THE DICK ROOSENBERG

# PAVILION & GIVING VINE

*Honoring our Founder • Building our Future*

tillers INTERNATIONAL

## THE LEGACY OF DICK ROOSENBERG: BRIDGING HISTORY AND HOPE

The story of Tillers International began in 1969, halfway across the world in the West African nation of Dahomey (now the Republic of Benin). Dick Roosenberg, a young Peace Corps volunteer raised on a Michigan dairy farm, was tasked with a vital mission: help local farmers introduce oxen to increase food self-sufficiency.

While Dick had spent his life around cattle, he quickly realized that modern American tractor farming hadn't prepared him for the nuances of draft animal power. To teach the local communities, Dick had to look backward. He realized that the answers lay in the forgotten wisdom of our great-grandparents; the quiet, precise skills of voice commands, wooden yokes, and blacksmith-forged tools. That connection to earlier generations was personal for Dick as well. His great-grandfather, Richard "Dick" Raymond Ford, born in 1868, was a barn builder in Dana, Indiana, whose craftsmanship represented the kind of practical, hands-on knowledge that inspired Dick's own appreciation for traditional skills and trades. Witnessing how a single team of oxen could triple a subsistence farmer's food production, Dick found his lifelong calling. He saw that low-capital, animal-powered agriculture could change the world.

When Dick returned home to Michigan, he carried a dream of creating a dedicated training center where international development workers and farmers could master these timeless skills before heading into the field. He went to law school and practiced as an attorney, but the vision never left him. A Sunday afternoon visit to the Henry Ford Museum in 1980 solidified his resolve. Watching aging tradesmen work with draft horses, Dick realized America's historic reserve of practical, rural knowledge was on the brink of disappearing forever.

In 1981, Dick founded Tillers International.

For decades, Dick guided Tillers with a unique philosophy. He didn't just want to teach "appropriate technology"; he wanted it to be appropriated technology; practical skills in woodworking, blacksmithing, timber framing, and droving that people worldwide could adapt, reshape, and fully own to fit their local conditions. Under his leadership, Tillers grew into a globally respected 220-acre learning landscape, equally renowned in rural African villages as it is in Southwest Michigan.

## HONOR THE PAST, BUILD THE FUTURE

Dick always reminded his students that becoming a master farmer or artisan is a lifetime pursuit. As we look to the future, the new pavilion project stands as a testament to that pursuit. It will serve as a physical centerpiece for Tillers International; a gathering space built on the very principles of community, history, and craft that Dick championed.

By supporting this pavilion, you are directly celebrating the legacy of a man who looked at yesterday's technologies and saw a blueprint for a more self-reliant, sustainable, and peaceful tomorrow.

Today, we have the opportunity to honor Dick's legacy with a permanent landmark at the center of our campus: **the Dick Roosenberg Pavilion & Giving Vine.**

Designed using traditional timber-frame techniques, the pavilion will serve as a lasting gathering place for students, artisans, and families. Surrounding it, a permaculture garden and commemorative arbor will celebrate the generosity of those who make Tillers' mission possible. Individually hand-forged copper, bronze, and patinated brass leaves will be woven into the timber and iron structure, bearing the names of our supporters.

By joining the Dick Roosenberg Giving Vine, you'll help create a space that inspires learning, connection, and community for generations to come. **Make your donation today and become part of this lasting legacy.**

# JOIN THE GIVING VINE

**There are many ways to support the Dick Roosenberg Pavilion & Giving Vine. Choose the giving option that best aligns with your philanthropic goals.**

## MAKE A ONE-TIME GIFT

Support the campaign today with a gift by check, ACH, or through our secure online giving portal.

## MAKE A PLEDGE

Spread your gift over time by making a multi-year pledge. Simply indicate your total commitment and preferred payment schedule on the enclosed pledge form. All pledges must be fulfilled by **September 30, 2028.** To help minimize administrative costs, **Copper Level** pledges must be enrolled in automatic recurring payments with Tillers International.

## GIVE APPRECIATED STOCK

Donating appreciated securities may provide tax advantages while making a meaningful investment in Tillers' future. Contact our Development Team for transfer instructions.

## MAKE A GIFT FROM YOUR IRA

If you are age 70½ or older, you may be able to make a tax-advantaged gift directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Contact your financial advisor or IRA administrator to learn more about making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

**If your employer offers a matching gift, or if you would like more information about making a gift of stock, an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), or a planned gift, please note your interest in the comments section of the commitment form. A member of our executive team will be happy to contact you.**

**Should Tillers exceed its fundraising goal, your generosity will continue to make a lasting impact. Any additional funds will be directed toward the beautification and enhancement of other areas of our campus, based on our greatest capital needs.*

tillers INTERNATIONAL

Leave your permanent mark on the Tillers International campus! Your tax-deductible gift will fund the construction of the Dick Roosenberg Pavilion and Giving Vine. Each handcrafted leaf will be custom engraved and woven into the living garden arbor. If you have questions about any of these giving options or would like assistance selecting the best method for your charitable goals, please contact our Development Team at **269.626.0223**.

Scan the QR code below to give online, return the enclosed commitment form, or call 269.626.0223 to speak with a member of our Development Team.

Tillers International
10515 East OP Ave
Scotts, MI 49088
269.626.0223

Allysa Bengtsson
Director of Development
Abengtsson@tillersinternational.org