

FORGING LINKS NEWSLETTER SPRING 2021

2021 has begun with positive change for so many young people's lives. As some begin their vocational training, others are newly graduated and setting up their first enterprises which will support themselves and their families with reliable incomes.

ONE LOVE – HOW ROBERT'S TRAINING OPPORTUNITY CREATED A BUSINESS FOR THE FAMILY

At the beginning of March last year, 20 year old Robert Kikonyogo welcomed us into his well-appointed motorbike repair shop. Robert established 'One Love' auto mechanic bike garage just months after graduating, along the bustling main road of his home in Uganda, two hours east of Kampala.

"Tools have made me what I am now."

He applied for the training project as soon as he heard about the opportunity because mechanics was in his heart and this was what he has always wanted to do. Robert lived with his father, sister and brother; his mother had sadly passed away when he was 19. The household didn't have a reliable income, and they depended on the food they grew to sustain them.

Motorbikes are in his heart

As is the case for many of the young people who join our vocational training projects, Robert was unable to finish school as his parents couldn't afford to send him.

"It feels good to be granted the chance to learn".

He enjoyed nine months of practical training at T A Crusade's centre, followed up by a three-month work placement which gave Robert vital on-the-job training skills. Trainees are encouraged to pass their skills forward and take on apprentices when they graduate. Robert's younger brother Nico has joined the new family business and is learning a whole raft of new skills.

"You're the boss. There isn't stress and you save so much money."

Robert learned the value of saving and reinvesting in his business and life skills training. So now he is using his income to reinvest back into his business and has stocked his shop with a huge array of parts. Offering a one stop shop for parts and the service to fit and repair motorbikes, Robert has a steady stream of customers, keeping him and Nico busy.

Over the next year he wants to continue elevating his business. He would like to build an outside shade shelter, increase the amount of stock he has and continue to train his brother.

His training opportunity is not only supporting him and his family today, but he can plan for his future, and put his dreams into action. He is working hard towards buying land and building his own house.



Robert's (seen on the right) thriving auto mech garage and part shop is providing him and his brother Nico (seen on the left) with a fulfilling and sustainable livelihood.

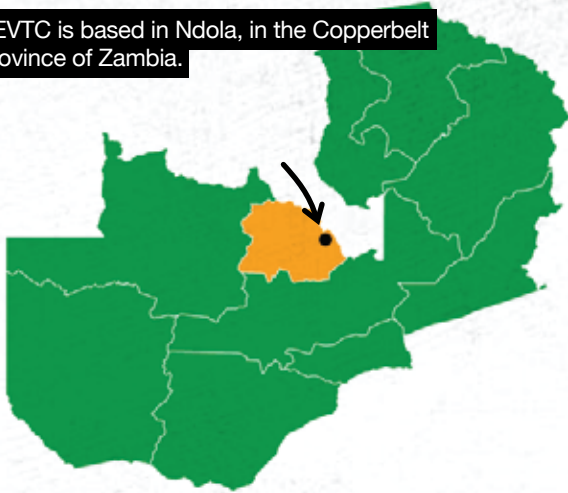
TRAINEES BUILD TOILETS FOR LOCAL SCHOOL IN ZAMBIA

Project: Integrated school water, sanitation and hygiene initiative and livelihoods development project

Training partner: Kabushi Entrepreneurship and Vocational Training Centre (KEVTC) has partnered with Tools for Self Reliance since 2009.

Location: Kabushi, Zambia Project duration: January 2020 – December 2020

KEVTC is based in Ndola, in the Copperbelt province of Zambia.



57 young people overcame a really challenging year of training during the pandemic, to not only learn technically challenging trade skills but to use them to improve sanitation facilities at the local Dambo Combined School.

Before building the new pit latrine block the school had inadequate toilet and hand washing facilities which meant pupils were vulnerable to diseases like cholera and diarrhoea, impacting both their health and education. Girls were doubly affected, as lack of facilities meant they often missed school during their period.



Trainees built new pit latrines at Dambo Combined School

Judy Bwalya is one of 20 tailor trainees who were actively involved in the sewing of 3,500 reusable sanitary pads which were donated to 1,385 girls at the school, as well as educational sessions to empower young women with information about menstrual hygiene.

