



# UMOJA ORPHANAGE KENYA

OCTOBER 2014

## IMPORTANT DATES

**OCT:** World's Biggest Dinner Party fundraising month

**NOV:** World Orphan's Day fundraiser at schools/ workplace

**31 DEC :** 4th volunteer tour departs Mombasa

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## FIRST CHILDREN'S HOME UNDERWAY



On 7 October 2014 construction commenced on the first children's home at the Umoja Children's Village—Ukunda. Cathy was so happy to be there in person to see the land being prepared for foundation of the house, which will eventually house up to 12 orphaned children. Jonaco Construction Company, who previously completed the internal brick fence, will continue to work on the housing project over the coming months. Cathy looks forward to returning to Kenya at the end of December with the fourth group of volunteers to see the finished home hopefully nearing completion. Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Raise

the Roof Appeal over the last three years. We have all worked so hard to get to this stage and we will continue to raise funds to complete this house & establish a safe and secure environment for our first children. [More photos on [Facebook](#)].



## RAISE THE ROOF BY HOSTING A DINNER PARTY THIS MONTH

Help us complete our building project by participating in the World's Biggest Dinner Party. Simply host a dinner party during the month of October (or Nov/Dec) in any form—from a backyard BBQ to a formal three-course meal—and collect \$20 from each dinner guest. Hosting a dinner party is a great excuse to catch up with friends any family and help a good cause. Sharing a meal with a roof over our heads is something that we take for granted in Australia, as many abandoned orphaned children walk the streets in Africa struggling to find enough food to survive. But taking the time to get together and raise funds can help us make a difference by providing an alternative to abandonment.



Visit our [website](#) to see how to register and you will receive a host kit, which includes a DVD with a welcome video from Umoja Director Cathy Booth and footage from Kenya, an Umoja brochure and a small gift from the Umoja Team.

Thank you to **John Sinnamon** and the **Rotary Club of Mitchelton** in Brisbane QLD for holding a dinner party at the Taverner Lounge and Dining Room. They raised over \$2700 and had 66 people attend their dinner. We are hoping to match last year's total of \$15 000 with 600 overall participants, so be sure to get involved if you can. Stay tuned for next month's newsletter about other dinner parties.



**RAWCS Project No:  
51/2011-2012**



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## UMOJA ORPHANAGE

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### JOIN THE NEXT VOLUNTEER TOUR IN DECEMBER

Do you want more than just another holiday?

Could a community benefit from your time and skills?

Then this is your chance to volunteer abroad with the RAWCS Volunteer Program.

The 4th Umoja Volunteer will depart from Mombasa at the end of December and will give you the opportunity to assist a community aid project.

Join like minded Rotarians and friends of Rotary in Mombasa on 31 Dec to em-

bark on a two week trip.

We are seeking at least 9 people with experience in building, farming and irrigation. Volunteers can be men or women but must be physically fit and able to work in the heat.

Umoja Director Cathy Booth will be the tour guide and your tour will also include a trip to a mentor orphanage and a 4-day wild-life safari at Tsavo Game Park.

E-mail [cathy@umojahome.com](mailto:cathy@umojahome.com) for more detailed information for the upcoming volunteer tour to Kenya.

A 5th tour is also planned for September 2015.



### CATHY VISITS PROJECT IN KENYA

Cathy has been in Kenya for three weeks overseeing construction and checking on farming and sustainability.

The plants are flourishing with the recent rains of the wet season (see capsicums, passion fruit and tomatoes on right), which are sold to the locals.

We have also hired our fourth employee, who will be the farm-hand who oversees the livestock. He is very happy to be working for Umoja.

A female guard dog named Nyota (Swahili for Star) and a



group of chickens now call Umoja their home, joining our three cows Meg Janice, Holly Sunrise and her calf Deano. The chickens are currently free to roam the land during the day and sleep inside at night.



Visit our [Facebook page](#) to see more photos of the progress and our new additions.

### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

In April this year a local man Yasri aged 22 visited the Umoja Health Clinic that was run by our volunteers. He had a horribly painful open wound on his leg that had been there for three years. This wound would have been fixed easily in Australia and would never have

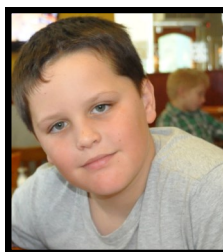
been able to progress this badly. But with medical supplies donated by Gladstone businesses we were able to help him & Cathy returned with compression bandages. Cathy was able to see how much his leg had healed recently, and the difference that 6 months of clean bandages and treatments had made was absolutely incredible. Thank you Bundaberg nurse Leanne Peterson. It is true you have saved Yasri's life.





### The Umoja team wish to thank the following people for their support:

- **Rockhampton Sunrise RC** for donating \$1000
- **Donna Munroe** for hosting a 'Chuffed' fundraising page towards our self-sustainability— goats & chickens.
- **Ashley Riley** for raising nearly \$3000 towards our building projects in Kenya by hosting a Trivia Night and Wax-a-thon in Brisbane
- **Nicki Staff** for volunteering at the Multicultural Festival
- **Wayne Limbrick** for organising the WBDP fundraiser
- **Lauren Dionysius, Greg Hills and Leonie Hills** for donating and organising mobile phones for our Kenyan caretakers and farm staff
- **RAWCS** for approving us a grant over \$2000 in a grant application
- **Rockhampton West RC** for donating \$1500 towards our self-sustainability
- All the generous people who have set-up ongoing monthly donations & donated online
- **Paul Flippo** for your wonderful donation.



