

Greetings Amani Supporters,

After 16 years as President of Amani for Africa USA Foundation, it is time for Ralph Spence to retire as President of the Board of Directors. In addition, Deanna Enrich is stepping down and handing "Bookkeeping" responsibilities over to a local accounting firm, Eide Bailly. Both are beyond retirement age and believe that it is time to seek new leadership that can bring fresh ideas for the future. We are writing to give you and other Amani supporters the first opportunity to be part of this transition.

Fr. John has taken steps to secure the future of the Amani Development Organization's assets and operations by joining in partnership with the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. The USA Board supports this transition, and we believe it provides stability for the future along with local oversight of finances and activities. In recent years, supporting education has become a higher priority and the POP Primary School has received impressive recognition for the outstanding performance of students. They have consistently ranked at the top level amongst hundreds of regional public and private schools. To support this success, Amani USA needs to have board members who are motivated by this area of the ministry. With the additional focus on student sponsorships, web publishing skills and experience would be helpful but not necessary.

Thanks to our generous supporters, the Amani USA Foundation is financially sound and the local group in Tanzania has assumed responsibility for communication and fundraising. For the last two years, the USA Board has been developing a process that will allow Eide Bailly to 1) acknowledge donations, 2) provide finance reports showing balances designated by donors, 3) record grant distributions when approved by the board. With Eide Bailly handling bookkeeping, the main function of the USA Board is to review grant requests and make sure distributions are made using funds as directed by donors. This allows the Amani USA Foundation to continue receiving tax deductible gifts while providing USA oversight over grants to support Amani Development Organization's activities in Tanzania. The Board has established a reserve fund to cover Amani staff salaries for one year and payroll distributions are approved for only six months at a time. The USA Board has made no guarantees regarding future support and no grant requests are approved if funds are not available.

Recently, the Board has only needed two meetings per year and has streamlined activity as much as possible to make it easier to transition to new leadership. This ministry has been spiritually nourishing for all of us and we ask that you give this request serious consideration and let us know if you, or your group, would like to get more information. Contact Ralph at (ralphspence@gmail.com) to let us know of your interest. We all appreciate your prayers and support.

Board of Directors - Ralph Spence, Mac Stevens, Deanna Enrich, John Naumann, Rich Robbins, Mark Thomas, Jim Shaffer, Shelly Nauman, Gretchen Knapp

PLEASE NOTE: The new address for donations for Amani for Africa USA Foundation is P.O. Box 22612, Billings, MT 59104-2612