

Sister City Relationship Annual Report*

City Clerk's Office
City Hall, Room 205



200 E. Wells Street Milwaukee, WI 53202 PH: (414) 286-2221 WEB: www.milwaukee.gov/sistercities		
APPLICATION ORGANIZATION		
Name Milwaukee: African Women's Association (2024 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	

Please attach the following information:

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 **2024** Annual Report:

1. Education

In 2024 Milwaukee-Bomet Sister City made significant strides in promoting educational access and strengthening cultural ties between the two cities.

Educational Support and Student Progress

Through generous contributions and community partnership we were able to provide full school fees support for seven students in Bomet, Kenya. The success of our educational initiatives would not be possible without the unwavering support of our community partners **including Kenyans in Milwaukee (KIM)** via the President Samuel Jakoyo, and the **Milwaukee African Women's Association (MILAWA)**, which have been instrumental in supporting our educational initiatives this year. Through the Leadership of the MILAWA president Reine-Marie Assana and the tireless advocacy of Monica Ashery, MILAWA members have championed the cause of education for underserved students in Bomet. Their commitment and generosity have enabled us to extend our reach and provide consistent, life-changing support to students in need. We are deeply grateful for their continued partnership and commitment to our mission.

Current Achievements: Educational Outcomes (2024):

- 1 student completed Master's degree
- 1 student completed bachelor's degree
- 2 students successfully graduated high school and enrolled in university programs in (2025).
- 4 students (2 girls, 2 boys) in high school are completing 12th grade
- 1 student is in 11th grade.

Measurable Objectives (2025–2028):

- Support 10 additional high school students to graduate.
- Facilitate and secure 3 university scholarships for qualified students.
- Facilitate 1 exchange program annually (students/teachers).
- Place 1 nursing student in Milwaukee program by 2026

Success Indicators:

- Graduation and certificates of completion.
- Scholarship awards
- Exchange participation reports

Ongoing Support:

The students who have already graduated are volunteering their time to mentor current high schoolers

- One student is repeating 12th grade this academic year due to performance challenges, and we continue to offer guidance and financial support to help him succeed.
- Nursing Education Pathway-A request for City Support. We have high potential students ready to pursue nursing as their career and contribute to global healthcare:
 - **One college** student is completing nursing prerequisites 1 student is completing nursing prerequisites, with the goal of joining a nursing program in the United States as a nurse.
 - We are actively exploring **educational opportunities** here in Milwaukee (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, or **Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)** to support her aspirations.
 - We are seeking leaders from the City of Milwaukee Committee, academic institutions, or healthcare systems to support:
 - Admissions guidance or program connection and mentorship from committee and City Partners.
 - Tuition assistance or scholarship opportunities
 - International student sponsorship or visa-related support.
 - We believe these students have the potential to not only succeed academically but also return the investment by serving in healthcare communities across borders.
- **2025 Objective:** Secure 1 admission pathway, 1 mentor, and explore 1 scholarship or sponsorship for international nursing study.

2. Cultural Exchange and Tourism

- Bomet was proudly represented at the 2025 Milwaukee Meet & Greet Event, attended by Mayor Cavalier Johnson. MILAWA members Led by Monica Ashery and President Reine-Marie Assana along with other MILAWA members, as well as Kenyans in Milwaukee Bomet representatives graced the occasion, offered support and to showcase their vibrant culture of Bomet, contributing a day filled with food, fellowship, and celebration. This event was also graced by our very own Major Cavalier Johnson, further strengthening out ties with the city. Bomet representatives interacted with other members of Milwaukee-Sister Cities in Milwaukee.
- Event showcased Bomet's culture with food, music, and fellowship, strengthening ties with Milwaukee's multicultural community.
- Planned and executed a delegation trip to Bomet in August 2025, where two members of the Milwaukee area visited Bomet and engaged directly with the locals and enjoyed Touring Masai Mara game reserve and witnessing not just the great migration but all the big 5 animals in their natural habitat.

Measurable Objectives (2025–2028):

- Host 1 annual cultural showcase in Milwaukee (Kenyan food, music, an.
- Facilitate and secure 3 university scholarships for qualified students.
- Facilitate 1 exchange program annually (students/teachers)
- Place 1 nursing student in Milwaukee program by 2026

Success Indicators:

- Graduation certificates
- Scholarship awards
- Exchange participation reports



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



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



3. Import Avocado and Agricultural Produce Building Economic Sustainability

Focus: Empowering avocado farmers: 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 (2025–2030):

- Connect 50 avocado farmers to sustainable markets
- Secure Increase farmer income by 20% within 3 years
- Pilot 1 export shipment of avocados to U.S. markets by 203

Success Indicators:

- Farmer income surveys
- Market contracts signed
- Avocado Export pilot completed

4. Cultural Exchange and Tourism

Planned Visit to Bomet-August 2025

We are pleased to announce the upcoming delegation trip to Bomet in August 2025, and we warmly invite interested members and supporters to consider joining us. This visit presents a unique opportunity to witness firsthand the impact of our collective efforts and to strengthen our engagement with partners on the ground. Looking ahead, future trips will focus on initiatives such as building a community health center in Bomet. This center will create avenues for collaboration where health care professionals from Milwaukee-including nurses and doctors-can provide consulting services to the local Bomet community. Likewise, Bomet doctors and nurses will have the opportunity to train with and shadow healthcare professionals in Milwaukee, fostering valuable cross-learning and exchange.

