

SUCCESS!

Our Tomisunga ("We help each other") Women's Center campaign has been a fine success! Thank you to everyone of you who helped meet our challenge grant!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

TUASAKIDILA wa BUNGI

Our good friend Dr. Daniel Shungu visited the project in December & brought back glowing reports & photos of the almost-completed-Center! The workmen have faced many difficulties: torrential rains as well as extreme political instability (see next page) but we hope to begin moving into Tomisunga by February.



Above: a sewing room faces the small courtyard. Windows & doors are barred with iron for safety. Below: one of the dorm rooms upstairs. Mr. Eddie Lukusa, Mme Monique's son serves as night guard.



Maman Monique is Coming!

SAVE the DATE!! We will be blessed to welcome Mme Monique for a conference at Princeton Seminary. On Friday, March 16, 2018, Elsie's class Women in African Christianity & the PTS Center for Theology, Women, & Gender will host the 4th African Women Extraordinaire (AWE) symposium. For more information, see ptsem.edu/events or contact Elsie.McKee@ptsem.edu.



Above: Mme Monique & some colleagues before the front gate of the Center, which is set into concrete walls surrounding the building. Below: the workmen.



Sewing School Graduation Dec. 2017!

Ten young women celebrated their sewing success, lined up for a graduation procession in the dresses they made.



Graduates show off the lovely clothes they have made, their state certificates, & the graduation-gift machines which will enable the young women to begin business.

Alums of the program return to tell their stories, to encourage new graduates. One young woman who had been forced to drop out of formal school for lack of money told how her sewing business enabled her to afford to complete her formal education. Another told of now being able to support her destitute family; some family members were present, tears in their eyes.

Government officials who attended were so impressed that they expressed a wish to help support the teachers' salaries. (We will see if they carry through! But it was a significant affirmation of the quality of teaching at FEBA/Woman Cradle of Abundance's school.)



THANK YOU to all who contributed machines! Your generosity is the door to dignity, hope, & self-sufficiency!

Congo's Trials

The United Nations report on refugees has recently announced that the Congo is moving toward the infamous status of becoming the world's most serious humanitarian crisis in 2018. There are already 4 million displaced persons in Congo in 2016-17 – that is more than in Syria, Iraq, or Yemen. There are three wars, two where we work: in the east a terrible resurgence of fighting where CENEDI (Hands Across the Water) ministers, & in the Kasai where our sister sewing school works. The rape crisis is worse in both places, & children dying of malnutrition. Congo's government has largely been responsible for exacerbating (if not deliberately causing) much of this conflict. Joseph Kabila was supposed to step down in Dec. 2016 at the end of his 2nd & last constitutional term. He has not. The Catholic bishops negotiated an agreement Dec. 31, 2016 (St. Sylvester), which Kabila has not honored. Peaceful protests by Catholic laity on Sun. Dec. 31, 2017, were met with force & many casualties.

The economy has nearly collapsed. "Ordinary people" who had decent jobs are scarcely able to eat, & those on the margins are starving. FEBA & CENEDI are struggling to feed their members. FEBA's new farm will begin production in 2018; the tiny stratum of power around Kabila has insured delay by commandeering equipment FEBA scheduled to rent to plow. But they will plant & grow as soon as the rains & equipment allow!

CONTRIBUTE OR GET INVOLVED

Contribute: Donate securely via Stripe at www.WomanCradleofAbundance.org/get-involved.

Please designate "Leadership Development" in the purpose line to contribute to equipping the next generation of leaders, or "Sustaining Gift" to support ongoing work.

Checks payable to Woman, Cradle of Abundance can be mailed to the following address:

Woman, Cradle of Abundance
attn: John McGlaughlin, Treasurer
25 Alexander St.
Princeton, NJ 08525

Volunteer: Contact Cheryl Ciaranca, Community Outreach Coordinator, at cciaranca@gmail.com or 215.292.3290 to discuss ways to partner with Woman Cradle of Abundance.