

SISTER CITIES: LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY AND TAMALE, GHANA

Louisville and Tamale have been Sister Cities officially since 1979. Volunteer members of the Tamale Committee in Louisville and the Louisville Committee in Tamale manage the relationship between the two cities. The Tamale Committee of Sister Cities of Louisville, Inc. (SCL) is a non-profit membership organization that receives support from the City of Louisville, but is run by volunteers. Through its Board of Directors, SCL acts as a coordinating umbrella and fiscal agent for all six Sister City committees. It is, however, through the committees that the linkages between Louisville and each counterpart municipality are facilitated. In Tamale, the Louisville Committee receives support from the Tamale Municipal Assembly. Volunteers, too, run it.

In Louisville, co-chairs to head each city committee are appointed by and members of the SCL Board of Directors. The co-chairs are accountable to the Board, which meets monthly. The general membership of SCL meets two times a year to elect officers, set policies, enjoy cultural programming and socialize with each other and current visitors from the various sister communities.

The SCL Tamale Committee is open to all who are interested in any aspect of the Tamale linkage, and who are members of SCL. Like all SCL members, Tamale Committee members receive the SCL newsletter, invitations to the general meetings and other SCL-sponsored events such as receptions for foreign visitors or special cultural performances. In addition each member receives invitations to the monthly business and educational meetings of our Committee as well as a periodic newsletter update on the committee's current activities and opportunities to get to know people from Tamale.

Each member of the Tamale Committee is also encouraged to get actively involved in one or more of our ongoing linkage projects, each of which is managed by specific sub-committee. Or, members can use the Sister Cities Tamale network to establish ties of friendship and cooperation between their school, professional group, club, church, business, civic or community organization and appropriate counterparts in Tamale. Such groups are asked to appoint a liaison to the Tamale Committee.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TAMALE-LOUISVILLE RELATIONSHIP

The Tamale-Louisville relationship was initiated by a group of interested African American Louisvillians. The linkage agreement was signed at the 1979 annual convention of Sister Cities International, meeting in Louisville. Although it has never died out, the strength of the connection between our two cities has varied over time, depending on conditions on both sides of the Atlantic, and on the number of people in each place willing and able to devote time to the cultural and educational exchanges which are encouraged by Sister Cities International.

Despite the fact that letters, which often took 3-6 weeks each way, were the only form of communication possible then, the relationship got off to a good start in the years 1979-1981. By late in 1981 a teacher from Louisville was set to go to Tamale to begin an anticipated exchange. However, the December 31, 1981, coup in Ghana put an end to this plan. Frustrated, people on both sides became discouraged and communication ceased.

Only two years later, early in 1984, a revival began thanks to the independent decision by the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky to establish a "Companion Diocese" relationship with the Anglican Diocese of Sunyani and Tamale. Dr. Susan Herlin (then Broadhead) was asked to join the Companion Diocese Committee. In February/March of 1984 she hosted the Bishop of Sunyani and Tamale during his stay in Kentucky, and, in December was part of a two-person delegation that visited Ghana. In the meantime Dr. Herlin remembered the Tamale Committee, of which she had been a member. When she learned that it still officially existed, she joined with other former members, including Co-Chair, Marie Heckel, to revive it. During her January, 1985 visit to Tamale as a church visitor, she was able to spend one day meeting in Tamale with municipal and regional officials, and a group of community leaders interested in reviving the

Tamale-Louisville relationship.

For the next few years most of the funding and actual exchanges between the two cities were a result of the Companion Diocese relationship. Several churches in the Louisville and Western Kentucky region established relationships with parishes in central or northern Ghana, and the Bishops of the companion dioceses each made two trips to the other's territory. In addition, the pastor of the Anglican Cathedral in Tamale, the Rev. Emmanuel Arongo, came to Louisville to study Christian Education at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

From the perspective of the Tamale-Louisville Sister Cities connection itself, the next big milestone was the arrival of Mr. Daniel Nyankamawu, a Tamale-based civil servant, in Louisville in the summer of 1988. He was a recipient of the prestigious Hubert Humphrey Fellowship to study in the US, and chose to do his Humphrey internship in Louisville, because of our Sister City relationship. During his two-month stay he not only furthered his own professional development, but also made many friends in Louisville, Jefferson, and Oldham counties. And, most importantly for our story, he got first hand experience in how Sister Cities functioned in the United States--as a government-affiliated, but basically volunteer-run organization. He returned to Tamale determined to reinvigorate the Louisville Committee, which he succeeded in doing.

