



## **Vannesa Henneke**

Mrs Henneke is co-founder of TIST, The International Small Group and Tree Planting Program, and has worked on all aspects of the program since its inception. She served as the first Chairman of the Institute for Environmental Innovation (I4EI) and is currently Executive Director of I4EI. She also currently serves as a senior advisor, seminar leader and trainer with a focus on encouraging and empowering the women of TIST.

Since Mrs. Henneke and her husband Ben began TIST, it has grown dramatically. After almost 20 years it supports the tree planting and sustainable development activities of more than 93,000 subsistence farmers in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and India.

Mrs. Henneke began her career in New York as a film and tape producer and editor, then moved to South America. Upon her return to the United States, she was a successful small-business owner in Charlottesville, Virginia for more than two decades. She has worked in public relations and education in national legislatures representing farmers and environmental issues. As a trained peacemaker and conciliator with families in crisis, she began a ministry for stepfamilies and facilitated workshops, classes and conference presentations. Mrs. Henneke continues to facilitate and conduct workshops, training sessions and planning seminars in the U.S. and East Africa, incorporating her extensive experience in small-group best practices.

Mrs. Henneke is active in music and church organizations, is a Catechist in the Diocese of Mpwapwa, Tanzania, a chaplain, and is a Hospice volunteer on the island in Maine where she and her husband reside. They have 5 grown children. She enjoys hiking, snowshoeing, singing and writing children's stories. She received a bachelor of arts degree from Smith College.