

FRIENDS OF WONI KENYA INTERNATIONAL INC

Dear Chair Hartmann & Board of Supervisors,

I am the Director of Friends of Woni (which means "vision" in Swahili) Kenya International, a non-profit that provides safe water & supports education in underserved communities that receive little to no support from the governments in Sub-Saharan Africa. During Covid, we have provided bi-annual food shipments to our Maasai friends; the lack of tourists means no income for them.

Our non-profit has been embraced by the Latino community. I met Jackie Abbud about four or five years ago. She has been a supporter of our non-profit and is one of several in the Santa Ynez Valley who have hosted us at their ranch for fundraising events with barbeque, dancers, & horses. Jackie hosted us at her home on 7/27/2019 from 1pm – 8pm. On one occasion our attendance at an event was lower than anticipated and Jackie did not hesitate to write a check to cover our expenses.

While I am aware that there is a problem between Jackie & her neighbor regarding a Homestay Permit, I hope that you will not hold Jackie's generosity against her when considering her permit. Without people like her, we simply cannot fulfill our mission to provide solar panels & pumps, a water reservoir, water wells, & other basics to make life & education better for the Maasai people. One of our past projects built a dormitory so that the girls could attend the one area school. Without a dormitory, it is impossible to walk the number of miles that would be required daily to get to school.

As you likely know, Santa Barbara has more non-profits per capita than any County in California which makes fundraising a competitive task.

I have always found Jackie to be a pleasant & caring person & I hope that she can obtain her Home Stay permit.

Thank you for your time.

Warm regards,

Evalee "Evie" Treen

February 4, 2022

To Whom it may concern:

My name is Juan Camarena, and I am writing about Jackie Abboud. I have known Jackie for approximately five years. Jackie is a hard-working and personable individual. She cares about people and likes to build friendships. Jackie does not like conflict and will take every step to resolve them fairly. Jackie helps non-profit organizations. Some of the non-profit organizations she has helped are Wheels on Meal, Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities, and Friends of Woni Kenya.

Jackie has hosted fundraisers for non-profit organizations at her property. The two non-profit organizations that I know she has hosted are the Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities and Friends of Woni Kenya. The Santa Barbara/Puerto Vallarta Sister Cities fundraiser raised money for cancer children in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The second fundraiser was for Friends of Woni Kenya. This fundraiser was to raise money to install water wells in Kenya. I attended both fundraisers and did not see any issues or complaints from neighbors about the fundraisers.

Each of us must do our small part in maintaining the health and well-being of the community in which we live. Since Jackie moved to her property in Santa Ynez, she has reached out to her neighbors and invited them to her property. She is helpful and compassionate. She is part of community activities and contributes to charities financially and personally. Her small gesture has made a significant impact on the community. Jackie is an excellent example of being a good neighbor.

Respectfully,

Juan Camarena

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