

umoja

together we can



www.umoja.com.au

Newsletter January 2009

Umoja Youth

Empowerment Centre

umoja has been assisting other organisations in Arusha for the last 6 months, whilst doing research and planning for a new education project to be managed by umoja. The **Umoja Youth Empowerment Centre (YEC)** will open in the beginning of the year to provide free vocational courses to young, disadvantaged people from Arusha. It will be a centre of learning and thinking that will empower young people to create change in their lives and the wider community. We aim to give young people the opportunity to find employment, while learning about issues that affect them everyday such as HIV/AIDs and issues in the wider world such as the environment and civil society. We are desperately looking for sponsorship for 80 young people to study at the centre. For only £16 a month you can directly fund a young person for their vocational training and ongoing support. The £16 will completely cover one students education and help pay for the day to day running of the centre. You can even share the full sponsorship with another person and pay only £8 a month. For more information please see the website or contact us directly.



New Website!

After months of anticipation our new fantastic website is online! Check it out now for information on the **YEC** including details on sponsorship, upcoming events, and ways you can help umoja! It has a PayPal facility, so you can donate online now and help reach our goal of educating 80 young people.



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Charity Status!

We are now registered as a local NGO in Tanzania and an Incorporated Association in Australia! In the UK we are currently applying for charity status, and hope to be approved in Spring, fingers crossed!

Successes Last Year!

Last year umoja had a number of successes working with other organisations in Arusha. The parishioners at St Marks Church, Cambridge, UK kindly donated £460 to the Future Happiness Orphanage for Young Ladies, which houses and educates 14 young girls aged 4--13. Educational materials, toiletries, clothing, bed linen and bulk food supplies were bought. It has made a big difference, enabling volunteers to teach more effectively and keep the children fit and healthy.



A proposal was also submitted to Peace Child International for funding to install solar panels to provide lighting at a Primary School in Maruvango village, north of Arusha. With electric lighting Secondary School students and other young people in the rural area will be able to use the school in after hours to study, complete homework and run workshops on health, the environment and community issues. We are delighted to say the proposal was approved and the installation will be completed in February.



Fair-Trade Products!

umoja fair-trade products will be available to purchase on the website at the end of February. These are carefully researched, hand crafted, local products, which are bought at a premium rate so that the suppliers can expand their businesses and support their families. Products include jewelry, leather sandals, cushion covers and clothing. All profits collected from the sales support the **YEC**.



Youth Survey!

Throughout October umoja carried out a survey in Arusha to establish the levels of education young people have reached and their interest in vocational courses. 600 young people aged 14-26 completed the survey. We were shocked to find that 10% of respondents had never had any kind of formal education. 57% were currently studying, but of the 43% who were not, only 10% were employed, highlighting the high level of unemployment in Arusha.



Most respondents had never done any vocational training, but 94% were interested in further education. Over 60% of those interviewed had no access to a computer, a library or information on their human rights or health issues. The **YEC** aims to provide these services in the future, so that young people can do their own learning and equip themselves for a safe and prosperous life.

Who We Are

Caroline Goody and Emma Wagner have been appointed Programme Managers for umoja. Between them they have worked for a number of non-government organisations around the world in a variety of development areas including HIV/AIDs education, relief work and in the renovation of primary schools.

Dancing for Umoja!

On the 20th December a Fundraising Ceilidh was held in Grantchester Village Hall, near Cambridge, UK to raise funds for umoja. The event included Scottish Dancing taught by Donald Green, a Wagner family friend and had a live band, as well as dinner, a raffle and an umoja fair-trade stall. Over 65 people came to the event, with people especially ladies being flung in every direction! The Ceilidh raised an incredible £900 and the fair-trade stall made £325. We are delighted and would like to say a big thank you to everyone who came on the night and to all of you who helped to make the event such a success!

Sponsored Climb Up Mt Kilimanjaro!

Emma Wagner, Programme Manager for umoja, completed her sponsored 6 day climb



up Mount Kilimanjaro on the 11th Dec, having reached the summit early on the morning of the 10th. It was a tough 6 days climbing and camping in very cold weather. The summit was -15°C! All the hard work paid off when she got to the top and saw the beautiful view of the crater and the clouds covering Tanzania below. The sponsorship money is still rolling in, but she estimates she will have raised a fantastic £576 for umoja.

Upcoming Events!

- The **HAT! WIG! WALK!** will be a 3 hour walk (approx.) on the 10th January starting at Taronga Zoo and finishing at Balmoral Beach in Sydney. The walk will include parts of the beautiful coastline and through National Parks. We hope to have a group of around 20 walkers, all sponsored to raise money for umoja. To make the walk a little more 'interesting', we will be wearing a hat or wig (the sillier, the better!). For more information please email Caroline Goody at caroline@umoja.com.au

- **Australian Bush Dance**

A bush dance is being held at the Windsor Polo Club, Richmond, NSW in aid of umoja. Tickets are \$45 and include an Argentinean style barbeque, a reception drink and entertainment from 'The McMahon Brothers'. Everyone is welcome! For more information and tickets, please email Ros Tomlinson at longleat@tpg.com.au

How You Can Help

- **Sponsorship**
For £16 a month you can fund a young person's vocational training and their participation in workshops which will encourage their awareness about health issues. Many young people in Arusha, lack the support and opportunity to fully understand HIV/AIDs and its impact it could have on their lives. We want to see as many young people as possible taking steps to change their behaviour as well as encouraging dialogue between

themselves, their friends and their families. 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 some one else who wishes to half sponsor a student. This will therefore only be £8 a month. For more information and to sign up to sponsor a student, please contact us.

- **Hold a Fundraising Event!**

You can hold your own fundraising event whether it is a cake stall, a coffee morning, a sponsored walk 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 project.

- **Donate Now!**

You can donate now to fund the **YEC** and help us to continue our important work with young people. We rely on financial donations to keep the **YEC** running day to day, and fund expansion projects, as well as starting health campaigns and new courses. You can donate in a number of ways such as through our website and PayPal facility, by sending a cheque to our addresses either in the UK or Australia or directly in to our bank account. Details of all these ways to donate are on our website.

Thank You!

We would like to say a big thank you to people who have offered their services and hard work to us free of charge. Trudy Pollard in Australia created our fantastic website and Creative Digital Printing in Shropshire, UK printed our brochures and posters which have enabled us to publicise and raise funds for umoja. Thank you so much!

Please see their websites for your website design and printing needs.

www.workingdogssolutions.com.au

www.creativedigitalprinting.com

Contact Us!

For general enquiries about sponsorship, the **YEC** and the fair-trade products email enquiries@umoja.com.au

You can email us directly at:
caroline@umoja.com.au
emma@umoja.com.au

Postal Addresses:

For the UK:

Umoja
58 Gough Way,
Cambridge,
CB3 9LN

For Australia:

Umoja
Longleat Farm,
Longleat Lane,
Kurmond,
NSW 2757

Thank you for supporting **umoja!**

