



# TOOLS FOR SELF RELIANCE

Practical help for practical people



## FORGING LINKS NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2019

### REMARKABLE PEOPLE BREAKING GENERATIONS OF POVERTY

It would have taken them over two years to be able to save and buy their quality sewing machine.

But thanks to a thoughtful supporter donating their old Singer sewing machine, five tailors are now building a livelihood for their 17 children and families.

Before training to be tailors, Memory, Violet, Bertha, Fanny and their families didn't have an income and were farming; trying to feed their children with just the maize, rice and cassava that they grew to eat. Thomas earned a very small wage from cleaning plastic bottles, but his family also relied mainly on subsistence farming.

#### Couldn't afford to go to school

All group members had dropped out of school when they were young because their families couldn't afford to continue sending them. Memory didn't attend school beyond the age of 13 and she herself could only afford for her youngest son to finish.

#### Skills for life

Memory has been dreaming her whole life that something like this would happen so that she could feed her family.

None of the group had ever used a sewing machine before. And on their first day of training, delivered by our partner YOHAD, Fanny told us that she learnt the different parts of a machine. In the first month they learnt how to cut and sew on paper. First learning how to make a dress, then they all learnt confidently how to make men's, women's and children's clothes.

Towards the end of the training they were able to make things to sell and One Love Tailoring business was established.

#### Ending the cycle of poverty

Now One Love Tailoring group is a profitable tailoring business run from Memory's home, generating enough income for all members to take an equal monthly salary AND build up their savings account to invest in the future of their business.

***"I have been able to buy all of my children shoes so they are no longer bare foot."***

Memory



#### A sustainable income means children to school

Fanny can now afford to pay for her children's school fees, ensuring they finish their education, even though Fanny and her parents before her couldn't.

Violet's four children and husband can eat everyday and she no longer worries about feeding them.



Their additional income means that all five group members are supporting their families and saving for the future to end the cycle of poverty which stopped them from going to school and gaining an education.

***"I feel so good."*** - Thomas

## YOUR POSTCARDS HAVE ARRIVED IN GHANA

Your postcards with messages of encouragement were hand delivered to new graduates on our recent project evaluation visit to Ghana.

Last Christmas you responded to our appeal with a flurry of warm and supportive messages. Perhaps you may never meet each other, but your kind thoughts have travelled thousands of miles to the people you have supported in transforming their futures.



Gloria Brempong, Tailor



Yahaya Zakaria,  
Masonry graduate from Ghana



Yahaya reading his  
message of encouragement



Josephine Doh, Tailor

## WE SAY GOODBYE TO OUR EUROPEAN VOLUNTEERS

Lilian from Germany, and Yvonne and Erik from Austria joined the Tools for Self Reliance team last October to live and volunteer in the UK through the European Voluntary Service programme with Erasmus+.

Their daily schedules were busy with refurbishing sewing machines and hand tools before packing toolkits to be sent to our projects in Africa. The intergenerational working element of the project had many benefits for Erik, Lillian and Yvonne. They have gained not only skills, but friendships from working alongside the daily volunteers.

Yvonne and Erik learnt how to weld with John. And Lillian employed her passion for organising to create storage space in the workshop. It wasn't all work though! The three took every opportunity to explore sights near and far whilst living at Netley Marsh.



Yvonne enjoyed scuba diving off the Devonshire coast, walking in Tenerife, and tried kick boxing. Lillian fell in love with Glasgow, her passion for art took her to London to wander the galleries and coffee shop hop. Erik climbed Snowdon, got involved with Rotaract and began training for his biggest adventure yet (see below)!

We wish them every success as they embark on their next ventures at university and further travels.



### 1000 MILES TO CYCLE HOME

Sponsor Erik as he embarks on his 1000 mile cycle home from the UK to Linz, Austria, to support other young people look forward to a bright future.

