

## Celebrating 25 Years of Work in Africa!

In 1994 we 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 the Belgian Technical Corporation. We have started or helped projects in several other countries. Our newest project is a special needs school in Kenya. Read about the projects below and on our website, <http://AbleAndWilling.org>.



*New Building on October 15, shows tremendous progress after starting 5 months earlier.*

*The building will have classrooms, cafeteria, sports store, bathrooms and more.*

*See details in stories below..*

## Word From The Founder

Dear friends,

The world we live in is filled with surprises. One of those surprises is finding some of our students living and working productively in various occupations. Recently, I've met students who graduated from WaMbuyu Tech now employed in a mining company as machine operators, welders and electricians and others who are self employed tailors and auto mechanics. It's a great joy to see many smiling faces of our former students in different cities and places throughout Congo.

My friends, we have done wonderful work in guiding the lives of many young people to become responsible and productive citizens. From me and all of the students of Myrt school and WaMbuyu Tech join in saying together to all of you loud, and clear "Thank you very much." Thank you to the board

members for all your hard work in trying to connecting, and contacting multiple sources for support over the years. Thank you so much to our donors and all the friends of Able and Willing. Because of your help we have made a difference in the world we live in. Let us keep up the good work. May the Great Spirit grant us all a long lasting and prosperous life so that was may continue the promotion of positive change in the world. Again, from the bottom of my heart I thank you all so much.

WaMbuyu  
(Puma)



# Myrt School Challenges and Progress

## Myrt's Challenge

Myrt school continues to do its the best to stay in competition with the new and modern schools that are coming into town. As you all know Tshiamala is no longer a village and we continue to serve those without at the same time trying hard to keep more of those who can pay for the school to stay self sufficient for teachers salary and administrative functions.

## Myrt Advantage

Our advantage is our experience, the quality of education we offer and the extra school activities that we add to students' experience in life. (tennis, basketball, soccer and volleyball, and scouting). Even with these advantages, Myrt School needs to keep improving to make sure that our students are not left behind as the village and surrounding area are developing so fast. We need to help the least fortunate get the same educational opportunities as the children from more privileged families.

## Enrollment

The school year 2018 - 2019 started as usual with students enrolling slowly but steadily. At the peak of the year we had 660 students and



***Myrt School elementary students thank Able & Willing and friends for their support.***

finished with 488 students. While this may seem disappointing compared to many U.S. schools, this retention rate is above average in Congo. Keep in mind that most of these families struggle to afford basic necessities. Even children are expected to help out in various ways and their family commitments may conflict with school attendance.

## National Exams

Another way to gauge the success of Myrt School is by the results of the national exams given to students completing sixth and twelfth grades. In most every year since our first sixth grade graduating class, 100% of the students have passed. We've always been in the top 1% of all schools in Congo. Yet again this year, 100% of our sixth grade students passed the exam.

Exams at the twelfth grade level are given according to the student's major area of study: electrical, mechanical, pedagogy and sewing. We had 28 students in the first three areas and 26 passed the exams. Unfortunately, none of the five sewing majors passed the exams. This is typical as these students are more interested in learning the trade than learning subjects like math and languages. Altogether, our twelfth grade students are among the top ten schools in the area.



***Seniors passed the national exams***

## New Campus Building

A new construction project was started last May and is expected to be mostly completed in October. (See pictures next page) It will house:

- two modern class rooms for the senior classes,
- a student cafeteria,
- two special training rooms for electrical and mechanical testing,
- a tennis and all sports store,
- a storage room and,
- two changing rooms with bathrooms.





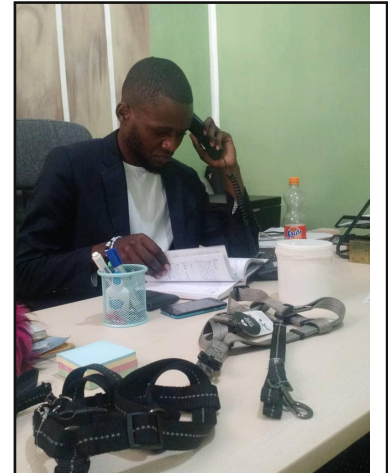
*Mixing the concrete for the second floor with shovels.*



*Female students in the technical school*



*Buckets of concrete are passed up a ladder then from hand to hand.*



*Myrt graduate, Marc Mulage, is now a licenced veterinarian.*

## Tennis Academy

We are at the top of tennis in schools program, thanks in large part to the material help from Coach Bob Walsh from Myersville, Maryland who donated tennis equipment and advice.

Prisca Kolala of WaMbuyu Tennis Academy (WTA) remains champion for girls beating Princess of Kilima by 6/4, 6/3. For boys we have a new champion Kabwa, a nine year old who beat Ramazani of WTA in final 6/2, 6/0. For boys 14 and over we lost to the more physical challenging players of the Belgian Tennis Club and Kilima tennis Club.



*Members of the WaMbuyu Tennis Academy*



*Group practice for a tournament.*

## Kenya Project Update - Maggie Lusweti

So far, we have overcome our initial hurdles. We have approvals from NEMA, Public Health, National Contradiction Authority (NCA), Architecture and Structural Engineers and Physical Planning.

To complete this project's first construction phase, \$20,000 is needed. At this time, we have raised \$2,316. Your financial assistance to this matter will be greatly appreciated. The best part is that we can make arrangements for you to see first hand the change you have created with your donation and to connect with the children that need our help. I plan to travel to Kenya in February to get the construction started.

In Kenya and particularly Bungoma County, there is an overwhelming need for classrooms and a strong educational ecosystem infrastructure such as labs, libraries, study rooms that would cater to children with developmental, physical and emotional disabilities as determined by a 2016 commission.

Constructing a school that mainstreams children with disabilities will begin to shift the paradigm of under-representation in the educational system.



*These are the children that would benefit from the construction of the school.*

### 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.

Able & Willing is committed to helping the parents and students and their community improve their educational opportunities.

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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My Address:

Send to:  
 AWIEF  
 P.O. Box 4303  
 Frederick, Md 21705-4303

Or donate securely online:  
<http://AbleAndWilling.org>

Please use my email to save postage and printing: \_\_\_\_\_

2019/10