

Sister City Relationship Annual Report*

City Clerk's Office
City Hall, Room 205



Please attach the following information

200 E. Wells Street Milwaukee, WI 53202 PH: (414) 286-2221 WEB: www.milwaukee.gov/sistercities		
APPLICATION ORGANIZATION		
Name Milwaukee: African Women's Association (2025 Annual Report)		
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 18417, Milwaukee, WI 53218		
PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION FOR MILWAUKEE		
Name	Reine-Marie Assana	Phone (414) 614-4907
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 18417, Milwaukee, WI 53218	Email: president@milawa.org
SISTER CITY		
Name:	Bomet	Country: Kenya
PERSON IN CHARGE OF ORGANIZATION FOR SISTER CITY		
Name	Joshua Murgor SPERD Representative	Phone: +254722 269 873
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 153, Sotik Bomet, Kenya	joshmargor@yahoo.com

Updated information about the sister city:

- Areas of mutual interest and involvement between Milwaukee and the sister city in the areas of culture and business
- Details of communication and consultation with the sister city regarding the existing relationship
- Updated information regarding the local organizational structure in the sister city that supports the relationship including number of members, their professional and business background, names and contact information

Updated information about the applicant organization:

- Organizational status (e.g. 501c-3). List Board of Directors and attach bylaws
- Number of members, their professional and business background, names and contact information
- Progress of the goals of the organization regarding the sister city relationship
- Progress of activities of the organization in relation to the sister city
- Progress of the methods the organization uses to meet the goals of the sister city relationship
- Financial base of the organization and funds available to support the sister city relationship

- Evidence of local community support for the sister city relationship, including additional financial support and interest in exchange program

***Note: An annual report must be submitted to the Sister Cities Committee within 30 days following the anniversary of the date on which the mayor signed the resolution establishing the relationship.**

Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Relationship: Established in 2015

A summary of Milwaukee African Women's Association Milwaukee Bomet Milwaukee Sister City Activities for **2025** Annual Report:

1. Education and Cultural Exchange.

In 2025–2026, Milwaukee–Bomet Sister City continued to advance educational access and strengthen cross-border collaboration through structured sponsorship, academic monitoring, and mentorship.

Educational Support and Student Progress

Through generous contributions and community partnership, MILAWA and its partners sustained education sponsorship support for students in Bomet, Kenya. Key partners include Kenyans in Milwaukee (KIM) and MILAWA's volunteer leadership, which together provided coordinated sponsorship, accountability, and follow-up.

Current Achievements: Educational Outcomes (2025 Reporting Cycle)

- Five (5) students were in their final year of secondary school during the reporting period.
- Four (4) students successfully graduated from secondary school.
- One (1) student remains enrolled in secondary school and is projected to graduate next year.
- One (1) additional student was newly added to the sponsorship program during this cycle.
- Post-secondary pathways confirmed for three graduates: Agriculture, Education, and Nursing. Follow-up is ongoing to confirm the pathway for the remaining graduates.

Measurable Objectives (2026–2028)

- Support 10 additional high school students to graduate.
- Facilitate and secure 3 university scholarships for qualified students.
- Facilitate 1 exchange program annually (students/teachers).
- Establish 1 nursing pathway placement in Milwaukee by 2026 (admissions/mentorship).
- Success Indicators
- Graduation certificates and certificates of completion.
- Scholarship awards and enrollment confirmations.
- Exchange participation reports (where applicable).

Ongoing Support

Graduated students continue to volunteer to mentor current secondary students. Academic follow-up remains active to support retention, performance improvement, and successful transition to post

2. Cultural Engagement: Meet and Greet Event

Cultural diplomacy remained a core pillar of the Sister City relationship. Milwaukee–Bomet representatives participated in civic and cultural programming that increased public awareness and strengthened people-to-people ties.

Bomet was represented at Milwaukee Sister Cities community programming, strengthening engagement with other Sister Cities and Milwaukee’s multicultural community.

Participation in the annual Folk Fair showcased Kenyan culture through traditional attire, community outreach, and cultural education (photos attached below).

Delegation and exchange planning continued to build structured opportunities for future cultural and professional exchange. Milwaukee Sister Cities booth featuring Bomet County representation during the annual Folk Fair (2025).



