

NEWS

Disability is not Inability

Since 1999 Workaid has been supporting Tegemeo Disabled Person's Self-Help Group (TDPSP) in Nakuru, Kenya, to prove that "disability is not inability". By equipping this vulnerable group with practical skills you empower them to be self-reliant, minimising dependency on their relatives and charitable support. Workaid has provided donations of equipment which TDPSP uses to train disabled people to work from home, helping them with employment and reducing poverty.

The group's chairman, Richard Tirop, himself disabled, is an active voice for the disabled community in Nakuru. Unfortunately, following the 2007/2008 post-election violence in the region, all the group's activities were brought to a standstill due to the loss of tools and materials. In 2010 Workaid was able to provide some assistance through a donation of assorted Tool

Kits. This allowed the group to remobilise and reorganise their skills training programmes in 2011. Currently, the group offer skills training in carpentry and joinery, metalwork and fabrication, welding, leatherwork and tailoring. Most of their beneficiaries have minimal formal education, so practical trade skills are invaluable in improving their lives and livelihoods.

Since 2011 the group has welcomed more than 60 trainees a year. After an initial six months of training, they are introduced to established workshop owners to acquire the necessary business skills and engage in paid piece-work assignments. In recognition of the group's efforts, local leaders support the project by sponsoring the trainees. TDPSP have also participated in local exhibitions to showcase their products and have been awarded trophies and certificates.



Richard recently got in touch to share some photos of the trainees at the workshop

AREA ORGANISER Focus

Trevor Kipling, Skipton



This month, we are delighted to feature Trevor Kipling, one of our wonderful Area Organisers who has volunteered as an AO for five years. Trevor is a retired teacher in his 70th year, living in a village on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales. We asked Trevor to tell us about his journey with Workaid:

"A friend of mine, Richard Harland, who was in his 80s, had been a Workaid collector for some time but felt that he wasn't able to continue doing it. In 2013 I offered to take over from him. My first job was to clear his chicken shed of a considerable amount of collected tools.

Fairly early on I decided that Workaid needed some publicity so I got in touch with our local newspaper, the Craven Herald, and suggested they wrote an article. Some people cut out the article and kept it safe and years later donated tools, able to contact me from the cutting. I love the whole idea of what Workaid does & this is reflected in the comments that people make to me when they are



donating tools. Often the tools had belonged to parents or partners who have died and the donor says "He/she would be glad they're being put to good use".

In April 2016 my wife and I were invited to the celebrations in Chesham marking 30 years of Workaid where we were shown around The Old Boot Factory and wondered at the efficiency of the operation to get donations to recipients.

With the advent of the internet and the ability to Google "tools for charity" and be taken to the interactive map on Workaid's website my donors have continued to be frequent and enthusiastic. I am amazed at the distances that people are prepared to travel in order to bring their tools to me.

My reward for all this is loving the ethos of Workaid and speaking to the donors and hearing their stories. Sometimes the handing over of tools is accompanied by the shedding of a few tears on the part of the donors and by me."

ACTION for Ingwavuma



The Fancy Stitch ladies with the fabric donated by Workaid

Action for Ingwavuma is a small UK registered charity working in the remote Lebombo Mountains in the province of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Focused around a small cluster of shops and amenities, the settlement lies scattered over a 60km radius and supports around 120,000 inhabitants. The people of Ingwavuma suffer extreme poverty, with 40% of the community being HIV-positive. Average life expectancy is 39 years, and as a result, many children are left orphaned and fend for themselves. Action for Ingwavuma funds water projects, community gardens, a women's self-help group, orphan support, food supplements, school uniforms, individual sponsorship etc. They have worked with this community for nearly fourteen years. Following a recent

visit by Marcelle from Action for Ingwavuma to Workaid's Chesham workshop, we donated a sewing machine, embroidery cottons and scissors to Fancy Stitch, a self-help, income generation and skills development initiative for women living in Ingwavuma. Fancy Stitch members create high quality, artistic greeting cards, picture frames and clothing. Having started with 27 members in September 2001 and Fancy Stitch now has more than 400. The dedication, talent and community amongst the members is inspiring. These characteristics, combined with a dynamic vision for the future, makes this an exciting and inspirational development initiative. We are hopeful that these donated items from Workaid will make a big difference to the Fancy Stitch women.

