

Mohamed Shariff Manekia, commonly called Shariff is an accomplished businessman, committed community leader and caring philanthropist. He believes we all have a purpose and the foremost of those purposes are serving and furthering humanity.

Born in the City of Lindi, Tanzania in East Africa, Mr. Shariff came to the New York as a young man in 1970. He went to school and then college in New York City. While still in school, his business acumen and leadership were evident, Mr. Shariff gained the top sales award with his newspaper route in Queens, NY.

In 1980 he received three Certifications from the Federal Aviation Agency including a Pilot's License. That same year he also completed Advanced Marketing, Small Business Management and Government contracting courses at New York University School of Business.

In 1990 he formed Sign Industries, Inc. located in Long Island City, New York. In just five years, he grew the company tremendously and was able to secure many NYC government sign contracts. A few years later, with hard work and persistence, Sign Industries, Inc, landed a major contract from NY/NJ Port Authority for signs at the Central Terminal at LaGuardia Airport. With this contract, Sign Industries. Inc. became a major sign manufacturer in the greater New York area and operated 24 hours a day seven days a week.

In the sign industry very few companies offered the depth of products and services as Sign Industries, Inc. Mr. Shariff implemented many changes such as contract labor and introduced night and weekend shifts to maximize production which resulted in controlled costs and availability of highly skilled labor after hours and weekends.

Mr. Shariff introduced new designs and color schemes which transformed the LaGuardia Airport Terminal signs into modern colorful signage. Due to the high quality of work and successful completion of sign projects, Sign Industries, Inc gained many other contracts including contracts from JFK and Newark International Airports.

While at the help of his successful sign company, Mr. Shariff also had a passion for real estate and architectural interior designs, he purchased his first home at the age of 18 and continued learning and investing. In 1996 he expanded his real estate portfolio with more properties in New York and Orlando. His strength was his ability to transform old buildings into modern contemporary designs to compliment today's taste and trends. Mr. Shariff is active in real estate purchase and development and is a licensed realtor.

While in New York, Mr. Shariff held many community leadership positions including past Treasurer of Hussein Madrasa New York and SIJNY. In 2002, Mr. Shariff relocated himself and his family to Lake Mary, Florida and continued his community leadership and development as the Trustee of Hussein Islamic Centre, Orlando, Florida; President of Hussein Islamic Centre, Orlando; and currently serves as Board member of Health Tanzania Foundation, under The Anglican Diocese of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

Mr. Shariff believes his true calling is the need to help others; since 2002 he has dedicated much of his time and resources for his philanthropic efforts. His primarily focus is on Tanzania charities which provides clean water projects, wells, school renovations, distribution of classroom furniture, renovating health clinics, mentoring youths, introducing computers to classrooms, vocational training, supporting local orphanages and many more

much needed causes. Additionally, he is actively involved in assisting Iraqi and Syrian refugees in the greater Orlando Area.

In 2004, Mr. Shariff met Dr. Henry Ziegler at the Bugurini Clinic which is under the Anglican Diocese of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania. He was impressed with their work and the positive impact it makes in Tanzania. He pledged his support to Dr. Ziegler's Clinic which saves lives and caters to low income and local residents through Health Tanzania Foundation.

Mr. Shariff is a Board Member, ardent contributor, fundraiser and advocate for Health Tanzania Foundation. He personally sponsors a medical doctor to assist in the Paediatrician Department at the Bugurini Clinic. Mr. Shariff is also very supportive of other non-profits operating in Tanzania including the orphanages operated by WIPAHS in Kibaha, Tanzania

In his personal quest to understand the message and importance of Prophet Jesus, Mr. Shariff joined the First Baptist Church of Markham Woods in 2011 where he studied the Bible for five years. Mr. Shariff continues to learn and discuss with his Christians friends the role of Jesus in Islam. This journey has also caused him to deeply appreciate the character and message of Jesus, a Prophet of Islam.

Mr. Shariff is married for more than 30 years and is blessed with one son, a daughter and three grandsons. He is a frequent traveler around the world and enjoys socializing, serving and supporting causes which helps lift human dignity.

Mr. Shariff firmly believes that we all have a role to play to support needy causes which reduces the burden produced by poverty and illiteracy; if only one person gives to a project, it belongs to that person, but if all members of the community give, the project and its success belong to us all.