



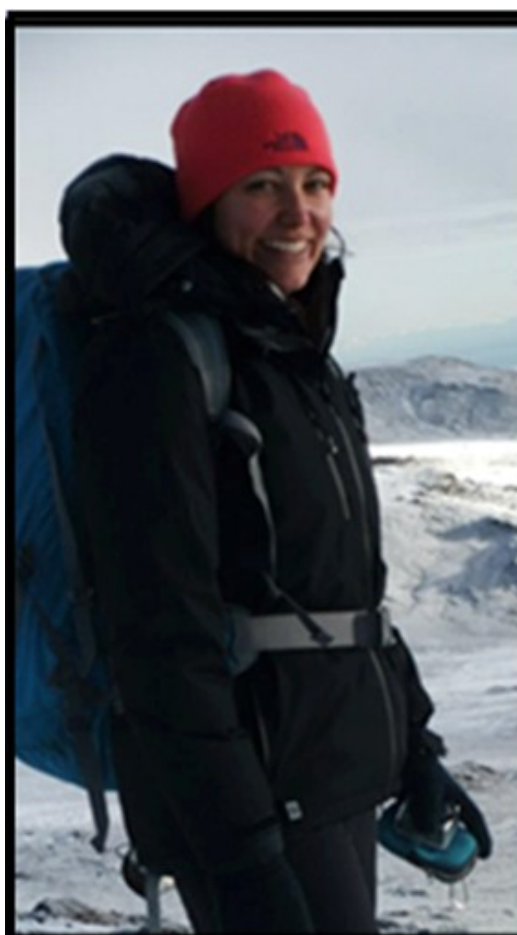
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Katie Conquers Kili!

As the New Year approached we were eagerly awaiting to see if Katie had made it to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro. We were so relieved when we received the photos and good news to say she had made it after days of rain and sleet on the way to the summit. But Katie wasn't getting much of a rest after her climb and visit to Zanzibar in Tanzania. She arrived in Kenya to volunteer for us on the January 8 and then began teaching at Footprints Orphanage School the very next day. A huge thank you to Katie and to each and every one of you who sponsored Katie's climb. Read the article in [Bundaberg News-Mail](#)



Katie Trulson, a school teacher from Bundaberg, used her climb of Mt Kilimanjaro to raise a huge **\$3300** for Umoja Orphanage.

We are so proud of Katie for conquering Mt Kili and for raising funds and awareness for the orphan crisis in Kenya.

In January 2013, Katie volunteered on our land in Kenya and in other orphanages. She also helped to feed children at the Kikambala Feeding Station. Thanks, Katie.



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ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR UMOJA

We are so proud to have **our first volunteer experience tour** completed. In early January a group of volunteers, led by our founder Cathy Booth, arrived in Kenya to visit and volunteer at three orphanages, volunteer at a children's' feeding station, do voluntary work on Umoja's land, visit the local Rotary Club, have a safari visiting Tsavo East, Tsavo West and Amboseli National Parks, and experience the local life and customs. All the volunteers enjoyed the tour immensely and gave us some great feedback for next time. The Umoja Team thank the following volunteers for their sweat and tears:

Volunteers for Umoja's First Tour

Adele Hughes – Gladstone Midday Rotary Club
Ian Ritchie – Mackay West Rotary Club
Trish Gilluley – Rockhampton West Rotary Club
Leonie Hills – Gladstone Rotary Club
Austin Grillmier – Rockhampton Sunrise Rotary Club
Katie Trulson – Bundaberg /Teacher
Leanne Petersen – Bundaberg / Nurse



The volunteers assembled guttering and fitted the water tank at Umoja's land.

Volunteering at Kikambala Children's Feeding Station was a humbling experience. 2000 children who are mostly orphaned who had walked more than ten kilometres—many carrying younger children to be fed—received possibly their only meal for the week.

We are taking our second tour across to Kenya in September school holidays (QLD), so register your interest as soon as possible. If you or someone you may know might be interested, please contact Lesley our volunteer coordinator at lesley@umojahome.com as numbers are limited.

The next stage of our project will see our fencing begin around our land. We are hoping that we will have plenty of volunteers to help us erect it in September.





The Volunteers were able to experience the amazing wildlife and culture of Kenya during their safari—and they were not disappointed. They were also able to visit a school for disabled children and hand out food.



It was a special moment when I returned to Kenya ahead of the volunteers and paid a visit to our project. The tears flowed freely as I saw what we had achieved. It felt so good, and without the generosity of each and every person who has contributed so far to the project we could not have achieved what we have. It was indeed a special day as on the same day I paid a surprise visit to the orphanage I first volunteered at. What a moment when the children spotted me! These children have been part of my journey and it is wonderful to see how far they have progressed with their education and the love they are shown. I could not ever return to Kenya without seeing them each and every visit.



Visiting Umoja's land and visiting other orphanages at different stages of development allowed the volunteers to see where we are headed and how problems are overcome in Kenya. The volunteers were able to meet many of the Kenyans whom Umoja have dealt with in the planning stages and talk with other orphanage owners to understand the day to day running of their facilities. It is not easy to listen to the each child's heart-breaking story and we simply cannot imagine their little lives beforehand. I truly believe that each and every volunteer has been affected by their visit and they will continue to spread the word of Umoja.





We made it —We raised enough to purchase a van!

A special thank you to Gladstone Midday Rotary Club, Shepparton Rotary Club, Ian Ritchie from Mackay West Rotary Club & Ross Gray Holden, who donated large amounts of funds towards the van. A huge thank you to our many supporters over the last 12 months who also helped raise the funds for us to achieve another milestone. The van has already been put to use taking materials to our land, transporting the volunteers and taking them on safari. The van will continue to generate funds for the orphanage through future safari tours. When our orphanage is built the van will be also used to collect children to bring them to our children's home. We also would like to acknowledge Gladstone Rotary Club for their kind donation towards our solar pump appeal.

We have received our Non-Government Organisation Registration Certificate

It was great to finally have in our hands the Registration Certificate of our Kenyan arm of our charity 'Umoja Children's Village Ukunda', which has taken 11 months to receive.



Oochie's Story

I first met Oochie in February last year when Team Member Lesley and I went to assess her living conditions with the Footprints Orphanage owner Kerry. Oochie's eyes were dead. There was no child evident within her painful soul. Her living conditions were appalling, and her relatives were unable to care for her anymore. Her feet were becoming deformed from being so long infested with 'jiggers' (a burrowing type of flea) which imbeds itself in the skin and breeds. When she could walk to school, she walked up to 10km and then worked in the shamba to help grow food to take care of her elder relatives. Oochie was taken to Footprints Orphanage and look at her now! When I visited her this trip she yelled at me in perfect English, "You came back! You came back!" She ran to me with open arms with a smile so wide. What a wonderful moment to see that the child within her has resurfaced.



Sponsoring a future child of Umoja Orphanage Kenya

We have had another wonderful couple pledge to sponsor one of our future children. That takes us to now seven children pledged to be sponsored for the first two years of their care. Sponsorship fees include food, clothing, medical, and education. If you would like to pledge to sponsor one of our future children please visit <http://umojahome.com/kenya/sponsor-a-child/>

Bundaberg Floods

It has been heartbreaking to have to witness the despair of so many Bundaberg people who have lost so much. Alas, a member of my family was also affected. There are tough times ahead for Bundaberg once again. But our city will prevail.