

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 (2023 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 2023 Annual Report:

1. MILAWA Picnic.

MILAWA held picnic activities for the African Community in summer of 2023 that was well attended. Future picnic activities to be captured in the next annual report.



2. International Folk Fair

MILAWA members and well as Bomet representatives were present to volunteer and offer support and to showcase different countries and cultures. They interacted with other members of Milwaukee-Sister cities at the November 2022 International Folk Fair held in Milwaukee.





3. Educating and Keeping Girls in School. Past and Future Collaboration

Empower her Periods: Sanitary Pads Distribution

Studies have shown that distribution of sanitary pads not only improve reproductive health knowledge and education but also attitudes and therefore improve attendance by keeping girls from missing school due to periods. MILAWA has been instrumental in improving the education of girls in both primary (elementary) and secondary school students by donating and distributing sanitary pads in Bomet. MILAWA continues to collaborate and promote healthcare and personal hygiene. So far MILAWA has donated sanitary hygiene products worth \$3,800 to over 800 students in Bomet, Kenya.

Sanitary Pads Distribution to Students in Bomet.



4. Import Avocado and Agricultural Produce

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 a transformative endeavor, empowering farmers with advanced techniques and market connections.

As a result, enthusiasm among the avocado farmers of Bomet to export their produce to Milwaukee, Wisconsin has surged. Eager to showcase the quality of richness of their avocado on an international stage, farmers are embracing the opportunity with unwavering determination and optimism. With the support of the partnership, they are poised to make a significant impact in the global avocado market, elevating both their livelihoods and the reputation of Biomet's agricultural produce.

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.

5. Cultural Exchange and Tourism

No activities after Covid

6. 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.

The Milwaukee African Women's Association (MILAWA) 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.



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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>

Prepared and submitted by,

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