



Celebrating 21 Years of Work in Africa !

1994 saw the start of construction on a two room school in Zaire (now, the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC) in a village with no electricity, wells, toilets or literacy. Myrt School now includes preschool through high school and is rated the best on all levels in the Katanga Province based on national exams. WaMbuyu Tech is rated tops by by the Belgian Technical Corporation. In 2012, projects were added in Mali, Cameroon and Kenya. Read about the projects below and on our website, <http://AbleAndWilling.org>.

Able & Willing is searching for volunteers to teach at any level or train teachers at Myrt schools in Congo. Food and lodging is furnished. **Call Able & Willing 301-685-3282**

A Word From The Founder

Thank you, thank you, thank you. The lights are on at Myrt School and WaMbuyu Tech most of the time. There are frequent outages throughout the region, but the new transformer is up and running. And I successfully convinced the community to cooperate and support the continued maintenance of the transformer and power lines.

The presence of electrical power for people in the village has created many changes and opportunities. Unfortunately, the changes in the community and the areas surrounding Lubumbashi (now estimated to be a city of 1.5 million people) have caused a serious problem. Theft. When Myrt School was away from the city, everything was kept safe with just a security guard and a gate. Now that I am here, I see that this is not sufficient. We need a secure environment for the children and for our supplies and equipment. The wall is being built as quickly as possible, but we still need cement for the stucco.

As you can imagine, there is always an opportunity to do more than what we are already accomplishing. Your continued support of Able & Willing International Education Foundation is appreciated so much. Thank you again. May our efforts to educate our children bring us all a brighter future. As Malala Yousafzai recently told President Obama, "The best way to fight terrorism is through education." Education is the key to freedom for all.

Mbuyu WaMbuyu

(Puma)



Board Changes

Able & Willing continues to evolve. Myrt Schools expand, projects in other countries grow and become independent and new talent joins the board while old board members continue to support the work.

Welcome, Karen



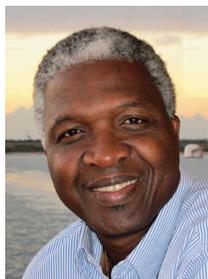
Karen Anderson recently moved to Shepherdstown, West Virginia from the southwest corner of Ohio. In Ohio, she spent almost 20 years working in a busy public library, while raising three kids, coaching soccer teams, leading girl scouts and finally earning a Master of Science degree in Mental Health Counseling. Since moving to this area, she has started a new career as a correctional counselor. Karen is passionate about teaching, learning and sharing her excitement about life. (See her project below)

Thank You, Charles and Mamadou!



Charles Schultz joined the board in 2007. With his degree in English, professional skills as electrician and project manager, he brought critical skills to the board that guided his contributions to AWIEF in editing, event planning, and technical advice. He has been an energetic and reliable volunteer at most all events since the early times. He plans on continuing to help at AWIEF events and as needed.

Thanks, Chuck!



Mamadou Dia joined the board in 2012 to develop his dreams to improve health and agriculture in Mali, his native country. He collaborated with board members and experts to launch a project to grow, process and distribute leaves from the moringa tree to malnourished children in a rural clinic in Mali near his farm. The project was a huge success: the children's health improved dramatically and a market for the product quickly developed. (See update below.)

Karen Anderson Launches Library Project

Perhaps you have heard the story of William Kamkwamba, the boy from Malawi who used his local library to advance his education. William was unable to attend school, so he borrowed books from the library and brought wind generated power to his corner of the world. There are approximately 1.5 million people currently living in the Lubumbashi area, which is the corner of the world close to Myrt School and

WaMbuyu Tech. While the school does boast of a library, there is no public library available to all of the people in the Lubumbashi region.

My dream is to create that public library. I do not yet know what that library might look like. It may be entirely electronic. Perhaps it will be a self-contained mobile unit with a satellite dish on top. Or the library

may consist of a physical storage place with lots of shelves, where people can browse. Either way (or both), I have the ability and the connections to make those things happen.

However, I do not have the ability to discern the political implications of this venture. Nor do I have first

hand knowledge of the culture. That is the impetus behind my December 2015 trip to Congo. I will spend one month studying the people, the environment and the culture to determine if this dream is realistic and achievable. May your encouraging and positive thoughts support me in this endeavor.

