

TANBUR AFRICAN AID SOCIETY

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 19, 2025

Submitted by: Gloria Gogowich
on behalf of TAAS

MISSION STATEMENT: To provide professional and financial resources to empower students in Tanzania and Burundi to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Gloria Gogowich

I am honored to work with the members of TAAS. We are a group with a shared vision: that of providing opportunities for the youth in Burundi. Through education, the students at Burundi English School (BES) are able to develop confidence and expertise in the use of English language. Armed with this essential skillset, they are able to step out into the world and have a positive impact. In addition, our students excel in other disciplines as well: Mathematics, Biology, French, Physics, Chemistry, just to name a few.

Our partnership with the administration and Board of Directors at BES remains strong. They are open to our recommendations and share with us, their challenges and successes. This spring, they faced an extreme weather event and their second school site, along with the volunteer house, was flooded beyond repair. School furniture, books and materials were salvaged and students were re-located to a third site. This event not only affected our school but the entire city of Bujumbura. Staff and students are now settled in their new, however slightly crowded, school site.

Over the year, student enrolment held positive at 412 students. Staff changes occurred but classroom instruction continued to reap great results. Our congratulations went out to Sarah (a bursary student) who graduated. This is indeed a milestone and we wish her well in the next chapter of her journey. The school administration continues to pursue centre status with Pearson International. We await a final decision.

Canadian volunteers traveled to Africa and supported the school from January to December with the concept of "Teamwork" in mind. Ultimately, the focus was on the students. Workshops were organized for the staff, new technology was delivered and idea pools were established. The volunteers returned to Canada with recommendations to TAAS for improvement and support. Volunteers have not only delivered professional expertise, but helped to personalize our relationship with the staff and students at BES.

Renovations and new classrooms have improved the current site. Technology up-dates included several new laptops, televisions and RACHEL (a server which provides robust literacy and numeracy support to several students at one time). A future casino, personal donations and creative fundraisers will assist us in supporting the school to remain aligned with on-going advances in education. Once again, TAAS members, volunteers of TAAS, their friends and families, and local schools and businesses allow us to achieve the goals of Tanbur African Society and Burundi English School. We continue to promote TAAS with brochures, speaking engagements, a website and liaison with Edmonton schools. We celebrate the resilience of

Burundians and the work ethic of our society members. Thank you to all who give of themselves to create a better world.

“The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees opportunity in every difficulty.”

WINSTON CHURCHILL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT-Gloria Gogowich
VICE-PRESIDENT-Elaine Junk
TREASURER-Theresa Stefaniuk

PAST PRESIDENT- Barbara Olynyk
SECRETARY-Marjorie Eckert

BOARD MEMBERS

Carol Bahry, Dianne Eustace, Christina Gaborak, Marion Hrynew, Felicia Iacchelli, Ada Rishaug, Ann Predy, Eugene Kuzub, Amber Nicholson

FRIENDS OF TAAS

Simone Desilets, Stephanie Cunha

RETIRED MEMBER

Diana McIntyre

PROJECT COMMITTEE

MANAGER-Carol Bahry, MEMBERS-Marion Hrynew, Dianne Eustace, Gloria Gogowich

BURSARY STUDENTS – Carol Bahry, Elaine Junk

COMMUNICSTION and PUBLICITY – Barbara Olynyk, Marion Hrynew

FUNDRAISING – Ada Rishaug

CASINO – Christina Gaborak, Marjorie Eckert, Carol Bahry

RECRUITMENT – Ann Predy

TECHNOLOGY – Dianne Eustace

AUDIT COMMITTEE- Felicia Iacchelli, Marion Hrynew

SUMMER SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR – Theresa Stefaniuk

FUNDRAISING - Ada Rishaug

Purdy's Chocolates	\$807.19
Skip the Depot	\$82.39
St. Rose Raffle/Fundraiser	\$853.00
Wine/Whiskey Tickets	\$1720.00
Non- Bursary Donations	\$Treasurer's Report

COMMUNICATION REPORT – Marion Hrynew, Barbara Olynyk

The volunteers at the TAAS/Burundi booth during the Teachers' Convention 2024 enlightened and encouraged teachers to participate in a "Burundi Bucket list adventure." Many thanks to all the volunteers who managed the booth.

