

# BAWA HEALTH INITIATIVE NEWSLETTER

December 2022



Happy 5th  
Anniversary  
of the Opening of the  
Awounke Community  
Health Center in  
BAWA!



BAWA HEALTH INITIATIVE

WEBSITE: [WWW.BAWAHEALTH.ORG](http://WWW.BAWAHEALTH.ORG) ADDRESS: PO BOX 432, WALLINGFORD, CT 06492 EMAIL: [B.DONDJI@BAWAHEALTH.ORG](mailto:B.DONDJI@BAWAHEALTH.ORG)

## MESSAGE OF THANKS!

Dear Friends of BHI,

**Thank you** for your incredible life changing support that you have provided over the past 5 years since the Awounke Community Health clinic opened in Bawa!

**Thank you** for taking what began in 2005 to improve the drinking water and provide bed nets to reduce the spread of malaria to what now has evolved to include a healthcare clinic and an ambulance with oxygen to transport patients including pregnant women in labor in need of C-section to a hospital some distance away.

**Thank you** for all the life changing tools; ultra-sound, computers, medical beds, medical equipment to serve Bawa and surrounding villages.

**Thank you** for supporting youth soccer and basketball camps, to dinner events or other in-person or online fundraisers to raise awareness and support the needs in the clinic.

**Thank you** for sharing us with your family and friends via our FACEBOOK page or our website [www.bawahealth.org](http://www.bawahealth.org) to continue to bring awareness to this important effort.

# Thank You!

We want you to know how much  
your support means to BHI!

When the need for improved healthcare education and supplies arise, the BHI community comes through!

It started with a vision and continues with the love and caring contributions from the East to the West Coast of the U.S. and abroad.

The St. Andrews Parishioners have been a shining light to BAWA. In addition to many other residents of Ellensburg, Washington. From construction, to medical expertise, to fundraising they have been so generous with their time, talent and treasure!

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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*"I first learned of the work of the BAWA Health Initiative about eight years ago through a personal story shared by Blaise Dondji at our church in Ellensburg, WA. Understanding the impact that my financial support would make **directly** to the health and well-being of people living in the rural village of Bawa motivated me to give that first time and is the primary reason I continue to give. Hearing stories from Blaise and seeing pictures of the men, women and children visiting the health clinic, the babies born at the clinic and the happy dance around the ambulance purchased for the community gives me a feeling of helping dear friends"..*  
*Becky Cates*

*"The support of the BAWA Initiative is very important to me because of the services they provide to the local village, as well as many surrounding villages. Prior to the existence of the clinic, many locals were either unable to afford, or make the journey to the city for basic health care needs. I am honored to be part of this organization." ..*  
*Brian Stickney*

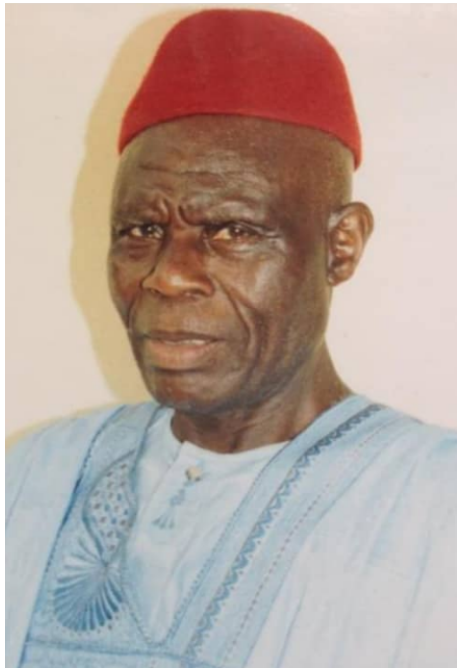
## CLINIC FOCUS 2023

- Clinic building maintenance
- Water pipe repair and added water tank
- Public health prevention services
- Expanded senior services
- Ambulance maintenance
- Staff salaries

## Our Fundraising Goal in 2023 is \$65,000!

Donations can be made directly on our website, or our Facebook page Bawa Health Initiative or you can send a check to Bawa Health Initiative.

