

Position: Committee Member (Volunteer)

Organization 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 to ensure Tanzanian children and youth have access to a quality education. This work is carried out via three programs: 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 improving educational quality, safety, and access in our program areas. Project Zawadi has a staff of 22 employees (20 based in Tanzania and two in St. Paul).

- Student Sponsorship: The Sponsorship program seeks to address obstacles students face in their education by partnering with students' families, communities, and schools to provide the neediest students with the uniforms and school supplies as well as the non-material support they need to succeed. Over 750 students have been supported through the Sponsorship Program since 2000. Today, there are 300 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 heart of our programming.
- Model Schools: The Model Schools program supports the vision each community has of a high-quality educational institution for their children. Working with four pilot government primary schools, Project Zawadi and the communities are pooling our knowledge, resources, and personnel to address the needs at each school (including but not limited to: infrastructure, teaching materials, professional development, student and family support, and academic and career counseling needs).
- Tenda Teachers: 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. Teachers in Tanzania face a variety of difficult professional challenges. They are routinely fast-tracked through accelerated training programs. Once placed, they face school conditions like a greater than 50:1 teacher-student ratio and shortages of basic classroom resources. Through Project Zawadi's comprehensive professional development program, teachers gain the tools and skills in high quality teaching practices that empower themselves and their students.

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 explore our website for more details on the organization and its programs www.projectzawadi.org.

Committees: 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:** The Sponsorship program seeks to address obstacles students face in their education by partnering with students' families, communities, and schools to provide the neediest students with the uniforms and school supplies as well as the non-material support they need to succeed. Over 750 students have been supported through the Sponsorship Program since 2000. Today, there are 300 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 heart of our programming.
- **Model Schools:** The Model Schools program supports the vision each community has of a high-quality educational institution for their children. Working with four pilot government primary schools, Project Zawadi and the communities are pooling our knowledge, resources, and personnel to address the needs at each school (including but not limited to: infrastructure, teaching materials, professional development, student and family support, and academic and career counseling needs).
- **Tenda Teachers:** 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. Teachers in Tanzania face a variety of difficult professional challenges. They are routinely fast-tracked through accelerated training programs. Once placed, they face school conditions like a greater than 50:1 teacher-student ratio and shortages of basic classroom resources. Through Project Zawadi's comprehensive professional development program, teachers gain the tools and skills in high quality teaching practices that empower themselves and their students.
- **Fundraising and Finance:** The Fundraising and Finance committee oversees the financial management, marketing, communications, and fundraising initiatives. 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 November/December focusing on general operating expenses. Project Zawadi is actively trying to make connections with family foundations and grant organizations.

Additionally, committee members have volunteered on task forces. **Tasks forces** are formed and meet on an as-needed basis and provide guidance to the committees in areas like program evaluation, school safety, English, and partnership approach.

Time Commitment:

Committee members are expected to attend and actively participate in committee

meetings. Committee members become involved at a range of levels:

- The monthly *minimum* time commitment is estimated at 1-3 hours depending upon the committee.
- Most members spend additional time outside of meetings on specific projects and initiatives.
- Some members contribute an amount of time comparable to a staff member.

Qualifications for the Position:

- diverse perspectives
- community connections (especially in East Africa, Tanzania, and Nyamuwa)
- leadership abilities
- expertise or experience in one or more of the following areas:
 - knowledge of Tanzania
 - education
 - non-profit management
 - financial management
 - fundraising
 - personal resources to make significant financial donations, or connection to potential high-level donors
 - current/former program participants
 - current/former Mara Region community members
 - social justice work
 - community based work
 - Anti-racism and anti-colonialism

When you join, you will discuss your skills, interests, and availability with the Committee Chair .

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