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## FROM INCEPTION TO NOW

### Welcome / Karibu

*Umoja Orphanage Kenya's* first ever newsletter. We will look back on this in time to come and think, "Haven't we come a long, long way since then!"

Since I returned from Kenya on the 11th July 2011, after volunteering at an orphanage, I had not been able to let go of the untapped potential of so many children in need. I reflected on my own life and how fortunate I have been and how fortunate we are in Australia to have choices about how we live without ever thinking daily of the need to survive and how and where our next meal and shelter will come from. Just take a moment and imagine that.

And then the desire to build Umoja Orphanage Kenya began after a overwhelming continued feeling of compassion which



### A life destined for nowhere

wouldn't go away. I never thought about how enormous the task was ahead. I already knew that. If it were easy everyone would be helping home orphaned children and there would be no children in need of love, food, a home, and education. ***If there were nothing wrong in the world there would be nothing left for us to do.***

We all have so many different

strengths. As a teacher I see it every day, the child who is self confident, the quiet unassuming child, the child who is amazing with figures, the child who excels at some sort of sport or athletics, the child who never gives up until the puzzle is finished, the child who thinks outside the square, the child who is amazingly artistic, the child who writes creatively beyond their years, the child who is so quite, yet amazing at drama, the child who shows immense compassion to others. We are all so different but have so much to offer collaboratively as a human race for the greater good. One of my strengths is utter determination to achieve a goal.

Thankfully people with all different strengths are coming into my life to help children.

***Together we achieve the Extraordinary***

## THE JOURNEY BEGINS

To say the first weeks were hectic is an understatement. I had so much to find out as to how to set up a charity, the legal requirements, what is required and when, as well as creating a website design, colours, a name of the charity, logo, business cards, letterhead, mission statement,

write the content for the website, and have it proofread, as well as having a design created for calendars, Christmas Cards, Gift Vouchers, having them printed, working full time as a teacher librarian and helping care for my two grand children. It all seems so long ago now, and it is amazing how you can find the time to do

things when you have a passion about something. Many long hours and early 2-3am starts occurred in those weeks, and it all seems such a blur now. However I definitely think:

***"If you believe you can achieve."***

## DONATION FROM PAST STUDENT

### Chern'ee Sutton is nothing short of *EXTRAORDINARY*

I taught Chern'ee in year 3 at Walkervale State School where I am still a teacher. At such a young age her artistic talents were evident. She drew fairies, forests and dragons mainly from her imagination which were exceptional back then. She completed all her primary schooling at Walkervale and Chern'ee was always known as a caring, gentle, hardworking student. Her compassion towards others was beyond her

years. I had been wanting mural painted and had been thinking of several past students who had artistic talents and thinking about how and where I could contact them. I found out by accident that Chern'ee had been in the media with the success of several art pieces she had created, so I contacted her and her dad and asked if she could paint me a backdrop to help promote our Umoja Orphanage Project. The only requirements I gave Chern'ee was to have the logo on it somewhere

and to use the colours from the website. I was utterly in awe of what she produced **AND** Chern'ee donated the mural to Umoja. The lump in my throat felt like a golf ball and every time I looked at it I got tears in my eyes. **Chern'ee IS ONLY 14.** Read my blog on Umoja's website to find out more about Chern'ee and to see some of her art pieces and her exhibitions. I think you will agree Chern'ee has a wonderful future. I am **so** proud to have been part of her education.



Chern'ee on the left presenting her hand-painted mural to me at a presentation at Walkervale State School on 30.11.11

"Just imagine our world if everyone gave a little something".

**Chern'ee Sutton**



## AWARENESS VIA SOCIAL NETWORKING

Fundraising is a difficult thing. I've known just how difficult it is from the fundraising efforts we do at school for camps, P & C Association etc., and that is with *recognized charities and organisations*.

Imagine trying to begin from scratch and gain some credibility!

I had no prior experience on marketing a brand, charity or whatever to raise awareness and fundraise so it is all a STEEP learning curve for me. But, I am learning so much each and every day and it is really exciting when you know you are moving in the right direction, one step at a time. It is interesting that you think you are not really getting

the word out there, when indeed you are. The internet connects you nationally and globally so quickly, and donations start to come in from different parts of the world. Mostly at present it is word of mouth from friends and family, to other friends and their families and the ripple starts to spread. Me being me just wants a tsunami straight away and one thing is you have many forward steps and a few backwards to keep you grounded.