## In Loving Memory of Mbii Tanefouet Tsafack



Mbii Tanefouet Tsafack was the 4<sup>th</sup> Patriarch of the Tanefouet. He was one of the nine assistants to the Chief of Bawa. He passed away peacefully on July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the age of 93. He left behind more than 20 children (including BHI President and Co-Founder, Mbii Tanefouet Professor Blaise Dondji), more than 45 grandkids and 10 great grandkids. He lived in Bawa his entire life. He loved his family that he often traveled to the city to visit. That love of his children took him to Ellensburg, WA in 2010, his first trip abroad and first time to board a plane! Mbii Tanefouet Tsafack was a very pleasant and honest man, filled with the love of others. Though he never got any western education, he sacrificed for his children and pushed them in school to reach their full potentials. He once stated that “education is the key that opens many doors”. He was involved in all the projects that could improve his community standard of living such as new roads and schools. He was trusted by many in Bawa and surrounding villages who voted him as chair of the parent-teacher association for more than six decades in a row, a position that he held until a year before joining his ancestors.

*Mbii Tanefouet Tsafack, you may be gone from our sights, but you are never gone from our hearts.*



*"We support the BAWA Health Initiative because by doing so we can make a difference in the lives of people who need help. Administrative expenses are minimal, and substantially all of the support that we contribute is spent on the people that BAWA helps. The money is well spent on items that the target population needs, such as constructing, staffing, and equipping a clinic and supplying an ambulance. Preventive medicine has also been instituted, such as mosquito netting and work on water purification." Hugh and Katherine Spall*



## WHY DO YOU DONATE TO BHI?

*"Thomas and I love donating to BHI because we are fortunate enough to have access to great healthcare and we love to be able to share that with others who are less fortunate. Because of the community based approach Blaise Dondji takes to funding BHI it truly feels like sharing with our neighbors rather than strangers in a far away place. We hope our donations to BHI have been as much a blessing in the lives of others as they have been in ours."*  
God bless, Michaela Megargle

*"St. Andrews Catholic Church Craft Group has supported the BAWA Health Initiative for many years with our little pillow case dresses. Originally we sold them to local folks here in Ellensburg and sent the money to BAWA. Then one of our group suggested we offer folks the option to buy a dress for a child in Cameroon. We now sew over 100 dresses a year and have added boys' shorts, almost all of which are sent to BAWA. The money earned, plus many generous donations, is given to support the clinic there. We love seeing the photos of the excited little children as they receive the clothing, and we know that the money is put to good use for the needs of the clinic."*  
St. Andrews Catholic Church Craft Group

### facebook Birthdays



Promote BAWA Health Initiative as your charity of choice for your Birthday this year and let all your Facebook friends know about us!

Two weeks before your birthday, you will see a message in your News Feeds giving you the option to create a fundraiser for your birthday. Once you set it up, your friends will receive a notification inviting them to support Bawa Health Initiative in honor your special day.

[Click here for directions](#) - it's so easy!

### Amazon Smile

AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on Amazon to a charity of your choice.

To get started with AmazonSmile, visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your web browser and sign in with your Amazon.com credentials. Choose Bawa Health Initiatives as your charity. To join AmazonSmile from the mobile app, open the app and find "Settings" in the main menu. Tap on "AmazonSmile" and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

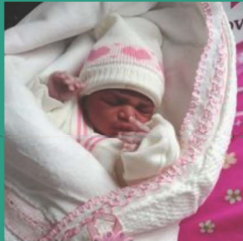
# BAWA HEALTH INITIATIVE

[WWW.BAWAHEALTH.ORG](http://WWW.BAWAHEALTH.ORG)

**2005**

**FOUNDED**

by Quinnipiac University Professor, Dr. Dennis Richardson, and then Yale School of Medicine Scientist, Dr. Blaise Dondji, a native of Bawa, Cameroon.



**2018**

**FIRST BABIES BORN**

January 11, 2018 First Baby born at the clinic. Next day a baby boy was born.

**2018**

**PURCHASED A MOTORCYCLE**

To Transport patients and staff.



**2021**

**PURCHASED AN ULTRASOUND & A BIO-CHEMICAL ANALYZER**

**2022**

**PURCHASED A COMPUTER, PRINTER AND WIFI**

Making "tele-medicine" available

**2023**

**FUNDRAISING FOR AUTOCLAVE (STERILIZATION), WATER TANK, EXPANDED SENIOR SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH EFFORTS AND STAFF SALARIES**



**2017**

**CLINIC OPENED**

First patients were seen on Dec. 4, 2017

Since 2017, 92 babies have been born and 4,081 patients have been seen at the clinic.

**2018**

**SOLAR PANELS**

Sustainability of resources.

**2019 - 2021**

**AMBULANCE**

Started fundraising campaign in 2019. Purchased ambulance in 2020. Ambulance delivered to transport the most serious patients on March 5, 2021. Transported 1st patient on March 20, 2021.



**Dr. Blaise Dondji** [b.dondji@bawahealth.org](mailto:b.dondji@bawahealth.org)

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