



Spinoff

ROTARY CLUB OF WEST OTTAWA
Marcia Armstrong, President
August 3, 2023 Reporter: Ginette Thomas

This meeting was hybrid

Program: Timothy Massawe- education for the poor -Tanzania

Meeting Video: <https://youtu.be/-TZ9YTAwn0M>

Meeting enablers:

Communication links **Brett Brooking**; Payments **Dave Morton**; Attendance **Jean Begin**; Room set-up **Jean Holbert-Leighton** and **Bob Harrison**

Meeting opens:

At 12:30 **President Marcia** welcomed us to the 5th meeting of this rotary year acknowledging that we're meeting on the unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabeg people who lived on this land for a millennium. "They understand that we need to tread lightly on this planet so it can sustain us. Let's learn and understand the indigenous experience."

Brett Brooking cued up a beautiful version of O Canada, selected by **Rod Holmes**, that featured soloists and choral groups singing different parts of the anthem.

For this meeting, 33 people including 4 guests attended in person at St Anthony Banquet Hall, and about 22 online.

President Marcia welcomed our guests: Peter Morin, President of RC Kingston Frontenac; Timothy Massawe, our guest speaker from Tanzania; Matt Taylor, charter member of the RC St Catharines South; and Michael Hollingsworth, Rotarian from South Africa visiting Ottawa, guest of **Clive Talbot's**.

Presentation:

Peter Morin met Timothy Massawe in 2018 through Rotarians from Windsor. Timothy is a member of RC Hai-Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and has been involved in several Rotary grant projects. But he will focus today on promoting education in northern Tanzania. Peter deems the Bright Future school, part of Timothy's project, to be the best primary school that he has seen in Tanzania

Timothy Massawe entitled his slide presentation "Empowering Poor Children Through Education" Marginalized children face many obstacles to get an education. Timothy himself, in a family of 10 children, was the only one who went to school and graduated from university. He's aware that many children have academic potential but poverty is preventing them from achieving their dream of education.

Timothy started an organization to seek sponsorships to educate poor children. He says there is no administration cost so all funds raised go to cover students' school fees and school supplies. Contact between sponsors and sponsored children keep the sponsors informed receive regular progress reports. Sponsors can visit the children and talk to the teachers.

Timothy started the Bright Future School in Moshi to maximise the opportunities for sponsorships. The school in Moshi now has 60 students, There is a vegetable garden and an egg-laying chicken project where children participate and learn about nutrition.

Timothy tells us about many success stories::

- Maureen Lucas, past president of RC Windsor, has been sponsoring 3 children since 2010 when they were in primary school. She visited Tanzania 2 years ago for an emotional meeting with the children who are now in university.
- Lecton is from a traditional Maasai community which does not favour education for boys who are expected to care for cattle. He wanted to become a doctor. Timothy's organization provided a scholarship. In 2019, Lecton graduated from Medical School. He is also a Rotarian. He and his colleagues organized a fundraiser to give desks to public schools in Tanzania.
- Neema was orphaned when she was 5 years old. She always wanted to be a nurse. Timothy's organization wrote an article about Neema and a Windsor

Rotarian sponsored her schooling. Neema was later accepted into a nursing program, graduated and is now working as a nurse. Her sponsor was Jennifer Jones, RI Past President!!

- Eva also comes from the Maasai community and would normally have been married at the age of 12. With educational support from Timothy's organization Eva is now a pharmacist and has demonstrated to the Masai the value of education.

Funding needs:

- On this trip to Canada, Timothy found sponsors for 5 children and has five more needing sponsors.
- The school bus is not enough to pick up all the children around the villages.
- RCWO contributed for the roof on the building that will hold a classroom and toilets. The school is trying to raise funds to finish the building.
- The RC of Hai-Kilimanjaro is also looking for international partners to work on projects.

Our International Service Committee has discussed the above projects.

