

UMOJA ORPHANAGE KENYA

<http://www.umojahome.com>

Registered charity number CH2110



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RAWCS PROJECT NUMBER

51/ 2011-2012

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RAISING THE ROOF

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. I love this time of year and love watching the sun rise over the ocean each morning, appreciating nature, it's animals, and the smells of spring. We have had lots happening since our last newsletter, and much planned in the coming months; so can I encourage you to sit back, relax and read on to see how ordinary people are achieving something extraordinary, one step at a time.

August and September has been an exciting time for us. In 13 months we turned the soil for our first building, a two room caretaker's cottage with toilet and septic system. One room will be for our caretaker and the other room for storage. After acquiring quotes we set about beginning the construction. We have a wonderful project manager, Patrick, who has been overseeing the work on site when he is not doing safaris. All work is done by hand with no electricity or power tools. The construction is made from local coral bricks and concrete. No building permit is required.

Initially, as we had no bore, we had to pay for water and carry it to the land each day to mix the concrete.

What we take for granted here in Australia is not the case in Kenya. Water is a vital source that is not readily available, and really is liquid gold.



August 3rd 2012

The soil is broken and the caretaker's cottage begins



20th August 2012

things are progressing nicely



11th September 2012

Starts to take shape



WE'VE GOT WATER!

This month we employed local villagers to dig our bore hole. No machines available here, just sheer hard work. It feels good to be able to give people work, to support their families. At 30 feet we had water, and it wasn't salty. Often so close to the coast, the water is salty. We have a wet-season water-hole on our land and we hope to dam it to create a permanent water supply. We will share our water with the local villagers, who have to walk so far just to collect this precious commodity. We like to help and create goodwill with the locals. Work is continuing on the bore and we are constructing a water tower, purchasing a 5000 litre water tank and a pump. Once this is finished we will employ a caretaker to watch over our land; he will be a man from a local village, adjacent to our land, as he knows the area, and who should or shouldn't be around. (Theft is a big problem in Kenya)



Digging begins ...



30 feet and we've got water!

HELPING RAISE THE ROOF

Back in June school holidays at a function in Maroochydore I met an amazing South African lady by the name of Liza Westgate. Someone was smiling down on us that day!

Liza was very interested in what we were doing, having experienced first hand the lives of orphaned children whilst living in South Africa. Liza offered to hold a function for us on the Sunshine Coast on the 27th September at the Duporth Tavern. We were thrilled that she has organised a wine, cheese and chocolate tasting together with a silent auction. We are so looking forward to spreading the word on the Sunshine Coast to help 'Raise the Roof' for Umoja **and** meeting lots of new supporters. Also I would like to acknowledge Jeff Zielke, a past teaching colleague of Lesley and Cathy, who is off-siding for Liza. Thank you Jeff. Who would have thought those days at Walkervale with me would lead to this? Jeff has also put me in touch with many likeminded people who are also giving their support.

Liza



Asante Sana



The Zielkes



TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE THE EXTRAORDINARY

AusAid Application

We worked exceptionally hard over the past few months compiling our application for an AusAID government grant that will help build our first children's accommodation. We now sit back and hope the universe is smiling at us, and that we receive the funding we applied for.



Small guided Group Tour

We are offering a small group tour to Kenya for the first two weeks of January, 2013. I will be your guide. You will participate in a week's voluntary work on our land, go on an amazing safari and visits to our mentoring orphanages. You'll experience local villages, massai culture, African music, and tourist attractions. If you are interested please contact cathy@umojahome.com as numbers are limited. We hope to run ongoing, small group tours again from June 2013.



Experience what touched Cathy's soul to begin

Donations in Kind

Help comes in many forms, it can be any way you choose. We have had some wonderful people help us recently. Jason Braid from Cairns donated \$500 worth of sporting goods, a bookseller donated over \$1500 worth of children's books, Jenny Dawes painted and donated a magnificent Masai painting, Dawn Fraser (yes the legendary swimmer) donated 2 items of her memorabilia, Finn & Will Bath donated a painting of Nemo by local artist Dave Machan.

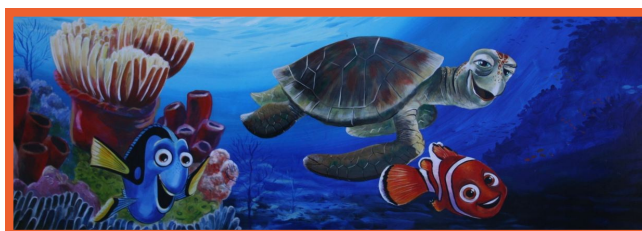


Painted and donated by Jenny Dawes

Our sewer from day one, Meryl Heidke, continues to support us with her fantastic work, plus we now have another seamstress making clothing. Some lovely ladies make crocheted blankets and beanies for our future children. We have also had donations of unwanted, good condition toys.



We have distributed money tins at businesses in Bundaberg and in Townsville. The fantastic local musician, Matthew Barker is donating the profits from his single album until the end of October, available on iTunes.





MT. KILIMINJARO—HERE COMES KATIE TRULSON!

We are absolutely thrilled to have a fellow teacher and friend Katie Trulson, take the Kili challenge and be sponsored to help raise funds for Umoja at the same time. Lesley and I have seen Mt. Kili from both sides of the Tanzanian and Kenyan borders, and it stands majestically over the Serengeti in Tanzania and Amboseli National Park in Kenya. She is in for a hard climb with the immense heat on the lower part of the climb, and snow and windstorms on the upper, however, Katie is in training and Katie hopes to arrive at the summit at dawn on New Year's Day 2013. Can you imagine that? Katie then will join Cathy in to have a Kenyan experience. If you would like to sponsor Katie, and help 'Raise the Roof' for Umoja please contact info@umojahome.com



Looking at Mt Kiliminjaro from Amboseli National Park,
Kenya



Upcoming Fundraising Events

- ⇒ Wine, cheese & chocolate fundraiser at Maroochydore 27.09.12
- ⇒ Mamma's Nest Markets Bundaberg 29.09.12 and December 2012
- ⇒ Vintage Hollywood Gala Dinner Dance 13.10.12 Bundaberg
- ⇒ Charity Golf Day— Coral Cove Golf Club December 2012

Public Speaking

If you know a community club who would like to hear about the Umoja Project whether it be Rotary, Lions, Apex or any club, we love sharing our vision. Please contact us and we can arrange.

Do you want to help?

On our website we have many ways for you to help— we even have a downloadable 'fundraising package' to help with ideas of how to raise funds.

TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE THE EXTRAORDINARY