

NEWS

Richard in Tanzania

This June our Production Manager, Richard Fitzgerald, visited several projects in Tanzania that we have supported with tools and equipment. Between Dar es Salaam and the city of Moshi, nearly 300 miles to the north in the Kilimanjaro region, Richard and his wife, Sarah, visited four projects - the Universal Ministry of Africa Trust, the Rafiki Project, St Gertrude's Girls' Secondary School and the Tanzania Rural Empowerment Organisation. Each of these diverse projects has benefited from numerous Workaid donations of sewing and knitting machines, carpentry and tool kits.

"One of the most interesting things for me", says Richard, "was to see that within these communities there are two types of project. On one hand, there are small groups and individuals who use a grassroots approach to improve lives in the

local community, and alongside those there are larger training projects that focus on vocational skills and aim to spread the benefits of their work across a wider geographical area."

In Moshi Richard was also delighted to meet a prospective in-country partner, Thadei Msumanje, who has set up the Tanzania Rural Empowerment Organisation.

So what was Richard's overriding impression? **"It was wonderful to see people with such a passion for developing their own community"**, he said. "They have the vision. It's just a matter of helping them to achieve that vision by ensuring that they have the tools and equipment they need."

Container Bartholomew is being filled for Tanzania and is due to be shipped at the end of October.



Richard with project leaders

VOLUNTEER Focus

Barbara: The Hub



Six years ago the Hub was opened at Workaid. A volunteer where I worked in social care, told me that Workaid was looking for someone to set up the Hub.

The new unit was to provide supported work experience for people with learning disabilities (usually college leavers). My background in social care consisted of working with all types of vulnerable adults, including those with learning disabilities. However all my training, an NVQ3, BA Hons and many years working in social care did not give me the knowledge to know what a socket or a sprocket was! It was very much learning on the job and still is on the technical side - it is never too late to learn! I am eternally grateful to the patient people who show me how to do it so that I can in turn show my attendees.

Sandy and Chif were our first attendees and we have had up to 9 placements over two days - on Mondays and Tuesdays. Some people come through the

Hub for a short time, maybe just a few weeks, but most stay with us for much longer. Over the years three different students from Heritage House School have joined us in the Hub. As a result Heritage House have recently set up their own Hub and my team will get the work ready for the staff to take back to school.

We work with only a few clients at a time, so we can give them individual attention. For example, it is very important to one client, who comes to the workshop from a day-centre, that his work is set up in a particular way, so that is what we do.

We have tackled many jobs, from tools sorting to laminating and mailshots. No job is too small or tedious. I am especially proud that we have been supported by Sue in sewing machines to clean and service the machines, under strict and patient supervision in the sewing machine section.

The Workaid Hub has helped all clients/attendees to gain confidence, develop soft skills in communication, how to behave at work, and work together as a team. The feedback from parents and carers has been very positive and they can see a difference in the attendees who have become more self-assured through working in the Hub. We have a really happy team spirit and the enjoyment of a job well done.

Dijeji Comfort Rescue Centre, Kenya



David Wanyoni

David Wanyoni is one of Workaid's longest-standing friends and partners, with a connection dating right back to 1989.

At the age of four, David suffered from polio and lost the use of his legs. When he grew too heavy for his mother to carry, she built a cart to push him to school in. In spite of everything, he went on to study tailoring and entrepreneurship, and ended up establishing his own tailoring business. He also raised a family of four children, and put them through school himself.

David's business suffered a big blow when his sewing machine was stolen during a period of violence that followed national elections, but Workaid was



able to supply him with a replacement – and then, as the business grew, with five more machines.

David never thought of himself as disabled, and was more concerned about the plight of the many local children who had been orphaned. With the help of equipment donated by Workaid, he set up a project to support them, making and selling a great variety of clothing as well as bedlinen and other products. The business has flourished, and now provides support and training for as many as fifteen young orphans.

David wrote recently to update us on how things have been going:

We are doing very well with our project and happily send our heartfelt appreciation to you over your dear assistance of tools/machines to us.

I honourably wish to report that we received all the boxes sent through Workaid Regional office-Nairobi. The donation consignment reached us all and there was none missing. Thanks very much and God bless Workaid organization dearly.

Ifunda Mission Vocational Training Centre, Tanzania

The Vocational Training Centre, or VTC, was one of the first projects realised by Walser's Tanzania Charity. In 1995 a team of craftsmen from Germany, together with a local team, spent eighteen days building a dormitory which now forms part of the of the VTC.

In 1998 another German team spent two weeks building and equipping the workshops, and several containers of carpentry, welding machinery and sewing machines were shipped from Germany. The VTC has continued to expand and develop its facilities, and it now provides a fantastic learning centre. 100 students study here to obtain practical qualifications in carpentry, metalwork & welding, electrical installation or tailoring. They study for three years, aiming to gain a National Vocational Level II Award.