Pledge a penny per mile he pedals on his Just Giving page:  
[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/eriksjourney](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/eriksjourney)

## TEA FOR TOOLS 2019 A RECORD BREAKING BAKE-OFF!

This summer saw the return of our annual Tea for Tools fundraising tea party week – and it was the biggest yet.

Bakers and donaters - you did us proud. From all your generous donations you have raised a grand total of just over £8000, nearly three times more than last year's Tea for Tools Week.

We cannot thank you enough for responding to our call to host a coffee morning or tea party to support young people in Africa look forward to a bright future.

Seasoned Tea for Tools hosts dusted off their bunting, and new supporters from Carlisle to Southampton hosted new events to raise vital 'dough'.



A clothes swap party, willow weaving, birthday lunches, annual friend catch ups, church afternoon teas, garden parties (with the queen) and a school tea party are just a few of your wonderful Tea for Tools events held this summer. One pot of tea won't change the world. But many pots shared together are life changing for the individuals you are supporting. **Thank you.**

We hope you all had fun and we look forward to more baking for our extra special 40th anniversary Tea for Tools in 2020!

## A GIFT THAT WILL LAST FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

We are so grateful for each of you who has supported every single opportunity for people living in Africa to earn an income over the last 40 years. We want to be here for the next 40, but we can't do it without you.

**Your 1% gift in your will can last a lifetime.**

Ensuring that our loved ones are looked after when we are gone is so important to us all. Leaving just 1% of your estate to Tools for Self Reliance when you are making your will could make the biggest impact to transforming so many young people's lives, empowering them with the skills and tools to earn an income and break the cycle of poverty.

**It only takes three minutes of your time to leave a legacy that will last their lifetime.**

All you need to amend your existing will is to give your solicitor our charity number; 280437 and registered address; Tools for Self Reliance, Ringwood Road, Netley Marsh, Southampton, SO40 7GY.

To have a confidential conversation, and an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about leaving a legacy, with no commitment, please contact Jemma Chambers, Head of Fundraising, on **023 80869697** or email **Jemma@tfsr.org**



Ziblim and Seidu, tailoring graduates from Ghana

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## CRAFT 2 CRAFT

Monthly craft sessions all held at our Netley Marsh workshops, 2-4pm.

 **THURS 19 SEPT, 3 & 17 OCT - Intro to patchwork skills (Three part special)**

 **THURS 21 NOV - Christmas decorations**

 **THURS 12 DEC - Natural wreath making**

 **26 OCT - Haberdashery Sale**

10am-12 at Netley Marsh Workshops, SO40 7GY

 **2 NOV - Tool Sale**

10am-12 at Netley Marsh Workshops, SO40 7GY

Visit our website for a full list of events: [www.tfsr.org/support/events](http://www.tfsr.org/support/events)

Please note: some events may be subject to change – please do contact us with any questions.



## WE ARE TURNING 40



Next year we would love for you to join us in celebrating 40 years of Tools for Self Reliance supporting practical help for practical people for people in Africa.

Dance at our ball, abseil down a tower, and take on a challenge to celebrate 40 years of practical help for practical people to end the cycle of poverty.

**Coming soon** - Look out for the full calendar list of events on our website to come along to and get involved with throughout 2020. [www.tfsr.org/support/events](http://www.tfsr.org/support/events)

## DONATE YOUR BIRTHDAY ON OUR BIRTHDAY

**Celebrate good times!** And share the joy by swapping a gift-list of stuff for a list of opportunities from our virtual gifts found on our online shop [www.tfsr.org/shop](http://www.tfsr.org/shop)

Just £10 will equip a tailor, and £27 equip a carpentry business.

**Why not share the love and donate your birthday, wedding, or anniversary to Tools for Self Reliance. It's easy to set up a Facebook donate page – please email [Julia@tfsr.org](mailto:Julia@tfsr.org) or call us on 02380 869697 to find out more find out more.**

**Tools for Self Reliance**  
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