

US Ambassador Visits Kitongo

On February 12th, our flagship campus in Kitongo welcomed Chargé d’Affaires Dr. Inmi Patterson and her team from the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania. After a student-led tour of our permaculture farm, girls’ home, school and clinic, Dr. Patterson met with some of our residential girls and discussed how they can overcome challenges and encouraged them to strive to achieve their goals by remaining in control of their own lives and decisions. The visit was an inspiration to everyone and we are beyond grateful to the U.S. Embassy for this opportunity!



“I can’t even explain what it was like. Meeting the Ambassador was a huge chance, and from that day she is my role model. Even today, we had an evening program and I was asked who I would be if I could be anyone in the world, and I said I would be Dr. Patterson. Meeting her was so good!” – Zai, Form 2, residential girl



“For me, having Dr. Patterson, the American Chargé d’Affaires, visit our campus in Kitongo was one of the most special days since I joined the organization in 2013. Not only was it a great chance for our organization to showcase our programs and the impact that we have on the community, but it also represented the unique Tanzanian-American

‘blend’ of culture that is Mainsprings. However, the best aspect of the visit was the opportunity for the girls to meet such a strong role model in Dr. Patterson. In my 5+ years at Mainsprings, I have never seen our residential girls and staff so collectively inspired. Before her visit, we had one girl who had a dream of becoming an ambassador. Now, I could say we have a couple of dozen!” – Seth Diamond, COO



“It was incredibly inspiring to see the girls give various pieces of the tour, especially with permaculture, and to see how much knowledge they had not only about permaculture itself, but also the different programs that Mainsprings offers and knowledge about the campus!” –Sophie Oppenheimer, Board Member



See it for yourself!

Want to visit the campus for yourself? There are a few spots left on our 2019 Experience Mainsprings trip. Travel with a staff person from the US to our campus and see all that we do first hand. Add on a safari to your trip to make it truly remarkable. Contact Kate Jackson for more information! (katelyn@mainsprings.org)



Meet our Central Administration Team

Our work would not be possible without the many faces that serve behind the scenes within our organization. There are dozens of people who ensure our programs run smoothly, we are able to fundraise the needed funds for our operations and expansion, and that we remain accountable and transparent as an organization. When we started developing our second campus in Kahunda, we realized we needed to create a central administration that was charged with the responsibility of keeping both campus cultures and programs similar, managing our HR and finances, and serving as a central source of information for the many staff on both campuses. More than a year ago, this idea turned into a small central office in Mwanza, led by our COO, Seth Diamond, and consists of these three incredibly devoted leaders of our organization. We wanted to introduce you to these essential team members.



PETER NYAKIHA, Administrative Director

Before joining Mainsprings, I read about its mission, team, programs, location, donors and felt it would be fantastic if I got a chance to join this organization with a super combination of a winning team and incredible programs. With my current roles, I feel that the organization has a lot of expectations for me and I feel I must deliver beyond Mainsprings' expectations- and this is what I like most! I am primarily responsible for all financial tracking in Tanzania and Human Resource management. Since starting with Mainsprings, I have managed to successfully introduce some new financial management

practices and procedures, improving how we manage our procurements, vendors, staff agreements and payment processes.

WELIMA MAGOMA, Monitoring & Evaluation Director

I was motivated to join the Mainsprings' team for the aim of experiencing new challenges that will help me to grow professionally! The thing I like most about my position in the organization is to see the many changes as Mainsprings is expanding. These changes help people discover how to perform their responsibilities more effectively. My biggest accomplishment this past year is that I have improved data collection and reporting within the organization and have been able to provide quality analysis, storage and sharing. In my role, data is the basic tool to show Mainsprings' success.



MONICA NDOMA, Office Manager

The reason why I love working at Mainsprings is because I am a part of a great team, I am able to learn new skills like QuickBooks and photography skills. I also get to conduct different programs like music club, which helps me to share my love of music and be with the kids. Since I have started working at Mainsprings I have become a leader with the confidence to be a problem solver. I have also been able to learn many new skills that I didn't expect. Lastly I have been able to support my family and myself through this employment.

Our First Girls at Kahunda

This January we welcomed our very first 16 girls to our second campus in Kahunda. These 16 girls are ages 4-6 and have begun their studies in our Early Childhood program. After two years of developing this second campus and the farm, it is exciting to welcome and initiate the Refuge and Education components of our model at Kahunda. (cont. on page 3)



Permaculture at Mainsprings

No longer just a farm

Our permaculture efforts continue to grow at Mainsprings, and not just in the amount of produce harvested and livestock produced over the last year (though both are at an all-time high), but programmatically as well. Mainsprings believes that permaculture can and will have a major impact on the social and economic well-being of the thousands of people living in rural areas of East Africa who rely almost solely on agriculture for their family's livelihood. Over the last several years, Mainsprings now has our own internationally certified permaculture educators. After seeing so much success over the past years, Mainsprings wanted to become a teaching base from which permaculture education could spread through East Africa and beyond.



We are proud to announce that we have accomplished the first major step towards that goal by creating the Permaculture Institute of Tanzania (PIT). PIT has conducted several local seminars for farmers in the area and the students at the Joseph and Mary Primary and Secondary schools. However, this February, with the help of long-time supporters from the Reed J. Oppenheimer Foundation, PIT held its first ever International Permaculture Design Certificate course at our Kitongo campus. Eight people from across East Africa and the US came together at Mainsprings for a 10-day course from renowned permaculture expert Mark Shepard, who designed our

Kitongo farm in 2012, and our own Max Kitafula (Mr. Max) who is our PIT manager. The participants were taught the foundations of permaculture and how to design their own permaculture farms and earned an internationally recognized certificate.



These participants are now joining the Mainsprings mission and have become dedicated to spreading these methods to other farmers in their communities, helping them to avoid soil depletion and erosion, improve water management to prevent drought conditions from destroying entire crops, and increase the variety and quantity of produce on their various tracts of land. PIT plans to have at least one international PDC course every year and one community seminar a month. It is programs like these at Mainsprings that we believe can have a true sustainable impact on the community around us.



Kahunda Girls (cont.)

As these girls grow, we will continue to add grades in our school there and open it up to the children in the community. The girls are enjoying school and like to play soccer together in their free time. Many of these girls are also still available to sponsor, so contact us if you are interested. Watch for further updates about these newest members of the Mainsprings family!





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Return Service Requested

Teachers Visit Tulsa for Tanzanite Nights!

Thanks to the generous support of our partner school, The Episcopal School of Dallas, six of our teachers and staff members were able to come to the US to participate in a week of professional development at the school. After a great stay in Dallas, the teachers were able to come up to Tulsa for a few days to see our office here and participate in our annual Tulsa fundraiser, Tanzanite Nights. This event has about 200 attendees and includes a market, decorations that reflect the theme, a fun game for donated prizes and a band. The live auction is always a highlight of the evening, culminating with

auctioning a safari and trip to our Kitongo campus. The delicious food is always inspired by traditional Tanzanian dishes and provides a way to showcase our farm and Tanzanian culture. This year, we focused on Refuge, celebrating each of our girls and graduates and all the ways that we empower

our girls and provide leadership opportunities on our campuses. Several girls had recorded videos to “emcee” the event from afar. One of our visiting teachers, Ms. Atamba gave a powerful keynote speech. After sharing about a very difficult childhood, she shared how passionate she is about teaching girls to have a voice so that they can live productive and empowered lives. We are so grateful for all who make this event such a success.