Official church linkages and related exchanges continued to dominate the Tamale-Louisville linkage from 1988-1992. In that latter year, however, the balance shifted. It was in 1992 that Sister Cities Tamale Committee, in conjunction with Alderman Paul Bather, the University of Louisville, and the Louisville Free Public Library, founded the African Cultural Center at the Shawnee Branch on West Broadway. It was that summer that a joint UofL and Sister Cities study group, 19 strong, traveled to Ghana, with co-chairs, Herlin (Broadhead) and Erma Bush heading the latter. The whole group received a wonderful welcome in Tamale, hosted by the Louisville Committee and the Municipal Assembly. Since that time the relationship between the two cities has grown steadily more vigorous, with connections multiplying and visits become more and more regular.

In 1994 the Tamale Committee was able to return the hospitality showed us during our 1992 visit to Ghana. For two weeks in July of 1994 we hosted an eleven-person delegation from Tamale that included both the Municipal Chief Executive (Mayor) and the Regional Minister (Governor), as well as the Co-Chairs of the Louisville Committee, several of the most active Committee members and two prominent businessmen. Although they came primarily to attend the SCL-hosted Sister Cities International Convention and participate in an economic development conference sponsored by Louisville and Jefferson County, they also joined us in celebrating the 15th anniversary of our linkage, took in some sights, and made many new friends.

In 1995 the Tamale Municipal Assembly and traditional chiefs of Dagbon in Tamale created a special chiefship for Dr. Herlin (Broadhead). On July 25th she was enskinned (installed) as Zo-Simli-Naa (Chief of Friendship, Love and Peace) in Tamale. In 1996 she returned to be recognized and confirmed in her title by the Paramount Chief of the Dagbon Traditional Area, the Yaa Naa. The Paramount not only confirmed her in her title, but also named her chief of Dagombas (people of Dagbon) in North America. Zo-Simli-Naa pledged to accept this responsibility. She also announced her intention to establish a residence ("palace") in Tamale. Her chiefship has expanded the linkage network from its core of Tamale and Louisville to other areas of both Ghana and the US.

A variety of linkages and exchanges have or are flourishing between Louisville and Tamale, and this number continues to grow.

1. [1992+] Even though the linkage between the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky and the Anglican Diocese of Sunyani and Tamale officially ended in 1992, this relationship was very productive and still has ramifications today. New avenues for church relationships are being explored between the diocese of Kentucky and the new Anglican Diocese of Tamale, whose first Bishop is Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Arongo.

2. [1993+] In 1993, through the auspices of the Tamale Committee of SCL, Ballard High School established an exchange program with a secondary school in Ghana. Although the Ghanaian school is not in Tamale, the relationship has flourished, and has helped to strengthen interest in the Sister Cities program.
3. [1996+] The University of Louisville now has two programs which involve Tamale: a music scholarship competition for University students from our Sister Cities, and a formal exchange agreement with the University of Development Studies, signed in 1996. At UofL there was a faculty network that hosted counterparts from UDS, and worked to facilitate both student and faculty programs. (Being revived.)
4. [1992-1999] The African Cultural Center at the Shawnee Library has had a variety of programs related to Ghana. Under the leadership of Rev. Faida Alma Alexander, it has established itself as an independent non-profit that still is supported by and closely cooperates with the LFPL and the Tamale Committee
5. [1997+] The African Cultural Center, the LFPL and the Tamale Committee continue their direct cooperation to support a project linking them with the Northern Regional Library in Tamale. Each month the Rt. Rev. David Reed of the Tamale Committee sends a bag of books, collected by the LFPL, to the Northern Regional Library. Under this program books were shipped about every two months for six years.
6. [January, 1997] Dr. Peter Meyer of the University of Louisville visited Tamale. He held meetings with officials of UDS about the link between UofL and UDS.
7. [March, 1997] The Tamale Committee organized a party in celebration of the 40th anniversary of Ghanaian independence on March 6, 1997. The event was designed to draw together Ghanaians and friends of Ghana in the Louisville area. There was a festive party with dinner, dancing and speeches. The principal speaker was Professor Benjamin Asare of Indiana University Southeast. The event was such a success that it was planned as an annual event.
8. [1996+] Since its first year, the Tamale Committee has participated in the annual Festival of Trees and Lights. Erma Bush has taken the leadership in this event. In 1998 the Tamale tree won the "Most Creative" award for the show.
9. [1997-2001] The Tamale Committee sent representatives to both the association of cities with linkages to Africa, and the SC International conventions in 1997. Mr. John Knight-Doe represented the Tamale Committee at the African Sister Cities Conference in Kenya in 1999. He has served on the board of this organization.
10. [1995+] There is a continuing emphasis on furthering the economic development links between our two cities that were begun as early as 1992, but were effectively launched with the signing of an economic development agreement in 1995. It was also in 1995 that the College of Business and Public Administration at UofL, in cooperation with the Louisville-Jefferson County OED, presented business development plans to the Louisville Committee in Tamale relating to cotton garment manufacturing and sheanut butter processing. Although neither of these projects has been implemented, the Louisville business plans have stimulated interest in economic development.
11. [1995] The Tamale Committee shipped medical supplies to the Northern Regional Hospital in August. They finally reached the hospital in September after some red tape wars. Dr. Agana, who came to the medical conference in 1994, was a central figure in this exchange on the Tamale side. Belinda Johnson Gordon headed up the medical supplies project on the Louisville side.

