

Position: Committee Member (Volunteer)

General Description: Project Zawadi (PZ) is a small 501(c)3 non-profit organization based in St. Paul and doing educational work in Tanzania. Project Zawadi's mission is to partner with communities, schools, and teachers to support quality education for Tanzanian children and youth. Services are delivered in Tanzania via a staff of 12 working in three program areas: Student Sponsorship, School Support (Model Schools), and Teacher Training (Tenda Teachers).

Working from our home-base in the rural village community of Nyamuswa (located in the Mara region of northwestern Tanzania) Project Zawadi has a goal of significantly improving educational quality, safety, and access in our program areas.

Committee Members work on a volunteer basis to provide input, advice, and expertise to the Board and staff regarding specific programmatic activities and objectives. Committee Members do not need to be members of the Board of Directors but should have expertise in the committee's specific program area activities. Please feel free to explore our website for more details on the organization and its programs www.projectzawadi.org.

Committees: Currently, Project Zawadi has four standing committees (in addition to the Executive/Governance Committee which is composed exclusively of Project Zawadi officers and committee chairs).

- **Student Sponsorship:** Over 680 students have been supported through the Sponsorship Program since Project Zawadi's founding in 2000. Today, there are 248 actively sponsored students at 48 schools studying at all levels from primary through university, as well as a variety of vocational training and apprenticeship programs. Taking a student-centered approach is at the very heart of our programming.
- **Tenda Teachers:** Teachers in Tanzania face a variety of difficult professional challenges, particularly in rural areas such as Nyamuswa. Routinely fast-tracked through accelerated training programs, teachers face school conditions commonly including a greater than 50:1 teacher-student ratio and shortages of basic items such as classroom space, desks, textbooks, teaching materials, electricity, and water supply. In seeking to improve the quality of teaching and learning, the Tenda Teachers program addresses the gap in training and professional development available to teachers both in the immediate Nyamuswa area and nationwide.
- **Model Schools:** Directed by an intensive community and school planning initiative, the Model Schools program supports the vision each community has of a model, high-quality educational institution for their children. Currently working with a pilot group of four government primary schools, Project Zawadi and the communities are pooling our knowledge, resources, personnel, and energy to

address infrastructure, teaching materials, staff professional development, student and family support, and academic and career counseling needs.

- **Fundraising and Finance:** With an annual budget of \$380,000, over 85% of Project Zawadi's income is raised via individual donors. There are two major fundraising campaigns per year; one in April typically focusing on capital project needs and one in December focusing on general operating expenses. Project Zawadi is actively trying to make connections with family foundations and grant organizations.

Additionally, there are two task forces composed of interested members from several committees. These task forces are exploring issues that affect all programs and the organization as a whole. Tasks forces meet on an as-needed basis and provide guidance to the committees in the two following areas:

- School safety and violence prevention
- Evaluation

Committees set meeting schedules based on the availabilities of individual members. Monthly time commitment is estimated at 1-3 hours depending upon the committee.

Please contact Project Zawadi's Executive Director, Brian Singer, by email at: bsinger@projectzawadi.org if you are interested in serving on a committee.