

## WAU 2024 Fourth Quarter Email Newsletter

First, I would like to thank all our donors and sponsors for all the support we received in 2024. We had a successful year because of you. Here is how we spent the quarter:

**October** - We had a general membership meeting on October 4th. Mr. Isaac McNary, Vice President of International Development from The Outreach Program came and made a presentation on a project for elementary school children that provides after school program, food, playgrounds and clean water and a mobile clinic servicing the villages within the program area.



On October 22, we got enrolled in Dillons Food Store Community Rewards Program. This means that you can link our organization to your Dillons rewards account by logging in to your account at [www.dillons.com](http://www.dillons.com) then scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking on Dillons Community Rewards under 'Community'. There you will see where to click to search for an organization to link to your account. Search for Wichita African Union Inc and link it to your account. Thank you very much in advance for supporting us in this way

On October 2-3, & 22-23, one youth in our community and two staff of International Rescue Committee attended two leadership training programs, When Everyone Leads

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and Your Leadership Edge at Kansas Leadership Center utilizing WAU's Leadership Transformation Grant. Each program came with a certificate of completion. We are slowly building leadership capacity within the organization and the community.

On October 1, 1 Kansas Leadership Center approved a second year Leadership Transformation Grant for 3 spots for Lead for Change leadership program. Three people from the organization will be attending this training in 2025.

On October 17, WAU President virtually met with a Community Co-Sponsorship officer at IRC, Bryce Fuhrmann, to discuss Community Co-Sponsorship Program. The agenda of the meeting was to introduce the program to WAU so that an informed decision could be made by WAU to find what is doable.

Other activities: Applying for grants.

**November** - We had a general membership meeting on November 1st as well as a Board meeting on November 20th and committee meetings within the month.

Panera Bread Café at 1605 N. Rock Road, Wichita, Kansas 67206 accepted our application for a fundraiser. The café fundraised for WAU on November 2nd. It was a rainy day, but some people came out to support WAU. Panera Bread donated \$30.



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On November 20<sup>th</sup>, we donated food we had received from The Outreach Program to the International Rescue Committee. Connecting resources to needs in the community.

Other activities: Applying for grants.

December - Was a busy month. We did not have a general membership meeting in December because of holidays and people travelling.

We had a Christmas party on Saturday December 7 from 5:00PM, attended by members and a few guests including a youth, Adolphine Mulemba, who spoke about her journey to and in America and her plans to start African Youth Advisory Council in Wichita.

During the Christmas party we performed money spray dance and raised \$150 which we donated to the Outreach Program, a 501 (c) (3) public charity, to go towards their budget for a water program for school children in Tanzania.



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Adolphine Mulemba speaking at WAU Christmas party on December 7, 2024.

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Received some donations: \$1,000 for a community gathering from Kansas Health Foundation and another \$1,000 for Scholarships from private donor, Ms. Joy Husted, immediate below.



December 9, WAU received an offer for a donation in the form of meeting space for the first quarter of 2025 from the Courtyard by Marriot.



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On December 12, WAU executive and one Board member attended dinner reception for the African Union Ambassador to the US, Her Excellency Hilda Suka-Mafudze at the Kansas African American Museum. This was organized by the International Trade Division of the Department of Commerce. The Ambassador was in town for the Kansas Global Holiday Market to promote participation of African businesses. On December 13 two WAU executive officers attended a VIP reception, an opening ceremony for the Kansas Global Holiday Market. H.E. Ambassador was a special guest and the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Commerce, Joshua Jefferson was in attendance and gave opening remarks.



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On December 14, WAU members participated in the activities of the Kansas Global Holiday Market which took place at Naftzger park, downtown Wichita. Pepper Soup sisters sold Nigerian food, Rose Atakpa performed Nigerian dance, Dr. Daisy Kabagarama did storytelling and drumming.



On December 14 WAU members attended Jamhuri day celebration hosted by Wichita Kenyan Community to celebrate Kenya's 61<sup>st</sup> Independence Day.

Other activities: Applying for grants and running an end of year fundraiser for a community program. For more details visit WAU website: [www.wichitafricanunion.org](http://www.wichitafricanunion.org) or facebook page @wichitafricanunion.WAU.