

October 22, 2009

Participate Now! has been a US foundation since January 2008 but we are now an officially registered NGO in Zanzibar!!!! We had a party last week to introduce ourselves to the community. This NGO is a truly community enterprise. The projects are initiated by locals, planned and managed by locals. We are learning how to write proposals and budgets in a simple and clear fashion so that all of the members can do it. Most important is that the participants are involved in the process of designing and implementing the projects. We are not deciding what the people should be doing but listening to their objectives and assisting them in executing projects that meet those objectives.

We have been working with farmers in Koani and the villagers in Kendwa for the past year. We have been facilitating, monitoring and evaluating the farmers and their crops with their new banana and cassava plants. We have also been meeting with the villagers in Kendwa almost twice monthly to assist them to come up with a solution to their water problem. There is water for the hotels surrounding them but only three wells in the village.

As always – we learn from every venture that we undertake. We have learned that fund raising is not easy and that it will take all of us working together as a team to accomplish our goal. Our main priority is to get water for Kendwa village. The villagers themselves have raised close to \$1,000.00 towards the water project but that is not enough to bring them water. We found out that we have to drill a bore hole and it will cost approximately \$7,000.00 because the land is coral rock, not sand or dirt. That brings the total of the project over \$10,000.00 and we have \$3,000.00 to date. We are sending out proposals to donors and are confident that this important project will find funding. Every little bit helps, if you are interested please visit our website [www.participatenowfoundation.org](http://www.participatenowfoundation.org).

We raised enough money the other night to cover the cost of the party. It was a great success for us because we are working together as a team – we each handled different aspects of the party. I designed a brochure so we can easily give that to people that we talk with. I think the most touching donation was from two of the women who work as cleaners in our building. They gave us an envelope with 3,000 TSH (approximately \$2.50) in it – that truly shows me that sharing with others who are in need is important.

### Great Food at the Party



We had an amazing party with an incredibly variety of people attending. The women of Zanzibar have an unbelievable sense of style and it certainly showed for this event. We were able to network and met some interesting people from the various Ministries. What made the party so successful was the mix of people: each of us in the NGO distributed invitations and our guests reflected that wide range.

## Guests from the Village and the Participate Now Zanzibar team



The sheha (like a mayor) from Koani came and so did some of the villagers from Kendwa. On the right is the Participate Now Zanzibar team – Kaesser Mohammed, Thani Senga, Kathryn Sutton and Suleiman Said Mohammed. We have been working with these people for over a year on our projects and it was wonderful that they were able to attend the party. We are truly building sustainable relationships with the community.

## Speeches on the Upper Roof



Suleiman gave a great speech that was wonderful although he was nervous. We had a nice relaxed crowd which helped. The villagers from Kendwa were introduced to the crowd and spoke for themselves about the situation in their village. It was good for them to be able to have their own voice.

## Maulidi ya Homu and friends



And of course Maulidi ya Homu was absolutely amazing. They performed in their new kangus (white gowns) that they were able to buy last year with the help of some local sponsors. On the left I'm standing with Mtalii one of the farmers from Koani – it was a great honor that he took the time to attend the party. On the right is Fatuma – she works in the building where I live. Fatuma is one of the women who gave us the envelope with a donation of 3,000 TSH (about \$2.50). That warmed my heart more than anything. It is inspiring to meet people who have so little, yet are willing to share so much.

Visit our website [Participate Now!](#) to learn more about our foundation. Our main objective is to do small-scale projects with lasting impact. We are grateful for any support at all that you can give us.

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Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Kathryn