12. [1995+] Tamale has sent a number of students to study in Louisville, at both the high school and collegiate levels. One of them, Ms. Rabbiatu Halidu, a former Municipal Assemblywoman and organizer for the national Ghanaian women's organization known as the 31st December women's Movement, got her associates degree in 2000 from Jefferson Community College. Another Jefferson Community College graduate, Hajia Salma Mahama, went on to graduate from Georgia State with a degree in business. Siba Mohammed and Sumed Ibrahim are 1999 graduates of Walden School. They played with Javanon, a local youth team, which helped to sponsor them for their student exchange. In 1998 Sumed was named to the United States National All-Star Team in soccer. Both the are now graduates of the University of Maryland where they played varsity soccer on scholarship, with distinction.
13. [October 1996] Alhaji Aliu Mahama, then a prominent businessman and member of the Louisville Committee in Tamale, visited Louisville on business and visit daughter Salma
14. [November, 1996-May. 1998] A high school student from Tamale, Nuruh Ahmed Wiemah, studied in Louisville under sponsorship of the Death family and the Javanon Club.
15. [May, 1997] Dr. David Nii-Amon-Kotei, Dean of the Medical Faculty at UDS was sponsored to attend the Sister Cities Medical Conference. He not only attended the conference, but met with University officials to explore ties between UDS and UofL medical schools.
16. [June 1997] Ms. Fati Paul, a leader in early childhood education from Tamale visited Louisville, where the Sister Cities Tamale Committee under the able direction of Erma Bush arranged for her program.
17. [July 1997] Zo-Simli-Naa and her husband, Dr. Wyatt MacGaffey, traveled to Ghana, where they were joined by Ms. Betty Baye and Dr. Tracy K'Meyer. Dr. K'Meyer, an oral history specialist at the University of Louisville, presented the Centre for National Culture in Tamale with a professional quality tape recorder for their work. When she returned, Ms. Baye, an editorial writer for the Louisville Courier Journal, published a series of stories about her trip.
18. [October 1997] Zo-Simli-Naa and her husband attended a meeting of the newly organized Dagomba Association of North America in New Jersey at the home of its President, Mr. Muhammad Umar.
19. [December 1997] Dr. Esi Dogbe of the Pan African Studies Department at UofL visited Tamale to talk with colleagues at UDS about the linkage between the Faculty of Integrated Development Studies (FIDS) and the Pan African Studies Department (PAS) at the University of Louisville.
20. [May 1998] Dr. Nii-Amon Kotei again was sponsored to the Medical Conference. He signed an agreement of cooperation with officials of the Medical School and the University of Louisville. The Medical Sub-Committee now includes Dr. John Wright, Ms. Belinda Johnson Gordon, and Dr. Abdallah Yahaya Iddrisu, a Russian-trained physician from Tamale who came to Louisville in 1997.
21. [June/July, 1998] Zo-Simli-Naa made her annual trip to Tamale. She accepted a plot of land from the Dakpema on which to build her palace. She appointed J.A. Alhassan as steward of Chief's lands, which also include plots in Sanerigu and Bamvim. She joined in partnership with the Women's Association of Sanerigu to farm the five acres given her to soybeans. She met with official of UDS—traveling to Navrongo to meet with FIDS faculty. She traveled to Yendi, where she saw the chairs that had recently been presented to Yaa Naa on her behalf. She was interviewed on Radio Savannah, hosted by the Louisville Committee, WINOWOT and the Anglican Cathedral.
22. August 1998, the Tamale Committee hosted Mr. Tahidu Iddrisu from Tamale (by way of Canada). He is the brother of Dr. Abdallah Yahaya Iddrisu.