Facebook has certainly been Umoja's friend and will continue to be so. Setting up a Facebook page for Umoja has helped us

connect to many people we otherwise would not have had connections with. Personal Facebook also has connected me with people who know other people, who know other people who help in many different ways, whether it be fundraising suggestions, volunteering in the future at the orphanage, wanting to attend fundraising events, and numerous other ways, *Umoja* is always open to suggestions how to raise awareness further, with the outcome of raising more funds to build the orphanage within our set time frame.

# "RAISE THE ROOF FOR UMOJA" CAMPAIGN



**My daughter Rhiana  
and me**

The first of our fundraising events was the **"Tanzanian Trivia Challenge"** which was held Wednesday 26th November 2011. Lots of planning went into making it a success (we've never organised a function before!), and we received some very positive feedback. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. We had hoped for 10 tables of 6 players, but we were overwhelmed with presold tickets of 23 tables of 6. We didn't get to advertise as we couldn't fit any more into Walkervale State School Hall.

We raised over \$2000 so we were extremely happy that so many people in Bundaberg supported us. Bundaberg businesses were very generous in their donations towards prizes in our progressive raffle. Thank you so much everyone for your generosity and support. My Aunt Hazel from Brisbane made the trip for the event, my youngest daughter Rhiana from the Gold Coast, and my niece Shany from Brisbane who was co-compare extraordinaire. My family and friends were such a huge and integral part in the organisation and on the night. It actually was not stressful at all. We all knew what we had to do and when to do it. As for *Umoja's* team Gaye, Kerry-Anne, Lesley, Shany and Danielle—you are **EXTRAORDINARY** and continue to inspire me each and every day with your enthusiasm. A special mention to Jack, Matt and Luke—3 great guys and Tenille, Yasmin and Rhiana & Sherrie.

## 3RD PARTY FUNDRAISING

It is lovely to work with lovely people. It is even lovelier when they do something for you that you didn't expect. Wendy Egan organised a girls' "Retail Therapy Evening" at Sanshells Boutique Baragara, on Thursday 24th November 2011. To help with our "Therapy" we had wine, cheese and nibbles. Sanshells kindly donated 10% of sales from our 'therapy session.' I had my own special bit of

therapy in the form of a gorgeous pair of black togs (bathers for Non Australians) that are so 1940's and Betty are Grable/Lana Turner style. Oh, if only I had the legs!, Everyone had a good time and purchased some very nice clothing. Thanks to all who attended. It is nothing short of humbling that a man I don't even know but a friend of a friend, decided to give up alcohol for 1 month

and raise money towards the orphanage project. I did not know that this was happening., until the money reached Umoja's bank account. The wonderful man had himself sponsored and he raised—wait for it..... \$1000 !!! How absolutely wonderful.

Imagine if 10 other people got sponsors for their 'vice' what we could achieve. I continue to be amazed by people's generosity.

*"Open  
your  
hearts,  
open them  
wide,  
someone  
little is  
standing  
outside."*

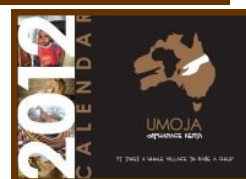
## MERCHANDISE FUNDRAISING

**Calendars** are nearly sold out. It is good to know that they were such a success and fundraiser. The photographs we took and put into the calendar design received heaps of positive comments. I am so please others like the Kenya that touched our souls.

**Christmas Cards** are slow selling, however they will be available every year. In some charities they sell really well, and in others not so well. Just what our demographics are and who is interested in still sending them plays a big part. Those sent to Gold

Coast to friends and family to sell were sold easily.

**Gift Vouchers** will always be available off the website for those to give to someone who is difficult to buy for and who has 'everything.'



**Umoja's 2012  
calendar**





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**Registered Charity**  
**Number CH2110**

## NEWS FLASH

Rotary Australia World Community Service has accepted *Umoja Orphanage Kenya* as a project . (RAWCS) No. 512011/2012  
allowing us to offer Tax Deductibility.

*Umoja Orphanage Kenya is proud to be sponsored East Bundaberg Rotary Club, and we look forward to working together*

TOGETHER WE **WILL** ACHIEVE THE EXTRAORDINARY

<http://www.umojahome.com>

Cathy (founder &



director)



# UMOJA CHARITY GOLF DAY

*Coral Cove Charity  
Golf Day  
Sunday 18th December  
In aid of*



2 Person Ambrose  
Gold Members \$5  
Full Members \$25

Visitors \$40

Time : 11:00am Shotgun Start

Everyone Welcome

Non H'cap Players Men 18

Ladies 27

For more Information call the  
Pro Shop On 4159 3333



Coral Cove Golf Course



**LOTS OF  
RAFFLES**