Community participants supporting Bomet County cultural representation at Milwaukee’s Sister Cities Folk Fair exhibit (2025).



Milwaukee City Hall: Flying Kenya Flag for the Bomet-Milwaukee Sister Cities



Monica Ashery with friends and Milwaukee Major, Mr. Johnson Cavalier



Measurable Objectives (2026–2028)

Host 1 annual cultural showcase in Milwaukee (Kenyan food, music, and community education).

Conduct biennial delegation visits to strengthen relationships and program oversight.

Facilitate 1 exchange program annually (students/teachers) as feasible.

Success Indicators

Event participation counts and engagement documentation (photos and materials).

Delegation visit reports and community feedback.

Exchange documentation and participation reports (where applicable).

3. Import Avocado and Agricultural Produce Building Economic Sustainability

The Milwaukee–Bomet relationship continued to explore opportunities to strengthen agricultural livelihoods through market linkages. In Bomet, avocado farming is expanding as a high-value crop, and program discussions focused on connecting farmers to viable market channels.

- Our Avocado farming initiative continues to thrive farmers are motivated and productive, and the project has become a key community effort.
- **Avocado Partnership:** Explore insights from Professor Emily Sitienei regarding avocado partnership and its benefits for farmers. In the lush agricultural landscape of Bomet, Professor Emily Sitienei is our dedicated representative who has been diligently working and actively collaborating with avocado farmers to foster partnerships and share valuable insights. Through this collaborative effort, the avocado farmers of Bomet have gained access to essential resources and knowledge aimed at enhancing their avocado cultivation practices. The avocado partnership has proved to be transformative endeavor, empowering farmers with advanced techniques and market connections.
- **Avocado growing in Bomet** is gaining fame after the newly introduced profitable crop that is quickly overtaking tea and corn (maize) farming proved to be profitable for farmers. In 2021 (between January and March), Kenya exported 26 tons worth **4.6 billion shillings (\$400 Million)**
- Bomet farmers are ready to export avocados and other agricultural produce to Milwaukee. We now seek to establish market opportunities in Milwaukee to :
 - Generate sustainable income for local farmers
 - Create a global farm-to-market connection between Bomet and Milwaukee
 - We welcome connections to local markets, restaurants, cooperatives, or distributors who may be interested in supporting this initiative.



Measurable Objectives (2026–2030)

- Connect 50 avocado farmers to sustainable markets.
- Increase farmer income by 20% within 3 years of market linkage implementation.
- Pilot 1 export shipment of avocados or agricultural produce to U.S. markets by 2027 (subject to regulatory feasibility and partners).

Success Indicators

- Farmer participation lists and income surveys (where available).
- Market contracts or buyer commitments established.
- Pilot export shipment completed and documented.

4. Cultural Exchange, Tourism Delegation, Exchange, and Healthcare Collaboration (Forward Plan)

Planned Visit to Bomet-August 2025

Future delegation activities will emphasize education monitoring, healthcare collaboration, and community development. MILAWA will continue to explore options for a community health center concept in Bomet as a long-term goal, including knowledge-sharing with Milwaukee-based healthcare professionals and institutions.

Measurable Objectives (2026)

- Host 1 cultural exchange annually (music, art, storytelling).
- Establish a Youth Leadership Council by 2026 (subject to local partner readiness).
- Launch 1 healthcare partnership project (nursing/community health pathway).

5. Clean Water; A Pressing, Unfinished Mission.

Access to clean water remains a critical need in Bomet. A borehole was dug in 2018, but fluoride levels require treatment for safe consumption. The partnership continues planning toward technical assessment, fundraising, and implementation to deliver safe water access.