The Next Generation at Myrt

For over 20 years, since building the first classrooms and making the school furniture, Puma has been concerned about passing on his construction skills to continue the work of building more schools. To help address the problem, he created three student aid programs that were based on students enrolling in extracurricular projects where they learned valuable construction skills as well as academic lessons. Then he created the technical school where students gain in-depth classroom knowledge and hands-on experience in skills like welding, electronics, woodworking, mechanics, business and computers. How has this paid off for the expansion of Myrt Schools? Can construction of new classrooms continue without Puma there to supervise?

The summer of 2015 was the test. Three classrooms were needed for the new school year to accommodate more technical school classes and a regional site for the national exams. Puma drew up detailed plans of labor and material and emailed them to the young team of graduates. The team shopped local construction supply markets, purchased the material and began construction. Puma arranged for trusted master

builders he has known for many years to inspect the new construction at Myrt School. The report was an A+, super good work! The picture below shows how well they did. The quality of work shows especially in the straight alignment of the welded metal rafters. The next generation is ready to carry on the excellence they learned at WaMbuyu Tech!



Summer project by the next generation displays precise quality construction (June, 2015)

Myrt School & WaMbuyu Tech Update

Puma returned to Myrt on September 29 and will stay for six months. As usual, he has ambitious plans and a limited budget. Our budget was largely depleted during the summer by the construction projects done by the team of graduates and the installation of the new transformer. (See "Next Gen..." article above.)

Puma, Myrt School staff and students and the local community all thank the friends of Able and Willing for their donations that covered over half of the cost of replacing the transformer. Since the power station that

Puma built benefits the entire community, Puma has negotiated with the local residents to assume responsibility for raising the rest of the money. The power company has admitted responsibility for the damage but will not assume any financial burden. Even now with the new transformer, the power company is allocating power to the residential and public sectors, limiting power to several days a week. Currently, the school is getting power during a school week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. At least it is con-

sistent (for now), although there are occasional temporary power outages.

The most urgent task is to furnish the three new classrooms and install the windows. Two of the classrooms will be completed by the first week of December. The third will be completed by the end of December, in time for the next semester. The inventory of student desks is sufficient to supply the three new classrooms.

The security wall (see “Word from the Founder” above) will be completed in stages. A second pre-K classroom is under construction to serve the demand

from the increase in the number of working parents.

Jim Carpenter’s computer project has been postponed until next year to redirect the funds towards construction projects. Karen Anderson will take three of the 30 laptops so staff can get acquainted with the new operating system (Ubuntu) and open source software. The laptops will be used to prepare lessons for distribution to students, avoiding the old error prone process where students copy lessons from the blackboard. Meanwhile, Jim is configuring a server loaded with educational material for the computer lab.

Moringa For Health Project in Mali

Mamadou left for Mali in August to continue work on his farm. He expects to return in December.

He reports that the success of the Moringa powder in reviving the health of the 60+ malnourished children in the Centre de Santé Clinic created a large demand for the product. He is expanding the production to provide the health powder to more clinics while marketing the product to support the farm operations. The project is now independent and self-supporting!

Already, competition is increasing, as word spreads and more farmers are planting the tree. This in itself is a success since the Moringa tree is well suited for climate in much of Africa, provides so much nutrition and has many other uses such as purifying water, feed for livestock and providing oil for cooking or fuel.

We are deeply saddened by the terrorist attack at an

hotel in Bamako. We are much relieved that Mamadou’s extended family and friends are safe. Such a tragedy for a peaceful people.

About the Moringa Project in Mali

The Moringa oleifera tree is
fast growing with highly nutritious leaves and seeds, loads of vitamins, minerals, 3 amino acids essential for infant development.

Dia Farms is
a legal entity in Mali set up to grow and process Moringa products to improve children's health by working with local clinics

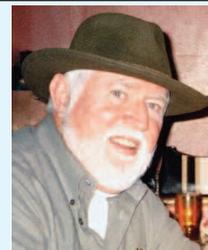
Mamadou Dia is
owner of Dia Farms. He joined the AWIEF board in 2012 to collaborate on Moringa projects. Mamadou is dedicated to improving plant and livestock varieties for better nutrition in Africa.



