The Diplomatic Spouses Group – DSG – supports local initiatives which assist Tanzania’s most vulnerable citizens, most often women, children and the physically and mentally challenged. In November 2009, the DSG Bazaar, an annual charity event held at the International School of Tanganyika, raised over 60 million Tanzanian Shillings (about US $50,000) in support of the DSG’s charitable activities.

After reviewing applications from various non-governmental organizations and community groups, the DSG Projects Committee awarded funding to 15 projects around Tanzania. Projects are chosen based on the criteria outlined on the DSG Web site (www.dsgdar.org).

**ATD Fourth World – Dar es Salaam**

ATD Fourth World works with the poorest of the poor. Since 1998 they have been interacting with the fish market workers, many of whom are homeless and illiterate, to learn what their needs are and how they can be addressed. In 2009, with DSG funding, ATD launched a literacy training pilot project helping fish market workers to learn to read and write in Kiswahili. Due to the success of the pilot project, the DSG granted funding for one more year of literacy training.

**Chipua – Dar es Salaam**

Chipua targets underprivileged, at risk and vulnerable youth, especially girls. Chipua has developed a training project, called "Girls in Crisis" which includes literacy, health, human rights and gender education, as well as skills in sewing and running a small business. The DSG has awarded Chipua funding to train 20 more girls so that they may find a way to be self-sufficient.

**Canossa Secondary School/ Canossian Daughters of Charity - Tegeta**

The Canossian Sisters in Tegeta opened the Canossa Secondary School in 2006 to offer quality education to girls from poor families. Today there are 380 students and 14 staff. In the past, DSG has funded water tanks and furniture for classrooms. This year the DSG has funded Form 4 textbooks in various subjects so that more students have access to classroom texts.

**Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), Muhimbili Hospital – Dar es Salaam**

The ORCI children’s cancer ward is due to relocate to Muhimbili Hospital in 2010. This move will result in improved survival chances for children with cancer due to increased accessibility to essential support facilities. The DSG has provided funding to create a wildlife mural on the wall of the children’s waiting area and some 3-dimensional animals. The artwork, created by local Tingatinga artists, will provide a child-friendly and welcoming environment.

**DSM Mentally Handicapped Support Group – Dar es Salaam**

This group aims to provide classrooms for mentally challenged children in Government primary schools so they may benefit from formal education. This year the DSG has funded school desks and chairs for 30 students at a local primary school.

**ECONEF - Education in HIV/Aids Care for Orphans and Nutritious Environment - Arusha**

This orphanage takes care of eleven HIV positive children between five and eleven years old who have been living on the street. ECONEF’s main aim is to...
provide a healthy living environment for these vulnerable children. They live there, and participate in the nursery school and first year of primary school run on the premises. ECONEF also has an income-generating poultry project to help cover some of its running costs. The DSG supported ECONEF to buy solar panels to provide secure electricity.

**Emusoi Center for Pastoralist Girls - Arusha**

Emusoi supports the empowerment of girls from pastoralist communities by increasing their access to post primary education. The center is facilitating the schooling of about 600 girls. Emusoi was granted funds to equip a 4th dormitory for 24 girls with beds and mattresses.

**Jamuge Orphan and Widow NGO – Mbagala, Dar es Salaam**

Jamuge runs a pre-school for orphans and vulnerable children of widows created in 2006 by a kind-hearted and devoted teacher. At present it welcomes 51 children with 4 teachers. The DSG has provided funding for school furniture and classroom materials.  

**Kidzcare – Kareve Village, Bagamoyo**

Kidzcare is an organization involved in education, orphan care and community development. In 2009 DSG funds helped to renovate the orphanage. DSG is now supporting Kidzcare to build a kindergarten for the children of the local community to assist with early learning, nutrition and healthcare.

**Maadili Child Care Center - Arusha**

Maadili cares for and supports orphans and vulnerable children by providing them with education and basic needs, as well as raising awareness in the community about children’s rights and HIV/AIDS. Maadili has purchased a plot of land and has started raising chickens for income. With DSG support, Maadili will soon begin to build a house for the orphans.

**Mazingira Bora Karatu (MBK) - Karatu**

MBK has created a community park by planting trees, installing a children’s playground and building public toilets. In 2009, the DSG supported MBK with funds to construct a community stage to host performances and events aimed at children and youth. In 2010, with DSG support, MBK will expand their facilities with retail shop units which will provide income to pay for park maintenance and security.

**Neema Crafts Center for People with Disabilities - Iringa**

Neema Crafts Center empowers people with disabilities, and helps them out of extreme poverty through handicrafts’ training and employment opportunities. It also works to change negative attitudes towards disabled people in society. This is the second year that the DSG has supported the Center in Iringa with funds for an 8-month tailoring training for deaf and physically disabled people, thereby providing them with a vocational skill which will enable them to support themselves and their families.

**Mwika Development Trust Fund (MWIDEFU) – Moshi District**

MWIDEFU is a dynamic community organization the DSG has previously funded to equip a library. They have already facilitated the implementation of several community initiatives in health, agriculture and education. Two years ago, they started a microfinance project with a high success rate and decided to scale it up to reach more women (from 410 today to 880 in the coming year). This year the DSG has decided to try something new, and granted partial funding to their microfinance project.

**Neema Crafts trainee**

“Before I had no hope: no capital... I had to beg or borrow money at high rate to do business in the market, coming back home at the end of each day with less than $2.00. My small income allowed me to purchase piglets for $40 each, after 6 months, I sold them and realized a net profit of $64 per pig. It has changed my life! I now believe in myself and am able to see new opportunities.”

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