Measurable Objectives (2025–2026):

- Host 1 cultural exchange annually (music, art, storytelling)
- Establish a Youth Leadership Council by 2026
- Launch 1 healthcare partnership project (nursing/community health)

Success Indicators:

- Student and tourist cultural exchange completed
- Signed partnership MOUs
- Exchange event attendance
- Council formed and active

5. Clean Water-A pressing, Unfinished Mission.

Access to clean water remains one of the most urgent unmet needs in Bomet:

A borehole was dug in 2018, but it remains unused due to high fluoride levels that have rendered the water unsafe for human consumption. Clean water is essential to health, education, and daily life, and this project remains a priority.

Measurable Objectives (2025–2026):

- 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:

- Functional boreholes provide safe water to 500+ households by 2026.

Milwaukee African Women's Association, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

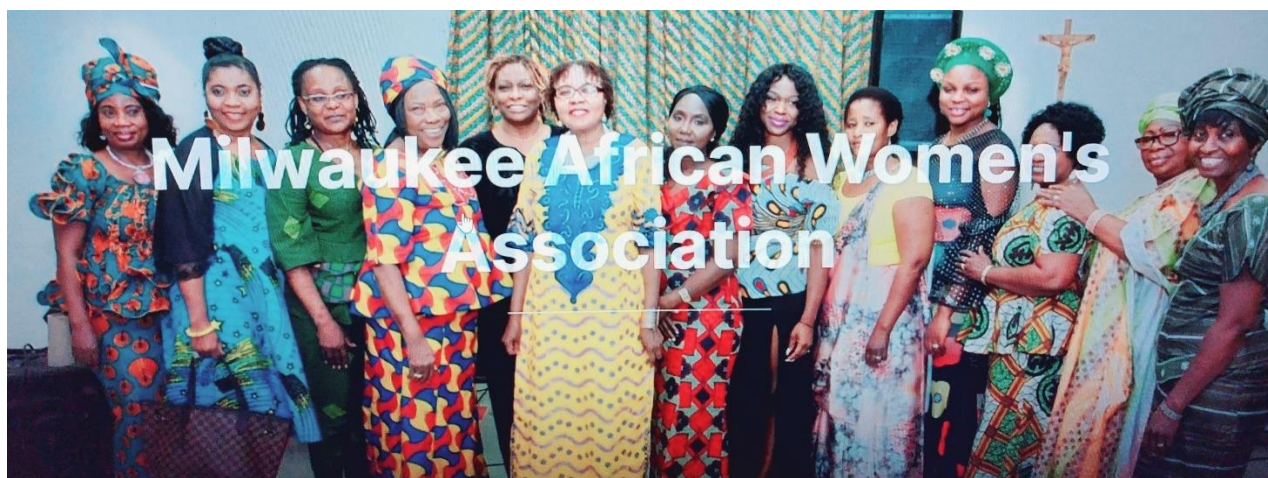
Mission Statement: Milwaukee African Women's Association's objectives to date have been to create an awareness of the attributes we bring to the Milwaukee community as women of African descent; to create and promote understanding among different cultures and societies within societies; to assist the 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
<http://milawa.org/>

Information about the applicant organization:

Milwaukee African Women's Association (MILAWA)

Membership: Established in 2008, MILAWA includes women from over 12 African nations (, from Sierra Leone, Senegal, Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, USA, Somalia, Congo, Benin, and the Central African Republic) and the U.S., reflecting Milwaukee's diverse African diaspora. Members are engaged in healthcare, education, business, and community leadership. 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.



MILAWA'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.

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>

Objectives (2025–2026):

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 Partnerships with Kenyans in Milwaukee (KIM), we are building a foundation that empowers the next generation and strengthens global understanding.

- KIM and Milwaukee civic leaders.
- Financial contributions from members and friends to fund education sponsorships and cultural events.
- Strong participation in Milwaukee’s International Women’s Day celebrations and cultural exhibitions.

Looking Ahead (2025–2027):

- Education: 10 more high school graduates, 3 university scholarships, 1 annual exchange.
- Healthcare: Nursing pathway established for 1 student by 2026.
- Agriculture: 50 farmers linked to markets; first avocado export to Milwaukee by 2027.
- Clean Water: Functional borehole providing safe water to 500+ households by 2026.
- Cultural Exchange: Annual cultural showcase in Milwaukee and biennial delegation visits.

Prepared and submitted by:

Dr Alice Kones

Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Representatives

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