situations like before. How wrong I was. I now find myself crying a lot and feeling depressed. Looking at my deceased daughter's picture and mourning her loss so deeply have made me very aware of my own mortality and sharpened my desire to do the most I can with my time and abilities.

My sadness deepened while my anger grew while I explored the real cause of her death. In fact, she was bitten by a rabid dog. She could have been saved if only... Too many people were careless, or ignorant, or fatalistic. The health care system also failed her. My daughter was taken to the best clinic in town, yet never received anti-rabies shots. Instead, they treated the wound and give her antibiotics and malaria medicine for fever.

You may wonder why I am telling you all this. It is not just to describe my personal sorrow, but to shine new light on why the work of Able and Willing is so important, starting with our work to impart basic knowledge of health, plus the ability to read and think and act intelligently, to know what

they need and how to fight for it when dealing with sometimes difficult systems, and to hold others, like doctors, accountable for what they do. Now, more than ever, I am determined to work harder so that my daughter's death will be not in vain. Again with your help there and the help of friends here, we can work together so that this kind of mistake does not happen again to another life.

The work on the project has begun. To begin, I am focusing on the wood workshop.

Again thank you so much for your help.

*Wa Mbuyu  
(Puma)*



## Myrt Students Tops in All Levels!!!

Let us all celebrate! All of the students in Myrt elementary, vocational and technical schools passed the national exams. This makes the schools, known in DRC as Myrt Schools, the only schools in the Katanga province of DRC to achieve 100% success. The elementary school has consistently scored in the top 5% but this is the first class to graduate from our vocational and technical schools. So we are thrilled by the students' performance.

This gives the school leverage to adjust the tuition for paying students while providing more student aid to those in need.

Despite the great news, first week enrollment is seriously lagging due to poor economic conditions.



11 of the 14 students in the graduating senior classes.

## New Board Members Lead New Frontiers

Able & Willing now has four African born board members. Like Puma, our founder from Congo, and Maggie Lusweti from Kenya, our two new members came to the U.S. from developing countries. They have worked, studied, succeeded and made lots of friends here and still harbor a burning ambition to pay back to their native countries. Together we expand our network of friends, develop new projects and continue to support existing work.

**Mamadou Dia** grew up in Mali with a love of farming. He now lives in Arlington, VA and returns to Mali to manage his farm and improve the productivity of his cows and goats. His dream is to introduce a more adaptable and productive model into the traditional farming system in Mali.



Since learning about the wonders of the Moringa tree (see page three), he has grown test plots in U.S. and Mali. He is ready to expand production and work with the local Centre de Santé de Manabougou medical facility to cure the rampant malnutrition among children under five.

**Richard Emeni** grew up in Cameroon where he started his IT career that includes an MBA from American University. He has extensive experience in radio, TV, Internet and print. He lives in Hagerstown, MD where he directs projects to help African countries.



Since joining the board, Richard is developing community-based plans to produce Moringa products for health and clean water. He is joining land owners, investors, laborers, and marketers in an African cooperative known as Ndjangi to grow and market Moringa products.



## 2012 Projects

Please note: this is only a snapshot of a few of our projects in four African countries. For a description and status report of each project, visit our website, <http://AbleAndWilling.org>, and click

### Projects

### Project Moringa

You may remember back in June of 2010 when Ed Rau, our biologist friend from the U.S. National Institutes of Health, presented Puma with a bag of 1,500 seeds from an amazing tree called Moringa oleifera. The leaves, stems and seeds are full of vitamins, minerals and essential amino acids. Ed explained the great potential of the plant for curing malnutrition in infants and even clearing and purifying water and its versatility in cooking and many other uses. Moreover, it is fast growing, especially in dry areas where malnutrition is worse.

Jim built a new website for this project, <http://ProjectMoringa.org>, to document, collect donations and develop a project to submit to [KickStarter.com](http://KickStarter.com).

Puma started a crop in 2010 at Myrt School under the supervision of a biologist from the University of Lubumbashi. The plants grew quickly, only to be eaten by birds. What to do?

Inspiration and answers came after Jim Carpenter met Mamadou Dia and Richard Emeni, who later joined our board of directors. Mamadou had also learned about Moringa in 2010 and planted a crop on his experimental farm in Mali. It too met with disaster when a neighbor's fire, set for clearing his

fields, wiped out the entire Moringa plot and other crops.



The first meeting of (l to r) Mamadou, Richard, Puma and Jim

Mamadou, Richard, Puma and Jim met with Ed, our biologist friend, and began working on solutions. Eventually, they developed distinct plans for projects in Mali, Cameroon and Congo that make use of available resources and condi-

tions in each country. The Congo plan is family-based with plants next to homes instead of in open fields more exposed to birds. The plan makes use of our Scouting For Education Program, a "learn and earn" program for students. The Mali plan is still farm-based but with a high firewall around the fields. The produce will treat malnourished children in a local clinic. The Cameroon plan makes use of the local Ndjangi system, a cooperative way of organizing land, labor and capital.

Puma is in Congo (July, 2012 through February 2013). He will initiate his plan after school starts and the growing season begins and the roof of the workshop is completed.

Replanting on Mamadou's farm began last May. His son, Badara "Pappa" Dia, visited the farm in August. Mamadou will be overseeing work on his farm from September through November.