23. [September 1998] We had the pleasure of hosting The Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Arongo and Mrs. Arongo in Louisville. He is the new Bishop of Tamale and a longtime active member of the Louisville Committee there. He was able to renew many friendships in Louisville, where he studied a few years ago under the auspices of the Diocese of Kentucky.
24. [September, 1998] The Accra Dagbamba-Naa paid a special visit to the Zo- Simli Naa in Louisville.
25. [September, 1998] The Tamale Committee and the Zo-Simli Naa joined with LICC in Louisville to host a delegation of Members of Parliament from Ghana. Unfortunately none were from the Northern Region. However, some very good discussions were held.
26. [October 1998] Mr. Daniel Nyankamawu was hosted in Louisville for a week during his United States trip sponsored in part by the Humphrey Fellowship organization. He followed a rigorous program of meetings and events designed to further the relationship between our two cities.
27. [December, 1998] A team headed by Deputy Mayor Tina Heavrin made a quick trip to Tamale. It was fast, but very productive. Besides the Deputy Mayor, the delegation included: Nathaniel Green, entrepreneur and Entrepreneurship Fellow in the College of Business and Public Administration at the University of Louisville; Sharon Receveur, a member of Sister Cities International Board of Directors, and Mayor's Liaison to Sister Cities of Louisville; and Dr. Susan Herlin. We were honored with a Durbar of Chiefs and the now traditional potluck dinner. We met with the Mayor, Executive Committees of the Tamale Municipal Assembly and Louisville Committee, and with a group of interested business people. We also had very productive meetings with America officials in Accra, and with representatives of the Ghana Investment Promotion Center.
28. [Fall, 1998] The Sports Sub-Committee under Jo Brendel worked the Rev. Robin Jennings and member of St. Francis in the Fields and St. Matthews Episcopal Churches to collect several thousand dollars worth of soccer equipment to Tamale. The Louisville team carried the equipment as baggage and made the presentation to the head of the Tamale Sports Council. All nineteen Tamale youth soccer teams received some of this gift.
29. [March, 1999] The Honorable Hajia Fati Habib Jawula, Member, Ghanaian Council of State (a national body that advises the President and Parliament) honored us with a visit during Women's History Month. SCL, the University of Louisville and Indiana University Southeast jointly sponsored her visit. She is an educational administrator and an active member of the Louisville Committee in Tamale.
30. [June, 1999] Ms. Mariama Sumani, Deputy Regional Nursing Officer, represented Tamale at the 1999 Sister Cities Medical Conference. She was hosted by the Vice-President of the University Hospital, herself a nurse. We continue to hope to have a team in attendance, but are pleased that we have been able to have one participant for each of the last five years.
31. [1999] The twentieth anniversary of the Louisville-Tamale linkage. Planning and organizing for the 20th Anniversary celebration began in the Fall of 1998. A local arrangements group, including Joe McNealy, General Chair; Nat Green, Economic Development Summit; Kimberly Draewell, DANA liaison and general assistant; Sharon Receveur, protocol and a lot more; Carol Butler, ideas and more; and Susan Herlin, Damba Festival and Ghanaian visitors, was supported by many cooperating individuals and groups.
32. [June 30, 1999 through July 14, 1999] Thirty-five visitors came from Ghana to Louisville for the Damba and 20th Anniversary conference program, which included the three-day Economic Development Summit, July 5-8. In addition to our guests from Ghana, one Dagomba chief came from Berlin, Germany, and a Mamprusi Chief came from Phoenix Arizona.. Thirty-one Ghanaians and 14 Americans

participated in the Economic Summit. In addition about 75 Northern Ghanaians living in the United States and Canada came just for the Damba, and to attend July 3rd meetings and a banquet organized for DANA (The Dagomba Association of North America) by Zo-Simli-Naa with the able assistance of Kimberly Draewell in Louisville and Dr. Abdul Nashiru Issahaku in Atlanta (for DANA). Substantial support for these events came from Sister Cities of Louisville, the City of Louisville, Mrs. Jean Herlin and the Trull Foundation of Palacios, Texas.

