

APPLICATION TO RENEW SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

Eisenhower in 1954 for the purpose of uniting ordinary citizens through 4 key areas: arts & culture; youth & education; business & trade; and community development & technical exchanges.

[Our Mission - Sister Cities International \(SCI\)](#)

What is Sister City?



A sister city, county, or state relationship is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. A relationship is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from both communities sign off on an agreement to become sister cities.

Milwaukee's Sister City Initiative



A city may have any number of sister cities, with community involvement ranging from a half dozen to hundreds of volunteers. In addition to volunteers, sister city organizations can include representatives from nonprofits, municipal governments, the private sector, and other civic organizations.

Each sister city organization is independent and pursues the activities and thematic areas that are important to them and their community including municipal, business, trade, educational, and cultural exchanges and projects with their sister city.

[What Is a Sister City? - Sister Cities International \(SCI\)](#)

Milwaukee is affiliated with Sister Cities International, a program with over fifty years of promoting people-to-people diplomacy. Bomet County, Kenya is our most recent Sister City, and joins the ranks of five other Sister City relationships Milwaukee is fostering. There may be many more to come as residents of the city, local officials and business people come to recognize the benefits of reaching out beyond our own borders as citizens of the world

Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City

Sister City Signing Ceremony with Bomet County, Kenya at City Hall, November 23, 2015. A special ceremony in the City Hall Council Chamber and Anteroom took place to mark the occasion of the beginning of a Sister City relationship with Bomet County. Hosted by Alderman Joe Davis, Sr., event highlights featured a document signing by Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and His Excellency Honorable Isaac Ruto, Governor of the County of Bomet, as well as speeches, gift exchanges, and a reception afterward.

[Milwaukee's Sister Cities](#)

<https://city.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/ccCouncil/2015-PDF/NewsReleases/District01/District02/02-KenyanSisterCitySigning.pdf>

APPLICATION TO RENEW SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP



Bomet County, Kenya



APPLICATION TO RENEW SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP

Overall Objective of Sister City Relationship

To foster and encourage greater friendship and understanding between the City of Milwaukee in United States and the County Government of Bomet in Kenya through direct personal contact.

Partnership Achievements

1. Information About The Applicant Organization:

Updated information about the applicant organization: Milwaukee African Women's Association
Status: 501(c) (3) .

Board of Directors:

- Reine-Marie Assana, President
- Catherine Moji Adedokun, Vice President
- Cecilia Pourrier, Treasurer
- Yainkain Fofana, Secretary General

The Milwaukee African Women's Association 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). MILAWA have membership of women from diverse backgrounds, involved in a vast continuum of professional and personal endeavors.

Our 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.

2. Information About Milwaukee Committee/Team:

The organization is led by several talented and selfless individuals including:

- Reine-Marie Assana, President president@milawa.org
- Catherine Moji Adedokun, Vice President info@milawa.org
- Cecilia Pourrier, Treasurer, treasurer@milawa.org
- Yainkain Fofana, Secretary General info@milawa.org
- Alice Kones, Member alkones2012@gmail.com

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In the last two years, the Milwaukee African Women's Association, (MILAWA) has organized an annual healthy family picnic catering to the large community of Africans and friends of Africa in Milwaukee. The focus of the picnic is to provide health and wellness information, to educate the community about African culture and to promote healthy African food choices to participants. This event has been funded through donations and partnerships with health organizations such as Molina Healthcare, UW-Milwaukee School of Nursing.



MILAWA HEALTHY FAMILY FAIR

[DONATE NOW](#)



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3. Strategies For Peace Education Research And Development (SPERD)

SPERD is an NGO working to advance women's economic and social empowerment in Bomet, Kenya, by encouraging women to participate, compete, and lead as equal and active partners in the community development. Additionally, SPERD supports women's aspirations for gender equality, and advocates for inclusive and responsive society. SPERD believes that when women are active in development, communities prosper. Women bring new perspectives, raise issues that others overlook and listen to those that others ignore.

The full and equal participation of women in development brings real benefits to their families and communities at large. Women being the backbone of Kenya economies play a significant role to ensure their families' wellbeing. SPERD supports women's empowerment by providing capital and training in business skills, investment, proper agricultural production, and provide advocacy for physical and sexual abuse as well as domestic violence.

SPERD empowers women and girls by ensuring they focus on education and educating them as well as representing their interest, in property and land rights. At SPERD, women are continually developing innovative, effective ways to improve their lives by bringing together their wisdom and creativity. Women are leading change in Kenya and increase in their income translates more directly into better child health, nutrition, and family wellbeing. One woman brings hope to her family, many women bring hope to community, the country, and the world. In summary, SPERD ensures that women must have equal access to education, credit, property, and employment for women, for current and future economic justice and sustainability for all. Additionally, SPERD advocates for women to ensure they exercise full participation in decision making process, alongside the men, in finding equitable and practical solutions to issues both in the family and in the society.

SPERD BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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The Main Objectives of SPERD.