KASESE DISTRICT WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES (KADIWOD)

Kasese District Women with Disabilities (KADIWOD) in Western Uganda is a project that aims to empower women with disabilities through training in tailoring and knitting. Operating since 2006, it has partnered with Workaid in the training of 35 women and ten girls with disabilities. Workaid has previously provided the project with sewing machines, knitting machines and typewriters to help KADIWOD meet their objectives. Giving girls and women with disabilities knowledge and skills, not only helps alleviate unemployment and poverty but also changes mindsets. KADIWOD creates a spirit of self-worth and cooperation using informal education as a liberating force for achieving social justice,

economic growth and self-reliance. Women and girls with disabilities are among the most illiterate and vulnerable people in Kasese due to negative cultural norms and beliefs that impact on their lives. KADIWOD hopes that the project will empower the disabled through activating their talents, with knowledge and skills in vocational training. Mobilising the community, they hope to increase acceptance, recognition and respect for these women. Going forward, KADIWOD are looking to open up more training centres that are closer to their beneficiaries. This would ideally entail four new centres in four separate constituencies in the Kasese District.



KADIWOD

STATS from 2017

Since Workaid was founded in 1986, more than...

150,000 people have learnt a trade using the things we have sent, using more than...

20,000 sewing machines

13,000 tool sets

10,000 typewriters

5,000 knitting machines

Sent in over **100** of our own containers!

Based on the 2017/18 year, each year there are approximately...

8,000 direct beneficiaries

In **160** projects, using...

80 tonnes of unwanted items saved from landfill and refurbished by

275 volunteers, with more than...

2,000 years of experience of volunteering at Workaid, in...

8 x 20 foot containers.

All this with less than...

4 full-time equivalent employees and

£0 government or endowed income



KEEPING in touch

As you know, Workaid changes the lives of thousands of disadvantaged people by providing them with the tools they need to learn a skill.

In order for us to do this we would like to contact you from time to time to update you on the work that we are doing as well as giving you the opportunity

to volunteer or fundraise for us. To assist with this, if you are happy to keep hearing from us then we really need you to complete the enclosed form and send it back to us in the SAE provided. It's only by spreading the word that we can continue to do what we do! Thank you in advance.

Practical Gifts for all occasions!

Stuck for gift ideas for special occasions such as a Birthday, Anniversary, or Graduation? Why not give a loved one the gift of life changing tools, a haberdashery kit or even a sewing machine? With Workaid's Practical Gifts, you can do just that:

HABERDASHERY KIT: £10

Just £10 allows us to supply a haberdashery kit to help a women's co-operative establish their business.



SHIP A BOX: £15

£15 helps us to cover the cost of shipping a life-changing kit to those in need.



KNITTING MACHINE: £25

One machine enables a group of women to set up a business making school jumpers.



SEWING MACHINE: £25

Refurbish and ship a sewing machine, enabling an AIDS widow to start a business to support her family.



Please go to our website to find out more. We are building the easy option, to enable you to buy a practical gift online!

www.workaid.org

Volunteer!

Whether you are out of work, retired or between jobs, come and join us as a volunteer! Hours are flexible to suit your lifestyle, so come and visit us at the Old Boot Factory to have a chat – we would love to meet you and introduce you to our friendly team!

We have a variety of roles in tool refurbishment, the office and the shop. If you're not near Chesham, you can always become an Area Organiser – just give us a call!

Volunteer testimonies:

“Having recently retired, I was looking around for a charity to join and was aware of Workaid. I went along to volunteer, the wonderful smell of oil, old tools, friendly people, what more could you ask for? Not to mention the free tea and biscuits!”

- Neil Taylor

Hive Update: Open Day, Crafts

Workaid is always abuzz with activities in the Hive! The second Annual Crafts Open Day took place on 2nd December 2017. It was a chance for 14 different tutors and artists to demonstrate their crafts, allow visitors to join in, take a tour, enjoy refreshments, a raffle and sales tables.

Workaid also hosts regular Craft Supplies Sales, where everyone is invited to take advantage of various haberdashery, crafts and more on offer.

As always our Crafts classes are a big hit, and offer our supporters the chance to gain new skills, such as 'Beginners' Crochet' and 'Spanish Conversation' with our very own Rosa Maria Welsh. For more information on Crafts Sales and Events, visit www.workaid.org and click on 'Crafts'.

Partnership with Amersham Museum

Workaid is in the early stages of a partnership with **Amersham Museum**. Together, we will be curating an exhibition from 2nd May to 4th June on the History of Workaid to celebrate the theme of 'the benefits of volunteering'. Visitors to the exhibition can expect to engage with an array of interactive stations where they can learn about Workaid's tools refurbishment activities, photos from the archives and a range of interesting exhibits.