Pictures of the school, the kids and sponsors

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vD6FIdikGHdvFuv8DqU6Kqq3yn6ocz1y/view?usp=sharing>

Questions

- To **Don Butler**, yes, there are other schools called Bright Future. Check Bright Future School, Moshi for the website of Timothy's school.
- To **Stuart Picozzi**, English is the language of instruction because it provides job opportunities.
- To **Bob Harrison**, books are available in Tanzania but they need computers for the children to train on, because these are very expensive in Tanzania
- To Peter Morin and **Ron Doll**, sponsorship is \$500US per child for primary school fees, supplies, textbooks, uniform, meals (breakfast and lunch) and transport for the whole year. Individual parents, clubs, or NGO can sponsor
- To **Bea Osome**, not all syllabi change at the same time so they can plan for textbooks. For transport, the children are picked up in specific areas with a few outliers picked up separately

- To **Gaye Moffett, Chris Braeuel** clarified that RCWO has not sponsored any child but he personally has committed to sponsor one student for the 6 years of primary school. He has also set up a fund to collect money to fill in for a sponsorship that is discontinued or needs to be topped up
- Peter Morin, added that sponsorships are \$500US/year at the primary level and \$1,000US/year at the secondary and high school levels because the children board at the school. Rotary clubs considering sponsorship need to carefully discuss Timothy's ask that sponsors make multi-year commitments.
- To **John Matthews**, a child is selected for sponsorship based on academic potential (determined by interviews at the school) and check on the ability of parents to pay
- To **Hadi Mortada's** question about Global Grants, RC Hai-Kilimanjaro is looking for international partnerships to fund toilet improvements in public schools, not for the sponsorship program
- To **Miriam Fraser**, sponsors receive regular progress information and report cards for the 4 exams that are conducted each year
- To **Bea Osome**, they have water at the school through a pipeline from the municipality and also have well water that they treat for the school .

Emily Gendron thanked Timothy for being here with us today and for his informative and inspirational presentation.

President Marcia exchanged banners with Timothy Massawe and added that the Club will make a donation to Polio Plus in recognition of his presentation.

Past President's Draw: Caroline DeWitt coordinated the draw, Peter Morin drew the winning ticket and the winner of the \$25 prize was **Stuart Picozzi!**

Announcements:

Larry Chop forcefully reminded us that the Club needs money to help schools and urged the purchase of 5 mums each. Also, sign up to help deliver the mums the week before Thanksgiving

Linda Flynn provided an overview of the *Dictionary 4 Life* initiative and asked for volunteers for Distribution Night (August 10) when the 15 other clubs pick up the books - task details in her email

Lynne Fraser reminded us of the Bike and Brunch (or just Brunch!) on Saturday August 12 - details in her July 28 email

Graeme Fraser

- asked for a volunteer to judge the Butter Tart Contest hosted by RC Arnprior on August 26. Let him know.
- the Board approved the creation of a *New Members Committee* to get all our new members involved. Stay tuned!

President Marcia asked for volunteers to set up the banners and to be greeters at the beginning of each meeting - sign up on Google Doc

Happy Dollars:

Larry Chop will be happy to donate \$1 for every person who purchases mums by the end of the week

Stuart Picozzi happy to donate his \$25 PP Draw winnings

Meeting Ends:

President Marcia highlighted next week's program and wished us all a great week
Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm

Cash Calendar winners

<https://www.ottawarotarycalendar.com/2023-winners.html>

Next Meeting

Hybrid

Tuesday August 8, 2023

“Doors open” 12:00. Meeting proper starts @ 12:30

Robert Dick – Artificial Light and its Impact on the Environment
Intro and thanks: **Sucha Mann & Caroline De Witt**

Duties ref **Linda Flynn** email Aug 4
Greeters: **Theresa Jamone, Ginette Thomas.**
Set up: **Carol Waters, Graeme Fraser** PP Draw: **Susan Diening**

Spinoff: Don Butler

In person: St Anthony Banquet Hall
Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81365346181> Meeting ID: 813 6534 6181
See **President Marcia's** email for log-in details