



## Grand Opening!

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of April the **umojaja Youth Empowerment Centre** opened with 40 students aged 14-29 enrolled in free English, I.T and Key Skills courses. The students come to the Centre for 1 year where they gain the necessary skills that will enable them to continue on to further education, training or employment. The Centre is based in a suburb of Arusha, in a residential building. There are a number of outhouses in the compound, which were previously used as chicken sheds! However, after 4 weeks of hard work from volunteers and craftsmen the Centre is looking fantastic. One of the outhouses has been rendered, painted and converted into a classroom, desk and chairs for the classrooms have been produced, 10 computers have been installed in the computer classroom and a vegetable garden has been planted.



We interviewed many prospective students wanting to study at the Centre, who come from many different backgrounds, but have all faced similar barriers to attain a good education. Constraints at home and at school leave many young people unskilled and unemployed. The loss of parents has had a significant impact on many of our students who now live with extended family, often grandparents, who find it particularly difficult to meet the added food costs let alone any kind of educational assistance.

With good English language skills, Computer literacy and Key skills such as Small Business Management and Job Skills, they have the essential tools from which to build on and which local employers require.



From  
this to  
this!





Volunteers carrying sand!



Making windows!



Painting!



With the classrooms desks!



Our new Computer Classroom!



Key Skills class discussion!

## Beginners Class Student Profile

Pendo Shiwa originally comes from Baliad in Southern Tanzania, however since finding out about the Centre through her relative she decided to move hundreds of miles to Arusha. She now stays with her cousin so she is able to take part in this amazing opportunity to improve her skills. She is 20 years old and left School in 2003 when she failed her Secondary School entrance exam. This is a common problem for many young people due to the poor quality of education they receive and the lack of support or resources they have at home. Since 2003 Pendo has been at home helping her family on their *shamba* (small vegetable garden) and doing chores around the house. She has 2 brothers and 2 sisters and likes to sing in the church choir. She loves coming to the Centre because she has a 'passion for English'. In the future she would like to be a secretary.



We still have plenty of needy students who require a sponsor. Just think, for a small amount each month you will ensure a young person receives the tools for a successful future! If you would like to sponsor a student like Pendo please see our website for more details or contact us directly.

## New Teaching Staff!

2 teachers have been employed to teach our courses. They both have excellent teaching experience and have assisted vulnerable people in the past. Tumwijukye Lawrence (Right), the I.T teacher has spent time volunteering with HIV/AIDS organisations where he visited people suffering with the virus and gave them counselling. Voluntary work has also been important to Joesph Okotel (Left) who has previously organised HIV/AIDS awareness programmes which has affirmed his belief in helping others and working as a team.



## Solar Panel Installation at East Meru Primary School



Mary Simon & Ian Horne, Founders of the East Meru Primary School

With funding from Peace Child International, **umoja** completed the installation of 2 solar panels to bring simple lighting to a new school in rural Maruvango village north of Arusha. The village has no electricity which means that Secondary School pupils have no light to revise, study or complete homework once they finish the long walk back from their school. This has limited their educational performance, therefore reducing their chance of entering higher education. The solar energy powers 7 light bulbs which supply a maximum of 5 hours of light everyday in the 2 classrooms and school office.

This has enabled Secondary School pupils, young people and other village members to use the school during the evening to study and hold meetings on issues such as HIV and Malaria prevention and treatment. Over 1000 people have directly benefited from this project. **Thank you to Peace Child International!**

## Upcoming Events

- **Quiz Night 24<sup>th</sup> Brighton**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> April a Quiz Night is being held in Brighton, UK to raise funds for the **umoja Youth Empowerment Centre**. We hope it goes well and wish all the participants the best of luck!

- **The Juilliard School Arts Camp**

From May 17<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> the **umoja Youth Empowerment Centre** is fortunate to be hosting a group of 6 students from The Juilliard School, New York, USA. They will be conducting full day workshops with all of our students on activities such as acting, dancing and singing. The 2 weeks Arts Camp will end with a performance at a fundraising event in Arusha on the 30<sup>th</sup> May. Our students are extremely excited about the Arts Camp and are looking forward to it already.

## How You Can Help

- **Sponsorship**

For £16/\$35 AUS a month you can fund a young person's education at the Centre. Your sponsorship will make a huge difference to their future. You will receive information about the student and letters from them. You can also share the full sponsorship with a friend or family member, or we will find someone else who also wishes to half sponsor a student. Half sponsorship is therefore only £8/\$17 AUS a month. For more information please contact us.

- **Hold a Fundraising Event!**

You can hold your own fundraising event whether it is a car boot sale, a themed party, a sponsored cycle ride or something larger! We are extremely grateful to anyone who can raise any money for us and we will do everything we can to support you, by giving you ideas and information about the Centre.

- **Donate Now!**

You can donate now to fund the Centre and help us to continue our important work with young people. We rely on financial donations to keep the Centre running day to day, as well as starting health campaigns, supplying books for the library and resources for the teachers. You can donate either by sending a cheque to our addresses either in the UK or Australia or directly in to our bank accounts. Details of ways to donate are on our website.

### Postal Addresses:

#### For the UK:

Umoja  
58 Gough Way,  
Cambridge,  
CB3 9LN

#### For Australia:

Umoja  
Longleat Farm,  
Longleat Lane,  
Kurmond,  
NSW 2757



## Thank You!

We would like to give a special thank you to Lucy Goody, Spencer Davies, Lauren Burch, Sue & Chris Wagner, Emma Smith and our volunteers for all their fantastic support.



## Contact Us!

For general enquiries about sponsorship and the **umoja Youth Empowerment Centre** email [enquiries@umoja.com.au](mailto:enquiries@umoja.com.au)

You can email us directly at:  
[caroline@umoja.com.au](mailto:caroline@umoja.com.au)  
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