

## Dear Friends,

I wish you could have been with us this summer for our annual Artisan Council meeting. Yes, the food was delicious and the singing was beautiful. But for me as a co-founder of Azizi Life, the gathering was filled with "my, how we've grown" moments and encouraging reminders of our partnerships and impact.

Aimable, a lead woodcarver from Inganzo Cooperative, was one of the artisans who addressed the council. I remember our first visit to Inganzo, before Azizi Life had even begun. I was thrilled to meet the carvers and see them at work. Aimable remembers it too- he was skeptical. Were we just another set of visitors with empty promises? However, the carvers helped us to see the potential for creating artisan income opportunity, and when we began Azizi Life, their nativities were in the first collection.

Since 2008, we have continued to collaborate with Inganzo to purchase their products at a fair price, as well as to develop new products with designers like Macy White and Rebecca Hart.

Aimable reflected that through his crafting income, he has been able to overcome many obstacles he would normally face as a person with limited mobility. He celebrates the victories of marriage, parenthood and home ownership.

Aimable is an advisor on the Board of Directors for Azizi Life Impact, our local nonprofit organization. He is also the elected representative of people with disabilities in his community. Aimable's impact goes far beyond the beautiful carved nativities, spoons and candlesticks he makes.

I invite you to join the work of Azizi Life with a monthly donation. Together, we can continue to multiply income opportunities for artisans like Aimable and join him in increasing community impact.

Your donation will help us to promote the artisans' work and to invest in programs like adult literacy, through which over 2,800 people have learned to read and write since 2017. Actually, a portion of every purchase already goes to benefit Azizi Life Impact. But with a goal of teaching 10,000 literacy students by 2027, we need your partnership as well. Our goal is to raise \$20 tuition for 1,000 new students this year. Join us at <a href="AziziLife.com/donate">AziziLife.com/donate</a>!

Please participate in our work by shopping at Azizi Life, sharing on social media, and praying for us. Follow the artisans and our exciting new building project @azizilife on Facebook and Instagram.

With warm thanks from the whole Azizi Life Family,

Christianna Stratefalle

Christianna Whitekettle | Co-Founder and International Liaison