- Thank you to everyone at **Gladstone RC** for raising over \$2000 at their Swap Meet towards our water tower which will also be constructed next year after our bore for water is drilled.
- **John and Rhonda Mack** from Victor Harbor, South Australia for donating \$1500 towards our chicken shed.
- Thanks to 12 year old **Tyler Booth** (Cathy's Grandson) staff & students at **Glenview State School**, Sunshine Coast for raising \$280 from a free dress say to purchase chickens and goats. You are champions.
- All the sponsors of our Golf Day (see next newsletter)

## UMOJA WRITING COMP

Congratulations to the winners of the Umoja Writing Competition:

1st— **Lauren Dionysius** 'Simply Ubuntu'

2nd— **Denise Cummings** 'Tumaini'

Both ladies generously donated their prize money back to Umoja. You can read their [winning stories here](#).

A huge thank you to **Donna Munroe** for organising this competition and to all the entrants. The writing competition will run again in February 2015.

## MULTICULTURAL

The Bundaberg Multicultural Festival, run by our sponsoring **Rotary Club of Bundaberg Sunrise**, is a fantastic annual event that celebrates all the wonderful cultures in the region.

We had a stall at the event this year selling African items, raffle tickets and sharing information about our project. Thank you to everyone who came and said hello to the Umoja Team.



**Cathy and Lesley—Multicultural Festival**

## SHIPPING CONTAINER ITEMS

We are so grateful for the following donations to our shipping containers waiting to be filled and sent to Kenya.

- **Lee Pino and Pat Dixon** for donating toys and clothes
- **Gladstone Midday RC and Gladstone Port Curtis RC** for their donation of shoes and books.
- **Heather Yarker** and the knitting ladies from **Coomera River RC** (and friends) and the knitting ladies from **Rotary Next Gen E-Club** for their donation or knitted toys/clothes
- **Nance & John Davies** from Gladstone for donating a motor bike for the project.

We **DO NOT** need any more rugs, toys or baby clothes.

We **DO** need good quality household items.

If you or your business would like to help us stock our containers with essential items that are needed for our first children's home, please consider donating these **new or in very good condition items**:

- ⇒ White goods
- ⇒ Kitchen and dining utensils
- ⇒ Furniture
- ⇒ Linen and bedding
- ⇒ Plastic storage containers
- ⇒ Building, farming tools, tractor
- ⇒ Generator/cement mixer
- ⇒ Mosquito nets

## UMOJA ORPHANAGE KENYA

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**Together we achieve the  
extraordinary**



Find us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/umojakenya](http://www.facebook.com/umojakenya)



*A bucket fills one  
drop at a time*

Why not get a school you know  
involved in World Orphans Day  
in the month of November.

As simple as holding a free  
dress day and donating a gold  
coin.

Why not have it at your work-  
place?

To register

[info@umojahome.com](mailto:info@umojahome.com)

## CATHY'S CORNER

It was fantastic to be on the ground in Kenya to see our first children's home begin construction. A very emotional day for me—3 years in the making, plus all the infrastructure that had to be built first before the house could begin. Unfortunately the drop in the Australian dollar to the USD has hit us hard in the exchange rate department as we pay for everything in Kenya in USD. It is disheartening to transfer funds across to Kenya and to lose so much, but there is little we can do except fundraise more to replace what we have lost into thin air.

Having the time to be able to visit other projects in Kenya this trip to continue building our knowledge of best practice to include the surrounding communities as well to provide training, medical help, jobs, and trade opened my eyes up to the potential of further improving lives. Important goals of Umoja are maintaining Kenyan culture, while using skills and technologies of our Western society to improve self-sustainability. Further developing our self-sustainability while partnering with others to train and advise our surrounding communities is being planned and implemented. Many meetings were held in Nairobi, Lake Naivasha and Mombasa, and further planning is in progress.



It was a wonderful day for me to have Mary & Kevin Maguire the owners of The Goodlife Orphanage north of Mombasa, who have been guiding and advising us since we began, come to spend a day at Umoja Project with me. It was even better to hear the encouraging and positive comments I received as to our progress to date, our fantastic fertile land, the quality of the crops we are producing, the completed internal compound, the healthy condition of our animals, and the value of having a great Project Manager. Mary & Kevin bought their farm manager and farm hand down with them and was great for our project manager to listen to knowledge from them, and share our permaculture practices in return. The 2 Kenyans from The Goodlife Orphanage had never seen drip irrigation before, the value of composting, or a greenhouse, so sharing of knowledge both ways was so exciting for me to witness, and for these men to have passion about the knowledge they were imparting to each other. Creating the Umoja Orphanage Project is by far the hardest thing I have ever done in my life, as doing anything in Africa is difficult beyond words, but without the constant support and kindness and help from you our sponsors, you keep inspiring me and the dream is becoming reality. I just love what I am doing and the lovely people I get to meet along the way.