

NEW ENGLAND GRASSROOTS
ENVIRONMENT FUND
Small Grants Program Application

BOARD MEMBERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Board Members:

Ali Shongole, Chairman. He is responsible for organizing the meeting for the board members, held Sunday of every other week. He also owns his own business as a farmer. He has a little piece of rented land where he grows different kinds of vegetables and crops. Ali lived in the Dadaab Refugee Camps for seven years. He suffered from severe bullet wounds in his leg during the war. In 2004, he immigrated to the US, and was taken to Springfield, Massachusetts. In 2008, he moved to Lewiston to join his wife.

Aden Kabir lived in Dadaab refugee camps for 19 years. He came to the US in 2004, moving initially to St Louis, Missouri. Because he had many friends and relatives in Lewiston, he relocated in 2008, where he joined the board. Aden was recently laid off from his job where he had worked for a year and a half, housekeeping at the Harraseeket Inn in Freeport. (207) 344-7515

Hassan Barjin lived in Dadaab refugee camps for 19 years. He came to USA in 2005, moving initially to Indianapolis, Indiana. He relocated to Lewiston in June 2009 to join family and friends, where he joined the board of directors in February of 2010. Hassan works at Temperance, a local company that produces diapers. (207)376-6023

Haji Haji lived in Dadaab refugee camps for 19 years. He came to USA in 2004, to Hartford Connecticut, and relocated to Lewiston in June 2007 to join his wife and his young daughter, with friends and relatives. He joined the board in February 2010. Haji was laid off from his seasonal wreath-making job. (207)713-6675

Bakar Bashir lived in Dadaab refugee camps for 19 years. He came to USA in 2005, to Syracuse N.Y. He relocated to Lewiston in June 2009, to be with friends and relatives, joining the Board in February 2010. Bakar works at Wal-Mart as a stocker. (207)344-4425

Abdirahman Yakub lived in Dadaab refugee camps for 10 years. He came to USA in 2004, to Dallas, Texas, and moved to Lewiston in June 2009 to join friends and relatives. He joined the board of directors in February 2010. Abdirahman works as a housekeeper and a dishwasher at a Freeport restaurant. (207) 376-8345

Mohamed Mohamed is a well-respected member of the elders in the community and also on the board. He works at a restaurant in Freeport. Mohamed lived in Dadaab refugee camps for 12 years, coming to the US in 2004, to Manchester, New Hampshire. He decided to come to Lewiston because he wanted to join his friends. (207) 344-4661

Hawa Mohamed is the chairwoman responsible for representing women's interests within the Somali Bantu community leadership. She works as a housewife, taking care of the children. Hawa lived in Dadaab refugee camps for 17 years, coming to the US in 2004, to Boston. She moved to Lewiston because she was married to a man from Lewiston. (207)312-5519

Ali Bulle is one of only two people who can sign checks and work with the bank. Ali lived in the Dadaab refugee camps for 18 years after fleeing from her country. She came to US in 2004, to St. Louis, Missouri, and moved to Maine in 2008 because she has so many friends here. (207) 344-9787

Madina Aden is a housewife. Madina lived a hard life in the refugee camp of Dadaab for 17 years, where her husband died from a heart attack. She came to US in 2004, to Dallas, Texas, and moved to Maine in 2006, because she was attracted by the friends and relatives that are in Maine. (207)513-0516

Bilow Farah is a well-respected member, who works on behalf of the women, doing mediation among the women. Bilow lived a hard life in the refugee camp of Dadaab for 17 years. After her husband died from a heart attack, she came to US in 2004, to Atlanta. She moved to Maine in 2006 because she was attracted by the friends and relatives that are in Maine. (207) 784-0635

N E W E N G L A N D G R A S S R O O T S
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Salimo Maalim is one of the translators for the Somali Bantu community members in Maay Maay language. She lived in the Dadaab refugee camps for 14 years. After fleeing from her country, she came to USA in 2004, to Syracuse, New York, and moved to Maine in 2005 because she has so many friends here. (207) 513-0554

Executive Committee (all volunteer):

Mohamed Farah, President, is employed at Mid Maine CPL. His primary interest is providing transportation and translation to Somali Bantu community members. He is taking classes at Central Maine Community College in the fall of 2009 where he is doing general studies. (207) 344-7472

Abdullahi Farah, Vice President. (207) 344-9676

Sheikh Mohamed, Spokesman, is employed at THRIVE, a part of Tri-county Mental Health Service as a Cultural and Linguistic Competency Coordinator. His main job in the Somali Bantu community is explaining the culture of USA to the Somali Bantu who are fairly new to the country. He helps Somali Bantu Community of Lewiston's free interpretation program. He is taking classes at USM trying to apply to their Nursing Program, after he received his Associate Degree in Liberal Studies from CMCC. Sheikh gives most of his time to volunteering for the Somali Bantu Community. He recently was named the 2009 recipient of The Watering Can from Maine Initiatives, an award given to someone who is dedicated to helping others. (207)344-7132.

Iman Osman, Secretary. (207)344-4245.

Hilowle Aden, Assistant Secretary, who is also doing scheduling for appointments, translating, providing transportation, filling in any application forms for community members and answering any phone calls to the office. He is currently taking classes at Central Maine Community college studying business. (207)513-0617.

Ahmed Baraki, Traditional Counselor, who is responsible for the Conflict Resolution and Cultural Retention for the Somali Bantu Community families. He is well respected member of the elders in the community. He works at Good Shepherd Food Bank in Auburn, Maine. (207)344-7859.