- A borehole was dug in 2018, but high fluoride levels have rendered the water unsafe for human consumption.
- The borehole has not been used since it was dug up, now going to 6 years as there ought to be structure in place.
- We are actively seeking:
 - Technical assistance for water treatment solutions.
 - Financial support to complete and activate the project safely.
 - Clean water is essential to health, education, and daily life, and this project remains a priority

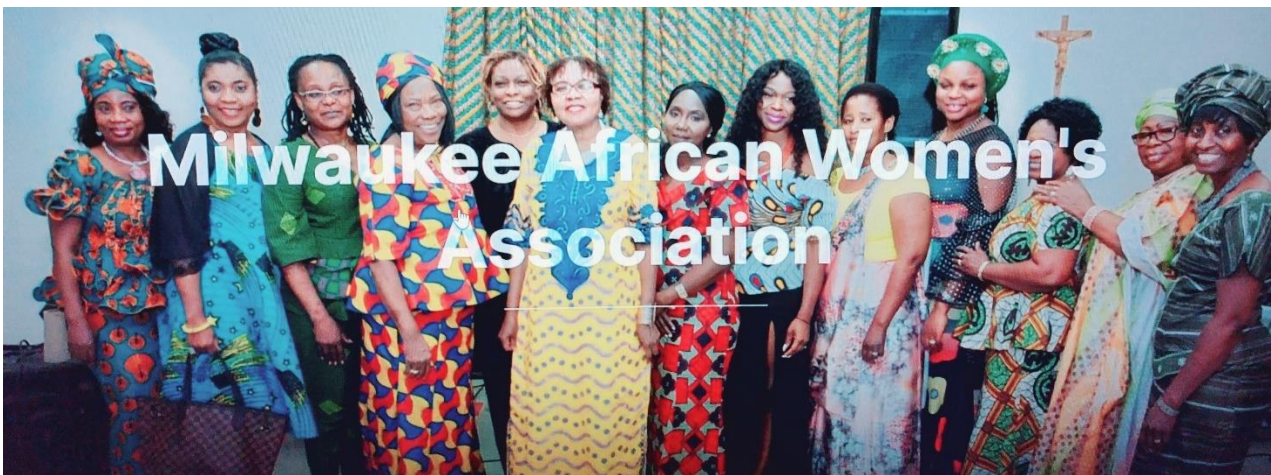
Measurable Objectives (2026)

- Secure 1 technical partner to assess water treatment needs.
- Raise \$15,000 to implement fluoride treatment and complete the project.
- Deliver safe drinking water access to 500+ households in Bomet by 2026.
- Success Indicators
 - Technical assessment completed and treatment plan approved.
 - Funding milestones met and documented.
 - Functional boreholes provide safe water to 500+ households by 2026.

Information about the applicant organization:

Milwaukee African Women's Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Milwaukee African Women's Association (MILAWA) a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization was established in 2008 by African immigrant and refugee women living in Milwaukee, from Sierra Leone, Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, USA, Somalia, Congo, Benin, and the Central African Republic. Our membership continues to increase and reflects the presence of over ten thousand African refugees and immigrants in the Milwaukee area (2009 Federal Immigration Statistics). We have a membership of women from diverse backgrounds, involved in a vast continuum of professional and personal endeavors <http://milawa.org/>



Mission Statement: Milwaukee African Women's Association's objectives to date have been to create an awareness of the attributes we bring to the Milwaukee community as women of African descent; to create and promote understanding among different cultures and societies within societies; to assist the integration of African immigrant/refugee women and their families as they transition in a new environment. In addition, helping them access resources to maintain healthy families and actively participate in building a strong community

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These objectives have been realized so far through cultural exchanges, community, social and political outreach, cultural exhibitions, seminars, and discussions. This year we initiated a tradition practiced by African women and women in the world community: International Women's Day. A celebration of women worldwide brings attention to the plight of women struggling for equity, quality of life, and safety. MILAWA's programmatic focus has been culture, leadership, community, and economic development. Our newest endeavor will be healthcare. Our community is in an emergency ward. Women of African descent are the primary caretakers of our families in the area of health, so it is only a natural progression that we become proactive in facilitating illness prevention in our homes and prevention education in our communities. The Milwaukee African Women's Association is excited about being an emerging vital organization in the Milwaukee community. We look forward to the opportunity to support the advancement of African women and their communities. <http://milawa.org>

Looking Ahead:

The Bomet-Milwaukee sister Cities relationship continues to serve as a bridge of opportunity, unity, and hope. Through our focus on education, culture, and community, and with the support of partners like MILWA and KIM, we are building a foundation that empowers the next generation and strengthens global understanding.

Prepared and submitted by:

Dr Alice Kones

Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Representatives

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