33. [July-August, 1999] Dr. Herlin and her husband traveled to Ghana for their annual trip. Highlights of the trip included: 1) meeting with Ghanaian and American officials in Accra to update them about Sister Cities work; 2) visiting several chiefs, including the Dagomba Paramount, the Yaa Naa; 3) addressing the Tamale Municipal Assembly; 4) presenting a check for \$4,000 for the Zo-Simli-Naa Dagbon Education Scholarship Fund to Sister Cities and the Municipal Chief Executive; 4) observing the beginning of work on the Zo-Simli-Naa palace; 5) meeting with officials of UDS; and 6) being hosted at a Louisville Committee meeting and potluck, among many other lovely occasions.
34. [September, 1999] The Rotary Club of Louisville's Saving Lives Overseas committee under Dennis Dolan launched a project in conjunction with Supplies Over Seas (the charitable arm of the Jefferson County Medical Society) to send a large container of medical supplies to Tamale. Drs. Herlin and Wright served as liaisons and facilitators from the Tamale Committee. The container was shipped from Louisville in April, 2000 reached Ghana in June.
35. [1999+] During 1999-2000 the Economic Development Sub-Committee under the leadership of Nat Green established strong economic development ties with the Northern Regional Administration. A company, EconVillage Group, which is registered in both Ghana and Kentucky, has been established to work on the business development aspects of the project.
36. [1999] The Tamale Committee, under Erma's leadership, again participated in the Festival of Trees and Lights, and annual charity Christmas tree decorating event.
37. [March 2000] The Committee hosted its annual celebration of Ghana Independence Day with a party at Cafe Kilimanjaro. John Knight-Doe was principal organizer for this affair.
38. [June, 2000] Herlin and MacGaffey were again in Ghana. Notable features of the trip this year were visits to a nearly completed Zo-Simli-Naa palace and a meeting with the 16 secondary school students who are the first recipients of the Zo-Simli-Naa Dagbon Education Scholarship Fund.
39. [June, 2000] Professor MacGaffey met with community leaders in the town of Savelugu, just north of Tamale about their interest in promoting tourism and finding a Sister City in the US. He proposed undertaking a community study which would result in the publication of materials to promote tourism and attract a Sister City.
40. [August, 2000] The Tamale Committee hosted visitors from Ghana, including Alhaji Aliu Mahama, Co-Chair of the Louisville Committee in Tamale, and Abdul Somad Musah and his wife, Fati, Dagombas resident in Accra who are strong supporters of development in the North. Abdul Soman Musah, who is with Japan Motors in Accra, participated in the Economic Development Summit and helped facilitate the clearing of the medical equipment from Tema.
41. [September, 2000] We learned that Alhaji Aliu Mahama, Co-Chair of the Louisville Committee in Tamale had been chosen as a vice-presidential candidate by the NPP.
42. In October, news was received that the shipment of medical supplies had reached Tamale.

43. [December, 2000] Alhaji Aliu Mahama was elected Vice President of the Republic of Ghana on the NPP ticket. He immediately pledged support for Sister Cities, especially the Tamale-Louisville linkage.
44. [January, 2001] The Education Sub-Committee of the Louisville Committee in Tamale published the first annual report of the activities of the Zo-Simli-Naa Dagbon Education Scholarship Fund (the official name of the high school scholarship in Ghana). The sixteen original scholars have all advanced and will continue to be supported. Unfortunately, no new class was chosen, but the committee plans to set up the process to choose at least 20 scholars to begin in 2002.
45. [February, 2001] The new NPP Northern Regional Minister official received the donated shipment of medical supplies and equipment with much fanfare and national media coverage.
46. May, 2001. The Vice President, His Excellency Alhaji Aliu Mahama and Mrs. Mahama gave a reception for the Zo-Simli-Naa and her husband at their official residence in Accra. Among the guests were the American Ambassador, staff of the US Embassy, members of Parliament, Ministers and other luminaries.
47. May, 2001. The ZSN and Husband met with the new Minister for Local Government. The visit was arranged by Hajia Alima Mahama, one of the new Deputy Ministers.
48. May 31, 2001. The Zo-Simli-Naa Palace in Tamale was officially inaugurated, with prayers, speeches, drumming and dancing. Several hundred people, including the Municipal Chief Executive, the Deputy Regional Minister, leading Dagomba chiefs, members of the Tamale Municipal Assembly and the Sister Cities Louisville Committee were in attendance. On that same day the Lu-Naa (Chief Drummer) of the Zo-Simli-Naa was officially installed in his new position by her elders. The 16 Zo-Simli-Naa scholars attended the inauguration in traditional dress.
49. June, 2001. ZSN and entourage went to Yendi to participate in Somo Damba with the Yaa Naa and his court and people. We took part in both the morning and afternoon festivities.
50. June, 2001. The Economic Development team from Louisville visited Tamale, where they were very well received. During their visit the Vice President and the Second Lady also visited in Tamale, making visits to the Palace and participating the Damba events. A two-day Economic Development Summit was very successful, with more than 100 local business people and officials in attendance. ZSN participated in both Naa and Belikulse Damba in Tamale, from her own Palace.
51. June, 2001. ZSN traveled with the Economic Development team to Sekondi-Takoradi, Cape coast and Accra. On this second visit to Accra she met with the head of the Ghana Library Board and the Directors of NET Fund, a project to mobilize support for education in the North from educated Northerners both in Ghana and abroad.
52. June, 2001. The ZSN returned to Tamale where she met with leaders of several NGOs, including Gub-Katamali, RAINS, GIVDEV, OXFAM. She also met with the Louisville Committee, and separately with the Education and Economic Development Sub-Committees. This was in addition to her usual visits with important fellow chiefs.
53. June, 2001. ZSN and husband traveled to the UDS campus in Navrongo. On the way they called on Alhaji Bawumia, the chief of the district around Wale Wale. ZSN also participated in a Damba celebration and conference organized by UDS students at Nyankpala Campus, as well as in several other events designed to promote traditional culture. She also, along with Fati Munkaila, met with the scholarship students in each of the three schools having them.

