

# THE TWGA TIMES

## Year in Review Special Edition



Dear Giraffe Supporters,

In our last month's newsletter we explained that the time commitment for a monthly newsletter was detracting from some of the heavier responsibilities. In light of that, we will be creating a newsletter every other month.

But as this is December, and so much has happened, we believed it was important to share what your donations, gifts, encouragement and contributions have done.

A picture is worth a thousand words, but that doesn't mean a thousand words aren't important! As you work your way through the photos, I hope you can see how much hard work has gone into every moment to build this ambitious enterprise.

Just this year, John Mark Kabango joined our team. He is completing his jurisprudence and will lend his law expertise to TWGA.

Last month Shari Baier also joined the team as our first official "staff" member. Shari is a former art teacher and brings her skill in social media and her passion for animals to our team.

Since we started in 2022 we have been operating as a "start up" non-profit. This year we will transition into a "sustainable non-profit." This is a big step for our small resources.

As we gathered for our end of the year meeting we were all a bit glum. Numbers coming in were much smaller than numbers going out. Then, I thought of Walt Disney. Walt Disney was turned down 302 times by banks, investors, and financiers. Building Tafakari is one truly ambitious goal, but we believe.

As always remember you are part of the mission: Save giraffes, their land, and the people who share it with them.



---

Our next newsletter should be in your email or mailbox by February 10th. Until then, have a blessed Christmas, a beautiful Hanukkah, a lovely Solstice, or your own grand celebration during this winter season .

Happy New Year

Kupenda na Amani—Michele, Kefas and all of Team Twiga

# Here we go, December 2024 - 2025!



In December The World Giraffe Alliance facilitated a Kilimanjaro climb for three women from Los Angeles. We arranged a safari tour for them after the climb and ended their visit with an overnight trip to Tafakari.





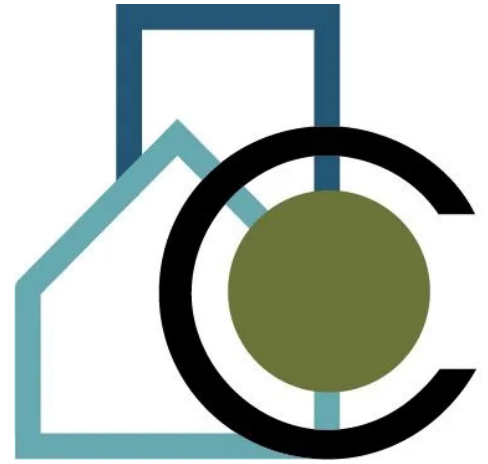


Moureen, our conservation specialist, was promoted in recognition of her outstanding work with the Uganda Wildlife Conservation and Education Center, a testament to her dedication to protecting animals and commitment to community education.

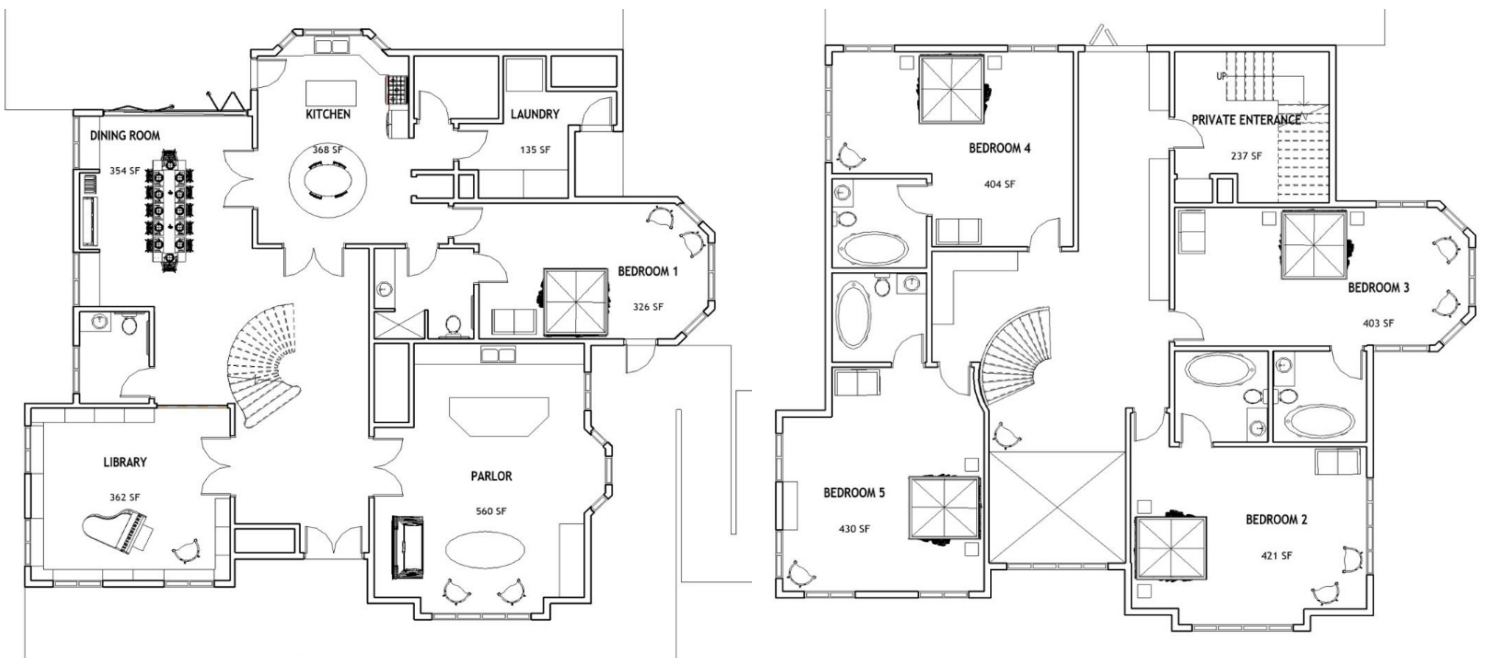
In February TWGA donated a “basket of giraffes” to support a Cancer awareness charity fundraiser.







