

# Welcome

Solar Circle is an organization working to establish solar cooking in Tanzania. Living in one of the poorest countries in the world, Tanzanians earn an average annual income per capita of less than \$500. Our project was born to address high rates of deforestation and serious respiratory disease caused by the regular use of wood as cooking fuel. These issues can be diminished by free and abundant solar energy, used to cook in Solar Circle's ovens.

Today, several hundred men, women, and children have been helped by the addition of a solar oven in their lives. With your help, these hundreds will become thousands. Please take a moment to learn more about how Tanzanian lives are changing everyday.



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# Join Us

You can help Solar Circle by making a donation that will be used to promote the use of solar ovens throughout Tanzania. A donation of:

- \$70 places one Tanzanian-made solar oven.
- \$100 buys a bicycle so that a woman can deliver solar ovens.
- \$215 is the cost of buying and shipping one American-made oven or building three Tanzanian ovens.
- \$1000 places 14 Tanzanian-made solar ovens.

Whether your donation is small or large, it will go a long way towards helping a person in need. Please join us and send your tax-deductible contribution, made out to **Solar Circle**, to:

## Solar Circle

4709 Woodcraft  
Okemos, MI 48864  
517.349.4531  
info@solar-circle.org



Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.solar-circle.org>

# SolarCircle

*Friends helping friends...*



*use the power of the sun...*



*to enrich lives.*



# Our Story

*Friends helping friends use the power of the sun to enrich lives...*

In a half-day, most Americans use more electricity than people in southern Tanzania, East Africa, use in a year. Most of the energy used for cooking in Tanzania comes from wood. Because the forests are receding, people have to travel farther on foot to find the fuel. Nutritious foods are then not prepared because of the significant time and energy invested in securing the precious resource. Additionally, the wood fires cause the women who cook and their small children to be exposed to hazardous smoke and respiratory disease. With the use of the sun, solar ovens provide a healthier and less costly cooking method. The sun's energy is free, making it easier to cook protein-rich foods like beans and to purify water.



▲ A group of Masasi primary school children gather around a new solar oven.



▲ Elizabeth uses a bicycle to deliver a solar oven and to teach others the powerful energy of the sun.

A few years ago, Solar Circle, a non-profit organization, transported two dozen sun ovens to Masasi, Tanzania, where they were enthusiastically received. There was only one problem. People quickly saw the impossibility of importing enough ovens to overcome the high purchase and transport costs. Consequently, Solar Circle is starting a small industry in Tanzania to build the ovens using indigenous materials and simple hand tools.

# “Jua ni mali”

Notes of thanks from those who benefit from your contributions:

- Mlelwa, who built a solar oven, coined a new proverb: “People say ‘Jua kali,’ but we know ‘Jua ni mali.’” (People say the sun is hot today, but we know the hot sun is wealth).
- The women we help tell the volunteers of Solar Circle, “Solar ovens work! The sun shines in Tanzania, and solar cooking puts the sun to work for our families.”
- Otilia said, “I must constantly stir the ‘ugali’ over the fire. In the oven – no squatting, no stirring, no smoky fire!” (Ugali, a maize porridge, is a diet staple).
- At the end of one cooking demonstration, another energetic mother looked at the dozen ovens used in class, and asked, “How could you bring so few? We are so many.”

