

Dear COSAD friends,

Greetings of the Christmas holiday to you!

Jessica and I are writing to you in confidence knowing that you have always been there as a strong supporter and advocate of COSAD and our determination to go back home and serve in our communities in Bukoba, Tanzania.

During our two years of operations, COSAD has made considerable progress, launching several programs. The government, who in the past has not been a supporter of the efforts in the rural villages of Bukoba, but recently has shown some support, has noticed our progress in Tanzania. In Izigo villages, the government has earmarked 10 acres of land for COSAD development activities. In Kiteyagwa, Kagondo the government teamed up with COSAD to bring electricity at the COSAD's BLJ Community Resource and Learning Center, which will provide lighting by the end of January 2010! In Kangabusharo, after COSAD opened the first-ever community library and resource center, the government and members of the community are now constructing the road, which was a major obstacle to reaching that village. These programs are already making a difference in the communities.

As you know, the current economy has made it difficult for most non-profits to raise sufficient funds. This has certainly been true for COSAD. We are continuing our fund-raising efforts and are currently planning two events for 2010 and will soon send out a year-end appeal letter.

We are making this appeal to a select list of our great friends to help COSAD with immediate needs. Specifically, we must find funding to cover the salaries and operations of our Tanzanian office staff who are currently managing the day-to-day operations. We are kindly asking you to consider making a year-end donation to help us weather this current situation. We have received several significant pledges for 2010 and expect it to be a landmark year. Your donation will greatly help keep us on track.

Donations can be made online at: www.cosad.org or at the address below.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks for your previous support and we wish you and your family a joyous holiday season.

We anxiously look forward to hearing from you!
Our Love and Blessings,
Jessica and Smart Baitani

PS:

-Did you know that, according to TLS (Tanzania Library Service, COSAD's BLJ Community Resource and Learning Center & SHARE at Kiteyagwa/Kagondo, Bukoba constitutes the largest library resources in the entire region of Kagera (2.6 Million people). Thanks for being part of this unprecedented success story!

-Did you know that the Community Resource & Learning Centers are already providing training and learning spaces for Women goat owners, Community Health Workers, as well as community choir members aspiring to be entrepreneurs through TACE (Tanzania Community Enterprise) initiative? Thank you for making it possible!