Spring 2025 TWGA invested in the future of giraffe conservation by commissioning a professional architect to craft plans for the Wasafiri House. This milestone moved the project from concept to reality, laying the groundwork for a vital space dedicated to conservation, education, and collaboration.







April -- we celebrated Earth Day by participating in Party for the Planet, where we shared the World Giraffe Alliance's vision, mission, and conservation goals with local communities. The event allowed us to engage families, educators, and conservation-minded individuals, while emphasizing the importance of protecting giraffes and their habitats.





In May we proudly sponsored RUN WILD the Race to Save Giraffes virtual 5K, bringing together runners all around the world.

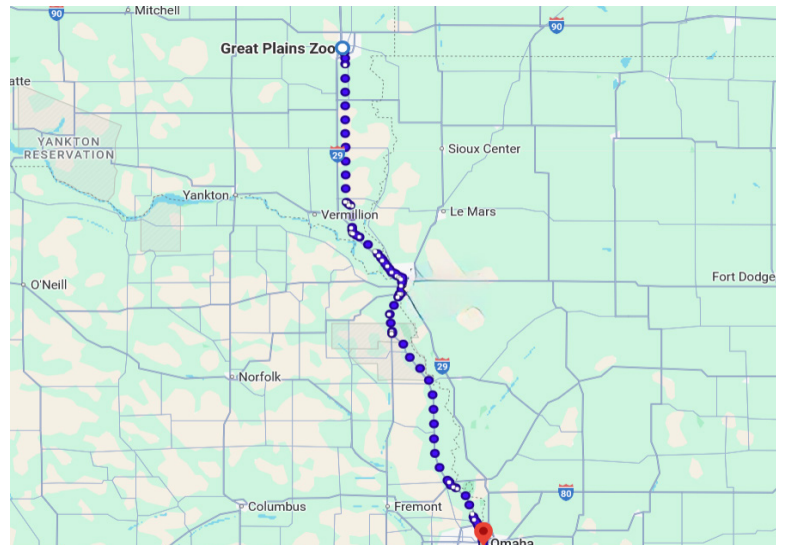


In honor of World Giraffe Day, TWGA sponsored a screening of *Out of Africa* on its 50th anniversary at the State Theater in Sioux Falls, South Dakota..





July marked a major awareness milestone and a successful fundraiser with *The 180 Mile Walk to Save Giraffes*. This powerful and demanding journey captured attention around the globe and participants from around the country.





---

In August Kefas oversaw the purchase of three more acres of land from a local Chaaga tribesman who was happy to support a space for giraffes. Your donations made this 12,000.00 investment possible.

In September, builders began the foundation for our first building project: The Caretaker's Cottage! This is our first step toward land management and giraffe oversight.





In October Jeff and Michele visited the Oklahoma City Zoo to check in on their giraffe family. Two of their twigas are expecting!

In November our first official “staff” member, Shari Baier, joined the team bringing her profound love of nature.



Michele stepped up our presence by taking the TWGA message to libraries across the Great Plains. These successful presentations made front page news in some communities and the word is spreading for 2026.





---

Thank you sharing our retrospective for 2025. As we reflect on this past year, we are deeply grateful for all of the support, encouragement and enthusiasm that makes our dream of a giraffe sanctuary possible.

While we can't get to everyone in this newsletter, we would like to acknowledge some of our most active voices in saving the world's tallest animal. Remember, when we save giraffes, we conserve wildlands, and protect the people who safeguard giraffes. And we do it together.

May you all be blessed for your kindness and generosity in this effort.

Now let's break ground on the Wasafiri House and bring on the *giraffes*!

Gale Agors  
Mayra Alcantara  
Millie & Rich Anderson  
Erika Arenas  
Tara Augustyn  
Shari Baier  
Eliana Balentine  
Chris Baumgarn  
Mike Blake  
Amanda Buckle  
Terryl Cadwell  
Elisa Cruz  
Ayalla Dollinger  
Chris Donaghue  
Anne Douglas  
Richard & Patty Ferrin

Susan Goldarreh  
Joan Grothoff  
Jennifer Gusdorf  
Joseph Guvara  
Aggie Henry  
Jessica Hernandez  
Russ Hickey  
Sandy Hoenig  
Sara Hyser  
Randy Jackson  
Sandy Jones  
Bonita Kalem  
& Michael Rotfeld  
Karen King  
Jackie Lawrence  
Mary Lech

Sam Lavi  
Darlene Loiler  
Caroline McManigal  
Deborah McPhee  
Rodney Olsen  
Anni Paulsen  
Dotti & Glenn Ramsey  
Sande Reinhert  
Angel Samuels  
Elaine Sandoval  
Nicole Schauer  
Brian Taylor  
Margaret Twahirwa  
Jean Walker  
Julie & Mike Werling

