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Melkiori Matwi to return to Tanzania for Christmas with help of Salve community

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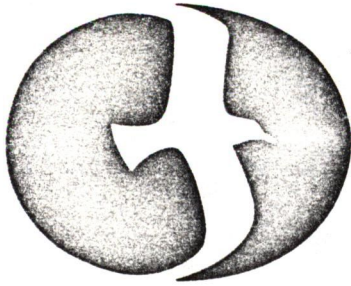
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SALVE REGINA COLLEGE
DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Melkiori Matwi, a sophomore at Salve Regina College is going home for Christmas this year, thanks to the generosity of his classmates and friends at the Newport College, who presented him with a surprise Christmas gift at the College's Candlelight Ceremony December 11th.

Melkiori's friends presented him with a round-trip airline ticket home to Tanzania, East Africa, and nearly \$130.00 in spending money so that he can go home for the first time since he came to Salve in the fall of 1974.

The idea of a surprise Christmas gift for Melkiori was the brainchild of three of his friends at Salve, Barbara Spaulding, Mary Beth Scanlon and Darlene D'Amico, who enlisted the aid of their friends in canvassing the campus for contributions from students, faculty, administration and staff. Altogether they raised about \$1,300 since Thanksgiving.

Melkiori came to Salve with the assistance of college chaplain, Father James K. Healy, who spent three years teaching in Tanzania. "Everyone at Salve was extremely generous," Father Healy said. "One student even offered to pay for a phone call to Melkiori's parents in East Africa, unfortunately Melkiori's parents have no phone and probably have never seen one."

Melkiori leaves for Tanzania on Thursday, December 18th from New York and will return to Salve at the end of January for the beginning of the second semester.