

Christmas Decoration Initiative '09

What is it?

The Christmas Decoration Initiative is an annual fundraising initiative that Sauti Moja conducts every Holiday Season. We solicit donations of \$25 or more, and in return, the donor receives a hand-crafted ornament that is made by a group of Maasai women in Northern Tanzania (See the photo below for an example of the ornaments.).

ABOUT 'ALICE'

In 2008, our volunteers in Marsabit, Kenya were called to a local hospital. There, they met 15 year old Alice, who was facing depression and depreciating health. Her six month old child was also experiencing poor health. Alice had been chased from her family and her community due to her out-of-wedlock pregnancy. She had been living in Marsabit town, but had struggled to sustain herself and her child. She had no support and nowhere to go.

Upon meeting Alice, our Sauti Moja volunteers, who are public health nurses, immediately committed to help her. She became one of our first participants in the Child Mother Support program.

Today, Alice is one of the leading students at Marsabit Secondary Schools. Her child is healthy and the two of them are looking forward to a promising future!

There are many more girls like 'Alice'! We need your help to create similar hope and a better future!

The initiative not only supports the women who do this craft, but also is used to raise money for projects in Tanzania and Kenya. The money is used to help widows buy livestock, as well as to fund our work with young girls who face incredible challenges due to early, out-of-wedlock pregnancies. You can learn more about these projects at www.sautimoja.org. These

funds contribute greatly to ensuring a sustainable livelihood for widows and providing child mothers with new opportunities. Most importantly, our support provides renewed hope!

How can I help?

Every year, Sauti Moja seeks people who are willing to volunteer a bit of their time to help out with this Initiative. If you're willing to raise funds and distribute decorations among your friends, family members, and co-workers or in your office, church, fitness club, etc., we'd be really grateful. If you're interested, then proceed with the following:

1. First and foremost, consider whether or not you have at least 5 contacts who would donate \$25 or more to support Sauti Moja and whom you are willing to ask for support.
2. Email one of the following people to indicate your desire to help: Corey Wright: corey_wright@sautimoja.org or Cheri Wright: che_wright@yahoo.ca
3. In your email, please specify the following: (a) the **number** of decorations you want us to send to you (We prefer 'realistic' orders, but if you are unable to get enough donors, extra decorations can be returned.) and (b) the **mailing address** where we can send you the decorations.

What do I do?

Once you receive the decorations, then it's all up to you. You'll be responsible for promoting this initiative among your friends, family, colleagues, etc., and letting them know that their donation is for a worthy cause. You will ensure that people are given a decoration as a 'thank you' for their donation to Sauti Moja. You make sure that donations get to Sauti Moja, i.e. you can send cheques to our SM office – written out to "Sauti Moja", or encourage on-line donations - <http://www.sautimoja.org/Donations.html>). We'll also rely on you to keep a record of names and contact info on donors so that we can be sure to send them a tax-receipt for their donation. We don't need to get into the relatively simple administrative details, now. The first step is for you to decide whether or not to support this, let us know, and get promoting this initiative! We'll sort out the logistics, later.

