

The Caia Connection – New Year’s Letter 2021

Dear friends and supporters,

It’s hard to think of a shared global experience such as the COVID-19 pandemic and all its impacts on people across the world. As we embark upon a new year, with deep hope for health and togetherness, we can also reflect on how 2020 connected us in new ways and helped us learn to do things differently.

The Caia Connection, like many charities around the world, felt an outpouring of support throughout the year – from those who donated time, talent and money to our programs and from staff and recipients in Mozambique who worked hard to keep communities safe and healthy, and to deliver programs and services in the midst of pandemic

In light of this incredible and challenging year, we wanted to reflect on a few highlights and updates to our ongoing programs:

- While the spread of COVID-19 has been relatively moderate in Mozambique, community members in Sena, Kapasseni and the Caia District are taking precautions. People are practicing social-distancing and wearing masks. Schools and other organizations have closed or limited in-person services. Thank you to the leadership and staff at Kuwangisana, our partner organization in Mozambique, for working hard to distribute food and supply kits to families throughout the year and for helping to provide education supports to students learning at home.



- Due to COVID-19, a number of the scholarship students took a semester off to return home and several worked in the community to help. Chica Novaz

graduated last year from the nursing program and has been hired as the full time nurse in the Kapasseni Health Centre. Regina Antonio (also a nursing graduate has been volunteering at the Kapasseni Health Centre. It is wonderful to have these local women working in Kapasseni.

- With a number of scholarships paused in the spring and fall semester , The Caia Connection has additional resources to make progress on a number of exciting projects in 2021: New equipment and COVID-19 safety for the Denis Donnelly & Siobhan Robinsong Distance Learning Centre, upgrades to health and school buildings, garden revitalization, completion of the water supply and moringa projects, and classroom expansions at the Sete Montania School in Sena, which does so much for orphans and vulnerable children.
- Local government assistance has been helpful to get the water project in Kapasseni completed.
- Welcome to new staff. Job Saeni (Perpetua Alfazema's brother) has been an integral part of the Kuwangisana team and our resident photographer. The Caia Connection is happy to share that Job has been hired as our Project Manager. We'd also like to welcome Chade João Balos as our part time bookkeeper. Chade was one of the first female post-secondary scholarship students from Kapasseni.

This year also highlighted our strength in community spirit and action. With this in mind, we'd like to recognize:

- Gabriel Manuel Miandica, Perpetua Alfazema and the Kuwangisana staff and board members have worked hard to ensure communities and students in Mozambique were safe, healthy and supported through the pandemic and other challenges. Thank you!
- Dick Jackson, Cathy Baker and the Gettin' Higher Choir, Denis Donnelly and Wavelengths Community Choir, Siobhan Robinsong, Joe Jencks, Ann Mortifee, and Shari Ulrich for the incredible online concert and fundraiser Connecting Through Song in June, which raised \$21,584 Thank you! Because of the COVID-19 public health measures, the annual choral concert could not be in person this year and organizers rallied to create a successful online version. Watch some highlights from concert on the Gettin' Higher Choir YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf3nvS8kBOLQfBL7k6e017g>
- Letz Sing Choir, thank you for your donation to the music program.
- And a special Thank You to our many donors. In 2020, The Caia Connection was bequeathed generous donations by longtime supporters and friends, Jim

and Bunny Hackler and several other anonymous donors. We thank you all for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

2020 was different in many ways, but it brought us together in new ones. We are grateful for your ongoing support and friendship. We look forward to ramping up our projects this year and to a 2021 full of health, blessings and togetherness again. Happy New Year!

From Sarah, Carol, Jo, Ian and Blaise, The Caia Connection board