Richard is planning on leaving in January, 2013 to document our projects and help form the Ndjangi cooperative. In the meantime, he will be working on a solar contract in Côte d'Ivoire.



A 6 week old Moringa tree planted from a cutting in a corn field for its nitrogen fixing properties on Mamadou's farm in Mali.

## Theft Recovery and Security

As reported in our spring newsletter, thieves broke into the main campus. They targeted the administration building that houses computer labs, offices, library and classrooms. They stole almost all of the computers and printers and some valuable tools. Before the theft, our precautions included 24/7 surveillance by a stationed security guard, window protection with metal bars, and lock-down procedures for buildings during off-hours.

To enhance security measures, Jim purchased eight hi resolution security cameras with long range night vision, real time monitoring and remote data capture. Puma brought them over in his luggage and installed them on the main campus. Myrt School now has three security guards equipped with Motorola two-way radios and whistles. Puma has plans to install motion alarm sensors in sensitive areas and magnetic switches on doors and windows connected to a loud siren.

With new security plans in place, Puma bought quality electric hand tools and shipped them to Congo before he left in early July. Jim is collecting, repairing and configuring laptops to be shipped. So far, we have nine laptops, not all in working condition. The school desperately needs more computers but **only laptops can be shipped by air freight at a reasonable cost** (about \$150 each).

**Please consider donating your used laptops to Able & Willing or making a cash donation to purchase a laptop.**

Minimum requirement is Pentium 4 or equivalent processor.  
Send to Jim Carpenter, 5036 Corun Road, Jefferson, MD 21755  
or call 301-514-1356.

## Hurry, Before the Rains.

### Protect the Building Blocks for Our New Workshop

Well-equipped workshops are an important part of training students for skills needed in the local economy. They are also a source of revenue for the school.

In 2008, we shipped a 40 foot container of computers, bicycles, and a variety of hand tools and heavy cabinet mounted equipment. The machine and auto shops were set up and run by our two diesel generators. However, the woodworking tools (table saw, planer, etc.) were set aside due to lack of space and expense of diesel fuel. Now, with unlimited free electricity, resulting from our big 2010 project to connect to the national hydroelectric grid, it's time to build a shop for wood working.

Construction of a new building is underway. Students and staff made 35,000 adobe bricks at Myrt 1 Campus. The workshop will require about 27,000 bricks. The rest have been transported to Myrt 2 Campus, about six kilometers away in Poleni village.



**Walls are built but the workshop needs a roof to protect the adobe bricks.**

Now, it is a race against time to install a roof before the rainy season starts. But funds are short and **failure to complete the roof threatens to ruin the bricks**. Please consider donating now!!

**\$3,000 is needed to put a roof on the workshop.**

Please consider donating now before the rainy season ruins the adobe bricks that students and staff worked so hard to make.





Some recent items made in the workshops (doors, window frames, and tables) are sold to local market. Shop production provides training for students and income for the school



Students also make furniture for classrooms such as these colorful tables for the preschool classroom.

## Waza Teacher Training

Waza Alliance has completed its fourth year of teacher training seminars at Myrt School, providing advanced training to 146 teachers to improve their teaching skills. A total of 783 teachers have now completed training since 2008. *That means that tens of thousands of children have already benefited from more effective teachers.*

This year Faustin N'Tala, president of Waza, was joined by his 14 year old son, Peter.

The WAZA ALLIANCE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION (<http://waza-alliance.org>) is a 501c(3) public charity, not-for-profit, non-governmental, non-sectarian organization dedicated to improving the quality of education in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The organization is based in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. It was established in 2007 by a group of interested individuals, including Faustin N'Tala, a professional educator who is a native of the DRC and long time friend of Puma's.



A Waza teacher training seminar held at Myrt School.

## Thanks

We would like to extend thanks and appreciation to our many friends who have helped us over the last 18 years. These include 50 organizations (churches, schools, civic groups, foundations, businesses and clubs) and more than 1,000 individuals. Together you have helped us raise over \$600,000 since our beginning. Your investments have brought about so much good. The school campuses are beautiful and lively, the students continue to excel and the community grows. As the popular governor of Katanga Province said, our schools are “models of community development”.

With your help, we look forward to continuing to expand our educational mission, and to tackle new challenges of nutrition and clean water in areas of great need.



## Please Help

The parents in these villages are able and willing to work on building the schools. The students are able and eager to learn. The Myrt School staff is able and working hard. Puma has devoted his life to developing human resources in Congo. New African board members are committed to new projects for nutrition and clean water. Please continue your partnership with Able & Willing and invest in a better future in Africa.

**I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution of:** (or donate securely online)

- \$100** pays for enough seeds to plant a small Moringa forest
- \$250** Pays for tuition, books, shoes and uniform for one student for a year.
- \$1500** Pays for material to make desks for an entire classroom
- Other** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to:**

AWIEF  
P.O. Box 4303  
Frederick, MD 21705-4303

**My Address:**

- Please dedicate my donation to Project Moringa.
- Please use my email to save postage and printing: \_\_\_\_\_

Able & Willing International Education Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit, non-religious, all-volunteer run organization. All contributions are tax-deductible. For a copy of our current financial statement, please write, phone or email us.

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