1. Thanks to all the volunteers who managed the TAAS Teachers' Convention booth and provided information to visitors regarding the Burundi English School. More names were collected and forwarded to our Recruiting Chair, Ann Predy. An information session was arranged and was well attended.
2. A committee consisting of Ada Rishaug, Carol Bahry and Marion Hrynew critiqued and made recommendations to change some of the focus of our Teachers' Convention display booth. A new poster was to be made for the upcoming convention and information requesting donations was removed.
3. An informative newsletter was published by Barbara Olynyk and distributed in June.

RECRUITMENT REPORT – Ann Predy

Recent Volunteers:

Michael and Debbie Benoit – March 2022
Patricia Paul – March 2022
Amber Nicholson – September 2022
Simone Desilets – September 2022
Patricia Paul, Simone Desilets, J.R.Garzon - 2024
Amber Nicholson – June/July 2024
Stephanie Cunha – July 2024
J.R. Garzon – August 2024
Carol Bahry, Elaine Junk – August 31- September 17, 2024

Michelle Lacoursier – November 24 – December 1, 2024

BURSARY COMMITTEE REPORT – Elaine Junk, Carol Bahry

Carol and Elaine both had the privilege of travelling to Burundi this fall and were happy to be able to meet most of the bursary students in person. We also met many of their parents during an afternoon meeting.

This year, Carol sent out an end of school year report in June for each of the bursary students. Then in December, Elaine sent out Christmas midterm updates to each of the sponsors. This is an important way for sponsors to stay updated.

Our first bursary student completed grade 13 finishing her bursary supports. We lost one bursary student who moved to another city. A new bursary student entered grade one later in September and one of our volunteers has committed to support her schooling throughout her time at BES. This brings our total number of students to eleven, with three students in grade thirteen, four students in grade twelve, two students on grade eleven, one in grade six and one in grade one.

The committee reiterated our policy of not paying for exams to be rewritten and encouraging students to work hard to meet the expectations on the exams as the expense of the exams is high.

We look forward to another year of supporting students to complete their education.

Auditors' Report for 2024

Thank you to our treasurer, Terri Stefaniuk, for her perseverance and diligence in managing the finances of our organization. She has experienced some challenges that she has overcome in her first year.

We have reviewed the accounting records and the financial records and we can all be assured that the financial reports are accurate and in line with generally accepted accounting principles.

Respectfully,

Felicia Iacchelle & Marion Hrynew

March 19, 2025

TANBUR AFRICAN AID SOCIETY			
CASINO ACCOUNT			
STATEMENT OF OPERATION AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS			
From January 1,2024 to December 31,2024			
REVENUE		TOTAL	2023/24
Bank balance January 1,2024	\$ 1,919.83		
Transfer from TT PURE CANADA	\$ -		
Transfer from AGLC	\$ 75,000.00		
Interest from GIC	\$ 2,308.27		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 79,228.10		\$ 79,228.10
EXPENDITURES			
Casino advisors	\$ -		
Administration			
Bank fees	\$ 162.00		
Bank printing	\$ -		
Admin Expenses	\$ 573.74		
shipping expenses (Air Canada, FED EX)	\$ 2,175.62	2908.96	
Equipment-Program			
Container	\$ -		
Transport	\$ -		
BES Special Equipment (Building fund)	\$ 56,339.24	56339.24	
Promotions			
Sign holders	\$ -		
Teacher conventions	\$ -	from operating account	
Resource Material Supplies			
Smart TV's, RACHEL, Lap tops etc	\$ 19,080.56		
School supplies	\$ 160.55	19241.11	
Curriculum Development	\$ -		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 78,491.71		-\$ 78,491.71
EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENSES			
79228.10 - 78491.71			\$ 736.39
BANK BALANCE DECEMBER 31,2024	\$ 736.40		

Auditor #1

Printed Name

Marion Arynow

Signature

[Signature]

