

Mbieri Primary Schools Project Initiative



Mbieri United Association of Washington DC embarked on the primary schools' project with the concept "to remodel Mbieri primary schools," which were discovered to be in devastating situations over the years. We pursued the initiative because we appreciate the fact that the

importance of education in the life of a child cannot be over emphasized. An old adage says, "Give a man a fish and he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will never be hungry." In order to teach Mbieri children to fish, that is educate them, we have focused on the most critical first tier of their education (primary level), when the child's character is moulded. The reason is to facilitate the establishment of a solid foundation, which will serve as the rock of our children's future survival in our ever growing challenging world.

To achieve this goal, we went on expanding the scope of the project to benefit every community school in Mbieri. This is because many of us today, passed through these community primary schools, and over the years, the schools have suffered neglect owing to inadequate funding from the Government. As a result, communities (our aged parents and relatives at home) have taken over the responsibility of providing amenities and infrastructures to the schools, such as latrines, water boreholes, electricity, books, desks, computers and other learning



materials. Often they manage to tax themselves from their meager resources, to re-roof the schools, paint the walls, clear the roads and even attempt to re-build the entire structures for safety, just to ensure

that the schools remain open for our little nieces, nephews, brothers and sisters in the village.

Despite the community efforts, it is still disheartening to note that some of the schools and classrooms are places of hazards rather than homes for training. For example, the children cluster on shaky dilapidated seats with protruding nails, which can collapse several times during classes, and which the children and their teachers stop to repair before learning can resume. When it rains, the children are unable to access their classrooms because they require a “boat” to transport them over. And should the rains find them in the middle of classes, the zincs and roofs leak like they are open space. The sufferings the children undergo are better imagined than described and together we share their frustrations and efforts made by communities to re-habilitate the schools.

As first steps, the association in 2010, donated 35 three-in-one seats, with writing desks, which accommodated 105 pupils, to a Community Primary School in Mbieri.

The success of this little gesture re-kindled the association’s interest to do more, and extend this to every primary school in Mbieri. This is what resulted to our success primary school project story today. If our communities with limited resources and capabilities are able to stand up for the survival of primary education in Mbieri, Mbieri United Association can also be a part to it. As Malcom X succinctly puts it, “Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”

How can we give back to our community and to that child in every Mbieri primary school, with potentials of realizing his or her dreams to the maximum? We believe together we can continue to make a huge impact in education of that child and helping him/her become a better citizen of the world.

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