The centre is owned and operated by the Parish of Ifunda and is working towards being self-financing. It continues to receive support from the Walser Charity to ensure that it's well equipped and that it creates a positive

environment for its students. All the same, it's a real challenge to provide sufficient tools to enable students to gain practical hands-on experience in their trade and to ensure that enough machinery is available for teaching.

We received this feedback:

Workaid is an amazing charity and we are extremely grateful for their support.

The tools that Workaid sent in February have been extremely gratefully received by the teachers and students. The tailoring students have been able to learn new techniques with an overlocker machine, and the carpentry and welding students have made good use of their tools in practical sessions in the workshops.

To raise funds the VTC takes on contract work making items such as school benches, window frames and school uniforms. The availability of tools is key to ensuring that the centre can complete these contracts, gain practical experience and ultimately become self-financing.



Ifunda Mission Vocational Training Centre, Tanzania

Heritage House School, Chesham



Workaid has recently joined in a partnership with Heritage House School to offer students with severe learning disabilities the opportunity to undertake repair and refurbishment of a range of tools. When the work is complete, the tools will be shipped to Africa to support local projects.

Workaid's General Manager, Rob Levine, declared Workaid@Heritage House officially open for business. It will provide the charity with its first hub outside the Townsend Road workshop.

Jacqueline Clearkin, Heritage House's Interim Head said "We are delighted for our students to gain expertise in the different skills and we are very proud of our students and of our new partnership with Workaid."

Crafts at Workaid



April 2018 saw the crafts team at Workaid celebrate its fifth birthday, and in those five years its membership has grown to almost 500.

Each month more than 60 people take part in our craft activities.

Through the classes, many more people have become aware of Workaid and what it does, and several of the crafters have gone on to become regular Workaid volunteers. Crafters regularly get together in the crafts room, known as The Hive, and have fun in a wide range of courses working to create beautiful objects. In some cases, Workaid can sell the finished products to help with fundraising. If you want to know more about the courses, please have a look on the website.

Amersham Museum



During May and June, Workaid teamed up with Amersham Museum to bring local residents a fantastic exhibition showcasing the charity's origins and some of the notable achievements over the last 32 years. There were stories from some of our partner projects in East Africa and a time-lapse video showing Workaid volunteers getting container Emmanuel ready for shipping to Zambia, which you can find on our website.

The exhibition also featured several interactive displays, including a typewriter that played different interview clips with our volunteers depending which key was pressed.

We were delighted to be able to show the people of our home community the work we do and the superb contribution our volunteers make to that work.

Chif's Challenge



On Saturday the 9th of June Chif, one of our fantastic volunteers from the Hub, hosted a 26 mile walk from Holmer Green to Windsor Castle.

The walk raised over £22,000 for New Life, a charity that supports disabled children. Congratulations, Chif!

Chif was supported by lots of the Workaid volunteers where he has made many friends. Our volunteers have many talents, if you would like to become a volunteer and use those talents or learn new ones, please contact admin@workaid.org. You will make friends for life too!

Chif is pictured here with fellow volunteer Alastair who joined him for the walk.

TOGETHER WE CAN CONTINUE TO CHANGE LIVES FOR THE BETTER

The Big Give 2018: Zambian Prison project



**27th November
to
5th December**

The Big Give is an amazing philanthropic organisation in the UK through which charities can double the money they raise for specific projects. We're participating in their **Christmas Challenge** again this year, to raise money to support vocational training projects in prisons in Zambia. By gaining real skills, prisoners have a much better chance of getting back on the straight and narrow when they are released. Have a look at our project by searching for Workaid at thebiggive.org.uk – we will send out more information nearer the donation period which runs from **27th November to 5th December**.

We have again received champion funding and can raise even more with your help. Please consider supporting this initiative.

The difference Workaid makes

Our whizzy new volunteer in IT, Jason has improved how we receive feedback from projects. As just one example we now know from the Superwomen Muhimbili Group in Tanzania who received a consignment in 2015, that:

- **77** more people received training as a result of what they received from Workaid
- **10** have shared their new skills with other people
- **20** are selling items towards their household income
- **15** are making items they use
- **5** more are in paid employment

We are working to aggregate this feedback so we can say more about our impact.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Have a look at our new online Practical Gifts option in the 'Shop' section of the website.

A great gift idea at any time of year! www.workaid.org

In memoriam | **Patron Colin Morris**

One of our much loved patrons, Colin sadly died on 20th May 2018. He was a Methodist Minister and came to Workaid's attention (and that of millions of others!) through his Thought for the Day contributions on Radio 4.

He had real passions for Africa and against racism, and was a lovely down to earth committed patron. He will be sorely missed and our thoughts are with his wife Sandy and family.

In memoriam | **Brian Atkins**

Sad news that Brian, a former trustee, died recently. Brian was passionate about Tanzania in particular, and was the driving force behind a great project in Ibihwa near Dodoma.

He arranged a visit for Claire and Rob in 2013 and his passion, ability to connect with people, and understanding of the working ways of Africa really shone through. Our thoughts are with his daughter Helen and family.