Shop bought pads cost around 15 Zambian Kwacha for 10 - equivalent to about £1 - and most girls will never use these,

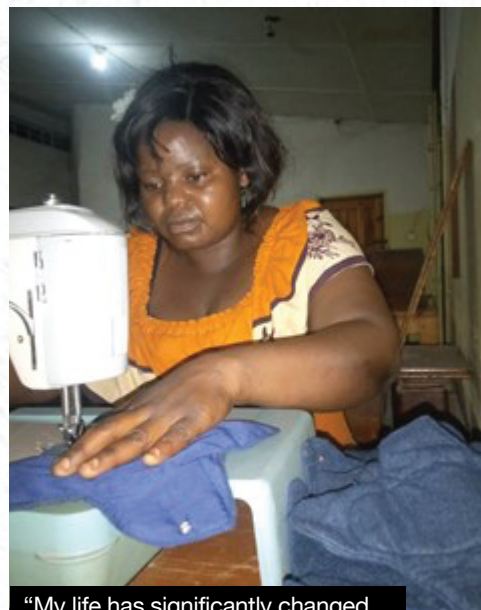
relying instead on bundles of rags, which are not efficient, carry risk of infection, and make them uncomfortable and self-conscious. Instead of enjoying school and focussing on their lessons, girls are worrying that they will stain their clothes and be teased – so frequently will instead miss school for up to a week. These absences mean girls fall behind, and often drop out altogether, as patchy attendance hinders their progress.

Many of the trainees were not able to finish school themselves, but their training opportunity means that thousands of local school children will have a better chance of completing their education.

A community success

The project has been such a success that other local schools have been in touch with KEVTC to talk about working together with future trainees, and the initiative has attracted praise and support from the Ministry of General Education.

Congratulations to each graduate who sat and passed their trade test!



"My life has significantly changed ... Now people admire me, and my family's life has improved." Judy



Tailor trainees outside ELIASHIB's training centre in Zambia

EMPOWERING WOMEN DURING A PANDEMIC

31 dedicated young women from Zambia completed their design and tailoring project with our long-standing training partner ELIASHIB and graduated in December 2020.



"My training was wonderful, and I am also planning on help others too." Ruth

The trainees learnt how to make a diverse mix of clothing for men and women as well as face masks, which were distributed in the local community. 25 hours of business training has equipped trainees with the skills to set up, register and maintain a successful business.

Their 25 days of life skills supported the trainees with counselling, HIV/AIDS prevention, health, equality, personal development, and important Covid-19 prevention practices.

"I couldn't make money and contribute to my family before but now I am able to do so." Ruth

After a celebratory graduation barbeque, the tailors have already formed eight work groups to work together and develop business partnerships.

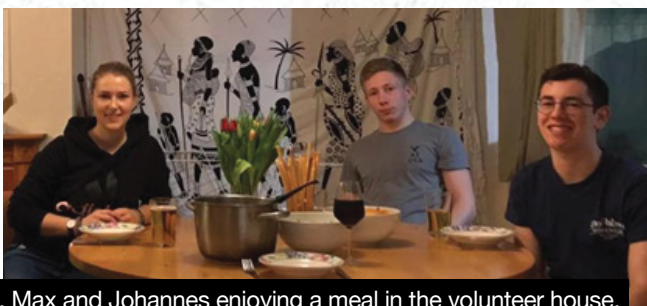
New European volunteers

We're looking forward to welcoming four new volunteers to the Netley Marsh workshop from Austria, Germany and Russia this Spring. To stay up to date with when the new volunteers arrive sign up to our e-newsletter at www.tfsr.org.



Ghana tool shipment

The UK lockdown brought a pause to tool collection, and tool refurbishing workshops have been temporarily closed around the UK. Without the help and skills of the daily volunteers at Netley Marsh, Stuart Bailey our workshop manager has been working solo to sort, construct boxes and pack kits for the next tool shipment to Ghana.



Ana, Max and Johannes enjoying a meal in the volunteer house.

ONLINE AUCTION 30 APRIL 2021

Are you missing our regular tool and haberdashery sales? We are too!

Don't miss our first online auction event on Friday 30 April at 10am. Covid safe, and a great opportunity to grab a bargain!

Sewing machines, vintage tools, garden tools, larger machinery, bulk buy items all for sale!

To register your interest visit www.givergy.uk/tfsr



SUMMER DRAW

Don't miss entering the Summer Draw! Tickets are only £1 each with your chance to win first prize £100 cash, second prize gift vouchers and many more.

Email Julia at julia@tfsr.org to request your tickets. For more info please visit www.tfsr.org/summer-draw

Leaving your legacy can take just 3 minutes

Can you leave 1% to support the next generation of a community? If you are passionate about people having equal opportunities to build a livelihood for themselves and their families, it takes just three minutes to update your will and leave 1%.

You just need our full address Tools for Self Reliance, Netley Marsh, SO40 7GY, our registered charity number 280437.

If you would like to have a confidential conversation, please email Jemma@tfsr.org or call 02380 869697. Thank you.

Help us to plan for the future - can you make a regular gift?

A small monthly gift set up via Direct Debit supports us to plan for the future and helps us to plan during challenging times like these.

It takes just 3 minutes to set up your gift today at www.tfsr.org/donate

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOYAL SUPPORT IN SUCH A DIFFICULT TIME. WE SIMPLY COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU.

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