54. June, 2001. The Louisville Committee organized the annual potluck as a going-away for us. It was well-attended. Guests included the Regional Minister.
55. September, 2001. Rufai Ibrahim visited Louisville. He has been active with the Louisville Committee, serving as its secretary for two years.
56. September, 2001, the Tamale Scholarship and Aid Fund, which was established to raise money in the U.S. for the Zo-Simli-Naa Scholarship in Tamale, received a \$5000 grant from the Trull Foundation.
57. October, 2001, the Tamale Committee hosted the Sister Cities of Louisville General Meeting at Café Kilimanjaro in downtown Louisville. It was well-attended, and included a fashion show of styles by Tamale designer, Karim Issahaku.
58. December, 2001. The Committee and the Pan African Studies Department of the University of Louisville hosted Mr. Theophilus Azungah, who teaching at the Faculty of Integrated development Studies of the University for Development Studies in Ghana.
59. February, 2002. The Tamale Committee mounted a display about its work, and about Tamale in connection with the performance of the Ko-Ti African Dance Company at the Brown Theater.
60. In March, 2002 we received news of the killing of the Dagbon King Yaa-Naa Yakuba Andani II and several of his courtiers. This horrible event meant the imposition of curfew in Tamale, hampering business and restricting Sister Cities meetings. Our condolences were sent to our shocked and grieving counterparts. We continue to send our prayers for peace, justice, reconciliation and a return to progress in development.
61. April, 2002. Café Kilimanjaro and the Tamale Committee hosted the annual African Independence party. It was well-attended, with food and drinks provided by the Café.
62. In July, 2002 Sister Cities of Louisville received the report of the 'Save Ghana's Libraries Project.' This study completed the Northern Regional Library for its book collection and computer access, both supported by the Tamale Committee and the Louisville Free Public Library, through its Shawnee Branch.
63. In August the first sixteen Zo-Simli-Naa scholars took their final exams on completing secondary school. These young people were supported by the private donors in the U.S. through the Tamale Scholarship and Aid Fund, by the Tamale Municipal Assembly and by private donors in Ghana.
64. In August 2002 the Tamale Committee began planning to participate in the U.S.-Africa Sister Cities conference to be held in Accra, Ghana, in the summer of 2003. The Committee and their Tamale counterparts are planning a 'mini-conference' to be held in Tamale after the main conference.
65. In October 2002 the Education Sub-Committee of the Louisville Committee in Tamale interviewed applicants for the new class of Zo-Simli-Naa scholars. Twenty-six students were chosen, 13 girls and 13 boys.
66. November, 2002, Susan and Wyatt traveled to Ghana on Sister Cities missions, both for Sister Cities of Louisville and the U.S. Africa Sister Cities Foundation. Susan met with the Ghana Sister Cities' Foundation head, Mr. Prince Kludieson, participated in several planning sessions in Accra organized by the Ministry of Local Government, and helped host the team from U.S. African Sister Cities Foundation. In Tamale meetings were held to begin the planning for the anticipated delegation from Louisville that will be coming to participate in the U.S. Africa Sister Cities Conference in Accra and the companion Tamale Mini-Conference.