In Memory of George Coakley

We join the friends of George Coakley to mourn his death and celebrate his life. George was a long time friend and supporter of Able & Willing. Beginning with his Peace Corps service as a geologist in Ghana (1965-67) he became

a renowned expert as a mineral economist and geologist, receiving international recognition for his work. We will miss his presence at our dinners and events, his advice, wit, puns and loving generosity. His spirit will remain with us always. A special thanks to all who gave to AWIEF in lieu of flowers to honor his final request.



Maggie's Project: Special Needs School in Kenya

Education is the key to a healthy, productive life. As Kenya makes efforts to help most children attain an education and achieve their maximum potential, that is not true for children with special needs.

To address this need, the Kenyan government has established the Education Assessment and Resource Center (EARC) to assist agencies in providing evaluations and placements for children with developmental disabilities before placing them into appropriate programs and settings. This can be challenging.

Children with disabilities are often stigmatized and excluded from education due to a mixture of fear, shame and ignorance. In addition, imperfect policies and lack of resources lead to an educational environment that is inadequately designed to provide for these children. An estimated 1.3 to 1.8 million Kenyan children are disabled, according to Special Education Professionals (SEP), a group of international therapists and special needs teachers who help children with disabilities in Kenya and other developing countries.

My focus is on western Kenya in Bungoma county. When I last visited and talked to families of children with developmental disabilities, I was shocked to find that most of the individuals I met (from ages 5 to 35) had never seen a doctor or a specialist. They had never received a proper diagnosis. All of the children had a speech impediment, and they were placed in mainstream classes with no specialized support. Unable to

complete home work or participate fully, school to them is more like a day care center.

Over the years, I have managed to raise \$9,218.50 through friends, family and my own personal savings here in the US. With support from a family member in France, who paid for the lawyer, we have been able to purchase a two acre parcel of land.

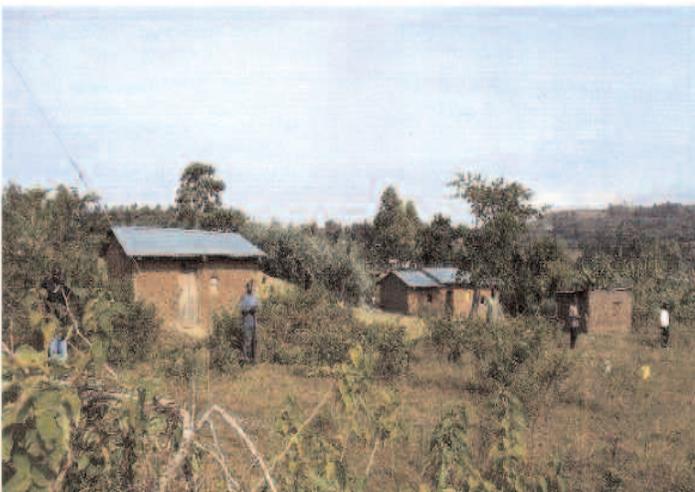
On December 11th, I will be heading to Kenya. My goals for the trip are to:

- Obtain the title deed and the rest of the documentation to ensure that boundaries are established and a fence is built to protect the piece of land purchased as a building site for a special needs school
- Verify with authorities that the land is legally registered
- Create a team to begin construction of the first 2 classrooms
- Establish a team of specialists consisting of: special education teacher, counselor, administrator, therapist (social, physical and speech)
- Determine funding needs for 2 classrooms, bathrooms and an administrative office
- Network with educators in the region to get an idea of how they establish schools and run them. How will our model be different?
- Meet more families of children with disabilities.

At this time, I estimate that sixty thousand dollars will be needed to get this first phase started. Your contribution to this project will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

Maggie Lusweti



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A TASTE OF AFRICA

**Buffet of favorite African dishes
 Coming in April, 2016
 Frederick, Maryland**



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.

New African board members are committed to new projects for building schools, improving the environment, and growing nutritious food.

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 \$ _____

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P.O. Box 4303
Frederick, MD 21705-4303
or donate securely online

Please use my email to save postage and printing: _____

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