1. To empower women through education, training, entrepreneurial, agricultural and leadership skills.
2. To empower women to build confidence, self-respect, and self-dignity.
3. To mobilize women to take action, in the fight against poverty through training and providing research and seeds on organic and environmentally friendly crops / seeds that would improve productivity, income, and livelihood.
4. To encourage, promote and enhance organizational exchange programs to learn skills and competencies needed for technology, innovation, and organizational agility in the 21st century and beyond.
5. Take peace education and peace building to target communities to mitigate conflict for peaceful coexistence of tribes and to embrace diversity and inclusion.
6. To improve households' nutritional value as a sustainable force for health and economic development

Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Relationship STEM Scholarship Program



Stem Scholarship and Mentorship Program for students from schools around Bomet is ongoing. More and more students continue to register for the program, and we have ~50 students who have either graduated from high school and are at or getting ready to join the university. We cannot accommodate everyone due to limited resources. Currently there is one student at the University Majoring in Mechanical Engineering, three students in high school and one student already graduated from the University with a degree in Education.

Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Relationship Water Project



Water Project



Water project in the village of Sigowet in Bomet will server approximately 8,000 people once completed. The Challenge has been the high levels of fluoride and funds are needed to complete the water filtration process.

Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Relationship

Student Exchange Programs



Through Sister City Relationship and the efforts of Kenyans in Milwaukee we were able to send two students: one from Marquette university and the other from University of Wisconsin) to Kenya on a cultural exchange program. Seen above visiting various villages and interacting with the locals.

Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Relationship

Tourism



Tourism is another sector that needs to be explored. In 2018, the students involved in cultural exchange had a chance to visit the famous tourist destination in Kenya-The Masai Mara and took these pictures of animals in their natural habitat. They enjoyed watching the The “Big Five”-a term that is used to refer to the 5 African animals that early big game hunters considered most difficult and dangerous animals to hunt on foot in Africa. These animals include the African elephant, lion, leopard, buffalo, and rhinoceros. See the picture below.

Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Relationship

Big Five: Masai Mara Game Reserve



For many people, Kenya is East Africa in microcosm. The wildlife safaris have been the top tourist attractions in Kenya for decades while other activities include trekking Mount Kenya, ballooning over the Masai Mara and snorkeling in Malindi on the Indian Ocean coast.

Here is a taste of Top Tourist Attraction in Kenya:

<https://www.touropia.com/tourist-attractions-in-kenya>

<https://magickkenya.com/>

Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Relationship

Agriculture Products

Agricultural products ready to be shipped to Milwaukee. Need the more information on how this can be done.



Avocado is one of the most demanded crops in both the local and international markets. In this, farmers are now embracing the high value crop as they ditch less profitable crops such as maize and beans. According to statistics by the International Trade Center, Kenya is the largest exporter of avocados in Africa as of 2017 exporting approximately 51,507 tons of the fruit to the international market. Kenya has over 40 varieties of avocado. Hass is the main export variety and is preferred due to higher fat content than other varieties which gives it a richer taste while Fuertes is preferred for processing. Hass avocado variety is on demand in the international markets such as UAE, UK, Russia, and Spain with more than 70 per cent market share. (Source: FarmBizAfrica)

Bomet-Milwaukee Sister City Relationship



November 19, 2015

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.
(414) 286-3787

MEDIA ADVISORY

Kenyan Sister City Signing Ceremony at City Hall

A Sister City agreement between Milwaukee and the County of Bomet, Kenya will be signed during a special ceremony next week in the third floor **Council Chamber and Anteroom at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.** The ceremony will take place at **1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 23, 2015** and will be hosted by **Alderman Joe Davis, Sr.** and will feature Milwaukee **Mayor Tom Barrett** and **His Excellency Honorable Isaac Ruto**, Governor of the County of Bomet.

Alderman Davis, chair of the City of Milwaukee's Sister Cities Committee, said the **Sister Cities International** agreement with Bomet, Kenya has been in the works for several months, and has strong local support and interest. "It is clear that this important agreement will most certainly be mutually beneficial for the citizens of Milwaukee and the citizens of Bomet, and I would like to thank Governor Isaac Ruto for his support and work to help bring the agreement together," he said.

"I would also like to thank the work of the Sister Cities Committee and the Pan-African Community Association/Bomet County Committee for all the work and effort that has led us to this important agreement of mutual of cooperation in the fields of business, culture, health care, education, tourism and other areas of interest to both cities for their overall progress," Alderman Davis said.

Milwaukee is officially affiliated with Sister Cities International, a program with more than 50 years of promoting people-to-people diplomacy. As a result, Milwaukee's city-to-city relationships, including former friendship cities and unofficial sister cities, are now moving forward. **Carora**, Venezuela, **Medan**, Indonesia, **Galway**, Ireland, **Morogoro**, Tanzania, **uMhlathuze**, South Africa and **Zadar**, Croatia are Milwaukee's current Sister Cities.

What: Sister City Signing Ceremony

When: 1:00 p.m. Monday, November 23, 2015

Where: Common Council Chamber & Anteroom

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