67. June-July, 2003. Twelve people went to Ghana for the Sister Cities Tamale trip this summer. These include Ms Paige Pearman, the Executive Director of Sister Cities of Louisville. We hope to have representation from Metro Louisville government as well. In December, 2000, we learned that Alhaji Aliu Mahama, one of the strongest members and supporters of the Sister Cities' Louisville Committee in Tamale had been elected to the Vice Presidency of Ghana. Since his inauguration in January, 2001, he has made very clear his intention to support the work of Sister Cities in his new capacity.
68. In 2002 the Tamale Committee got a strong new partner, the Rites of Passage Academy (ROPA) under Mr. Shedrick Jones, Sr. This partnership so far has organized a very successful trip to Ghana and launched several projects in the areas of sports, education and agriculture/aquaculture.
69. The Zo-Simli-Naa and her husband, Dr. Wyatt MacGaffey continue to travel to Ghana annually. Since 2001 they have been at home at the Zo-Simli-Naa Palace (all Dagomba chief's homes are called palaces).
70. From June 22 to July 7 an enthusiastic and diverse group of 11 Louisvillians traveled to Tamale where they had five days of fruitful meetings with their counterparts. The group included Mrs. Laverne Cox, the founding mother of the Tamale Committee, representatives of local businesses and non-profits and active members of the Tamale Committee. The Louisville group, joined by 10 Sister Cities people from Tamale (including the Mayor), traveled together to participate in the U.S. Africa Sister Cities Conference in Accra. We were also joined in Accra by Tamale Committee member, Mr. John Knight-Doe, a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Africa Sister Cities Foundation. At the Conference Tamale was recognized as the strongest Sister Cities link in Ghana. Ms. Paige Pearman, Executive Director of SCL traveled with the Louisville group. Mr. Tim Honey, the Executive Director of Sister Cities International, a member of the SCI board and Mrs. Honey made a special trip to Tamale before the conference. Mr. Honey's visit has set the stage for more cooperation between Sister Cities of Louisville and Tamale and Sister Cities International.
71. The Tamale Committee got a new Co-Chair in August 2003; in the person of Mr. Shedrick Jones, Sr. He has already brought new enthusiasm, members and community partners to the Tamale-Louisville connection, among our new partners are the Rites of Passage Academy and Metro Sports.
72. In October the Tamale Committee became a partner with Sister Cities of Louisville and Tamale in a project with Sister Cities International and the World Bank Institute: the World Bank Institute-Sister Cities International Millennium Development Goals City-to-City Challenge Pilot Program.
73. In November the Tamale Scholarship and Aid Fund received support in the amount of \$5000 from the Riordan foundation in California.
74. In November the project coordinators from the World Bank Institute (WBI) and Sister Cities International (SCI) visited Louisville to explain its process and expectations. A team from Louisville, Dr. Susan Herlin, Dr. Wyatt MacGaffey, Dr. Tom Syvertsen and Mr. Shedrick Jones, Sr., then traveled to Tamale to mobilize our counterparts there and to prepare for the visit of the SCI and WBI team.
75. In February, 2004, a delegation from the Ghanaian Ministry of Roads and Transport visited Louisville, hosted by EconVillage Group heads Mr. Nat Green and Mr. Elias Zwede. They successful concluded negotiations with Caterpillar equipment dealer, Whayne Supply, to supply road building equipment to Ghanaian contractors through the Ghana government. The deal includes provision for maintenance and training to enhance sustainability.
76. In March Drs. Herlin and MacGaffey traveled to Ghana: first to attend the wedding of Salma Mahama to

Habib Kadiri; second to help host two technical experts from Louisville on their Tamale visit; and third, to participate with the Tamale team on the WBI-SCI Millennium Development Goals City-to-City Challenge teleconference on April 6—and to work on various other aspects of the Pilot.