Date

Feb. 28, 2025

Auditor #2

Printed Name

Felicia Iacchelli

Signature

Felicia Iacchelli

Date

Feb. 28, 2025

TANBUR AFRICAN AID SOCIETY			
OPERATING ACCOUNT			
STATEMENT OF OPERATION AND CHANGE IN NET ASSETS 2024			
From January 1,2024 to December 31,2024			
REVENUE		TOTAL	Inkind
January 1, 2024 Bank Balance			
Chequing Account	\$ 2,032.04		
GICs			
Cash on hand	\$ -		
Bursaries-Receipts Issued	\$ 12,562.01		
Bursaries-No Receipts Issued	\$ 9,685.05		
General Donations-Receipt Issued	\$ 6,289.86		
General Donations-No Receipt Issue	\$ 1,925.50		
Donations-In-Kind executive mileage			\$ 1,730.68
Donations-In-Kind BES Volunteers			\$ 48,297.69
Fundraising-No Receipt Issued	\$ 1,427.19		
GST Rebates			
GIC Interest			
Membership Dues			
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 33,921.65	\$ 33,921.65	
EXPENDITURES			
RBC Banking Fees	\$ 45.00		
BES RBC Wire Transfer	\$ 45.00		
E transfer fees Fees	\$ 7.20		
BES PayPal Fees			
Teacher Convention	\$ 452.82		
Office Supplies			
BES Bursaries (FX=)	\$ 16,500.00		
BES Bursary Student Exam Fees (FX=)	\$ 3,500.00		
BES Operations (FX=)			
RBC reversal fee	\$ 917.57		
BES Building Fund			
BES Supplies	\$ 6,050.38		
Volunteer Expenses	\$ 114.03		
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 27,631.97	-\$ 27,631.97	
EXCESS REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES		\$ 6,289.68	
BANK BALANCE DEC 31,2024			
Cash on hand	\$ 0.65		
<i>Felicia Iacchelli</i>			
Auditor #1		Auditor #2	
Auditor #1 Signature		Auditor #2 Signature	
<i>Felicia Iacchelli</i>		<i>MARION HEYNEW</i>	
Signature Date		Signature Date	
<i>Jan 27, 2025</i>		<i>Jan 27, 2025</i>	

Jan 27, 2025
JP

Burundi English School Project Committee – 2024 AGM

1. Volunteers beginning the school year

Simone Desilet for Grade 6, Patricia Paul for English language instruction for Primary students, and JR Garzon for Math Grades 7 to 13.

2. Flooding of BES 2

The floods began in March with rising water finally forcing the Grade 1 and 2 as well as K1, 2 and 3 classes to move to BES 1. Vehicles had no access to BES because the road had high water levels. The three bedrooms on the second floor of the school facility were not available for volunteers after that time.

3. Improvements to BES

BES 1 was overcrowded because of the five classes that moved over in April. Construction began in July to accommodate the new school needs.

*A second floor with 3 new classrooms was built over the existing structure. The lower floor was designated for Grades 4, 5, and 6. The second floor accommodated Grades 7, 8, and 9- \$40,806.00 US

*New kitchen and dining area- \$19,867.00 US

*Sleeping area for Kindergarten- \$18,000.00 US

*Tarmac paved and repaired- \$18,750.00 US

TAAS contributed \$35,000.00 US to building the three classrooms.



3 New Classrooms- second floor addition



Lunchroom: To serve K – Grade 6 at 12:30 pm and Grade 7 – 13 at 1:05 pm.

Serving over 500 meals daily to students and staff. Used also for classroom instruction and testing.



Sleeping room for kindergarten.
Kindergarten 1, 2, and 3 aged 3 to 6 years.



Repaired and paved tarmac of BES, the former Nigerian Embassy, situated on high ground on Avenue du Large.

4. Third graduation at BES and our first bursary student graduate, Sarah Ndayizeye



Our first bursary graduate, Sarah



Principal Claudine, Sarah, Board Member Jeanne, and Amber.

5. More volunteers: Amber in June and July; Stephanie in July; JR, Elaine and Carol- August and September

6. Enrolment in September- 413



7. AV contributions to BES from TAAS

*Two RACHELs (Remote Area Community Hotspot for Education and Learning. The RACHEL program offers free digital educational content to nearby laptops or devices in over 53 countries).

* Laptops: twenty 12", thirty-five 14", 500 GB, ram 8 GB, CPU 2.5, I5. Two cabinets were built to store and charge these laptops. (Average cost \$181.29 US) They are to be signed out daily and returned after school.

*TVs: six 42" for Grades 1 to 6. The cost was \$171.50 US each and there was a one- year warranty.



8. Purchase of a generator to assist with the electricity outages and a contribution for fuel costs.

Respectfully submitted by the BES Project Committee: Dianne, Marion, Gloria and Carol.