

PANTHERS IN AFRICA

Remembering Pete and Charlotte O'Neal

The United African American Community Center (UAACC) was founded in 1991 by Pete O'Neal, formerly Chairman of the Kansas City Chapter of the Black Panther Party and his wife, Charlotte Hill O'Neal, also of the KC Chapter. In 1972, Pete and Charlotte O'Neal came to Tanzania. They became African American pioneers in their ancestral homeland, learning about windmills, farming, raising livestock, and appropriate technology as they began to develop their homestead on the slopes of Mt. Meru in Imbaseni, a rural village in the heart of the traditional homeland of the WaMeru tribe.

UAACC organizes year round workshops dealing with health and nutrition, conservation, AIDS education, essay contests, art appreciation, crafts, history, and computer literacy. UAACC also facilitates many improvements to village schools through organizing programs for volunteers who visit the area.

UAACC has a cultural exchange program with Kansas City, where youth from Tanzania visit Kansas City and Kansas City youth visit Tanzania. Through the Arusha-Kansas City Sister City Program, many donations of medical supplies have been collected.

UAACC also works with various colleges and has an intern program in which the colleges provide interns who come to teach, do medical work and participate in other social programs. In exchange, Pete hosts a photographic safari.

Recently, through a joint project between UAACC and the Kuji Foundation, founded by geronimo ji jaga, a drilling company was brought into the village to drill for water so that village women no longer had to walk several miles carrying water.

**For more information on the O'Neals and their work in Africa, visit their website: www.UAACC-TZ.ORG and WWW.HABARI.CO.TZ/UAACC
Or e-mail: uaacc@habari.co.tz**