77. March, 2004. A technical team consisting of Ms. Sarah Lynn Cunningham, Metropolitan Sewer District, and Mr. Steve Hubbs, Louisville Water Company, retired, visited Tamale in connection with the WBI SCI Pilot. Their trip was supported by the WBI.
78. March 27. Drs. Herlin and MacGaffey were honored for their work in tourism development by the Northern Regional Tourist Board.
79. April 6 a 20 member delegation representing Sister Cities of Tamale, Tamale Metro Assembly, various metro government departments, and including Zo-Simli-Naa, traveled to Accra at World Bank expense to participate in the WBI-SCI UN MDGs City-to-City Challenge Pilot project video conference, which included participants in Louisville, Chicago, Casa Blanca and Washington, D.C. By all accounts the Tamale-Louisville presentation was the strongest.
80. June, a four member team representing the Tamale Committee traveled to Ghana to participate in the 25th anniversary celebrations there, and to work on ongoing projects, particularly in the area of business development and education.
81. June 19-22 Sister Cities of Tamale Conference in celebration of 25years of linkage with Louisville. The Conference was sponsored by the Mayor and Metro government and Sister Cities of Tamale, with financial and logistical support from the Ministry of Local Government as well as some private donors. About 200 people took part in the June 19-22 meetings. Most were members of Sister Cities of Tamale, but delegates came from several other Ghanaian cities with Sister City relationships; from towns that want to start a sister city linkage; and from Burkina Faso, which is interested in establishing a number of city-to-city links with Ghanaian towns. Fada N’Gourma and Tamale were the first Burkina-Ghana Sister Cities. The conference aimed to strengthen existing sister city relationships and expand the scope and effectiveness of sister cities in Ghana and the region. Nine people from Louisville participated. It was very successful, especially in generating interest in the work of Sister Cities.
82. September 6-11 Sister Cities Summit in Louisville The was sponsored by the Mayor, Metro government and Sister Cities of Louisville, with help from private donors. The Summit included all the Sister Cities of Louisville, and celebrated several anniversaries. It also focused on enhancing and expanding the effectiveness of sister city relationships by focusing on key program areas of education, economic development and tourism, health and medical care, and arts and culture. Tamale had planned to send a large delegation, including the Mayor, tourism officials, business people, educators and artists. However, this plan was dashed by the U.S. government’s refusal to consider visas for the delegates, even those sent down by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Fortunately four Tamale people were able to make it in spite of this, including a former Mayor; AYMB Ibrahimah, a 2004-2005 Hubert Humphrey Fellow; the current Louisville Committee Co-Chair, Hajia Adisa Munkaila, a member of the Ghana Council of State; and the Vice-Principal of Tamale Polytechnic, Mr. Abdulai Salifu, who is currently studying for a Ph.D. and Indiana University. Many people in Louisville participated in one or more of the Summit events. Most importantly, delegates from interested sisters of Louisville, including Tamale, Quito, La Plata, Perm and Jiujiang, were able to start conversations toward future multilateral cooperation, especially in areas related to sanitation and waste water.
83. October we learned that 14 of our most recent class of Zo-Simli-Naa scholars had qualified to apply for university. This means we must redouble our efforts to expand support for the Tamale Scholarship and Aid Fund, since we are now committed to supporting successful graduates through admission to the university.

84. November 10 Tamale Committee began active planning for the Tamale-Louisville Business Conference to be held in April 2005. Both EconVillage Group LLC and Whyne Supply Company sent representatives to join the organizing committee. Planning also got underway for the Tamale committee trip next June, which will focus on follow through in areas of public health sanitation and aquaculture.
85. February, 2005, we hosted a 4th year medical student from Tamale who did an elective rotation through the University of Louisville Medical School. He also developed a proposal for a public health-oriented project with Dr. Jack Wright and Dr. Adewale Troutman, Director of Metro Health Department in Louisville.
86. February, 2005, a team from EconVillage Group traveled to Ghana to receive the first road grader purchased from EconVillage. A Whyne Supply and technical expert (and Tamale committee member) traveled with them. He worked to get the equipment up and running—and even more importantly to further the educational link between Whyne Supply, Jefferson Community and Technical College in Louisville and the Polytechnics in Tamale and Accra. A video conference was held on February 25 to enable representatives from all stakeholders to be introduced and discuss plans for moving forward. The participants included members of the Ghana accrediting board for tertiary institutions.
87. April, 2005, Louisville hosts eight business people from Tamale for the first Louisville=Tamale Business Development Conference. Among the sponsors of the Conference, along with Sister Cities of Louisville are Whyne supply Co., EconVillage Group, LLC, Jefferson Community and Technical College, Kentucky State University, the Kentucky World Trade Center, Kilimanjaro Enterprises, Martin Construction, and KHAFRA Engineering.

Although this list is not complete (apologies to anyone or any linkage or organization which is not mentioned), it can serve to give an idea of the dynamic nature of the relationship between Tamale, Ghana, and Louisville, Kentucky over its more than twenty year history.

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