

IMPORTANT DATES

- ♦ **June** First children's home commences construction
- ♦ **July 19th** Annual Charity Gala Dinner
- ♦ **October** Charity Golf Day
- ♦ **October** 2nd Annual World's Biggest Dinner Party
- ♦ **September** Volountour to Umoja Project
- ♦ **January 2015** Sponsored climb to Mt. Kilimanjaro

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TEAM C ACHIEVES THE EXTRAORDINARY IN APRIL 2014

Umoja Team Leaders Cathy and Shanyn took 17 Australians to Kenya in April as part of the RAWCS Umoja Volunteer Program. TEAM C was the third volunteer team to work on the project and was made up of 12 Rotarians and 7 non-Rotarians from QLD, SA, VIC and TAS. The volunteers battled the scorching heat and the obstacles of working in a third-world country to accomplish the following objectives:

- ⇒ Build a live fence
- ⇒ Plant a fruit forest
- ⇒ Improve soil fertility
- ⇒ Capture and use water efficiently
- ⇒ Construct a cow shed and composting toilet/shower
- ⇒ Provide free first-aid through a health clinic



TEAM C with some of our local employees. Two countries working together for our cause.





RAWCS Project No:
51/2011-2012

PERMACULTURE TRAINERS JOIN UMOJA TEAM

Joseph and Priscilla from the Permaculture Research Institute of Kenya joined the volunteers to help establish the self-sustainability project.



Over 5 days we broke into smaller teams to work on different projects across the land. We were able to plant native Kenyan trees around the perimeter to create a live fence that would act as a wind break; redirect the water by measuring and digging swales; build compost heaps and mulch and irrigate the plants; create a fruit forest to provide future food; and establish a banana circle.



PROJECT EMPOWERS LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Umoja Orphanage Project is more than the name suggests. We are not just hoping to rehome orphaned and vulnerable children; we are also ensuring to give communities a second chance at life by helping them break the cycle of poverty.

The locals were employed each day to assist with building, planting, and learning new skills that they can use in their villages.



PROGRESS CONTINUES

While the volunteers and our local employees worked very hard, they were unable to complete the cowshed due to time constraints; however, the locals have continued working on the project whilst demonstrating the skills they have learnt.

The cow shed is nearly complete, the internal 6 foot block security fence around our future children's homes has begun and the greenhouse has been erected. Go, Team Umoja!



Proudly supported by
Rotary Club of
Bundaberg Sunrise



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

- **Peter Ahern** for his on-going support seeking donations and sponsorship.
- **Penny Curd** from En-core **Dance Studio** for her creativeness with decorating & organization for our theme for this year's gala dinner event.
- **Adam Barton** all the way from Melbourne for creating our promotional poster for our upcoming Gala Dinner.



A huge thank you to Victor Harbor Rotary club in South Australia for your massive donation towards our first children's home. We are overwhelmed and grateful. A special mention to members of your club Tim Shierlaw (September 2013) & Deane Michelmore (April 2014) who travelled to Kenya with us as volunteers and have helped spread the word back home. We are so proud to be a RAWCS Project 51-2011/12 and to have the support of Rotary Clubs across Australia. **Although initial construction of our first children's home begins in June, we still need to raise a substantial amount to complete the first home due to the high rising costs of materials in Kenya.**

MATT HILLS CONQUERS KILI

On April 21st, Matt Hill reached the summit of Mt Kilimanjaro.

After 5 days of wet and freezing conditions, and carrying 21kg of his own gear, Matt was able to reach the top of the highest free-standing mountain in the world.

Matt's Kili Challenge Campaign raised approximately \$3000 for Umoja. Thank you to every one who donated and supported Matt's amazing effort.



If you would like to take the Kili Challenge, just maybe it's been on your bucket list for some time, perhaps you would like to join the next group of Umoja climbers in January 2015 and then visit the project in Kenya.

Please LIKE the **Climb Kili for Kenyan Kids** page on Facebook and for more information on completing a sponsored climb for Umoja. Contact Johnno Olsen at L.J. Hooker Bundaberg as soon as possible 0409534533.

SPIRIT OF AFRICA GALA DINNER

The 3rd annual Umoja Charity Gala Dinner will be held on the 19th of July in Bundaberg.

The event will include a three-course meal, live entertainment, raffles and an auction.

This year's theme is **The Spirit of Africa** to celebrate the idea of the community all pulling together to achieve one goal.

We encourage our guests to dress to this theme if they desire. There will be prizes for best dressed so why not get into the African spirit?

Tables seat 10 people and tickets are \$85 per person.

Locals can purchase tickets from Inn Style Mensland on Electra Street, Bundaberg.

If you are travelling from out of town and would like a ticket, please contact Gaye Limpus on 0407715765 or send an e-mail to gay@umojahome.com

Last year's dinner was a great success and we can guarantee a great night out. Come and see what a small group of dedicated people have been doing in Africa. We hope to see you there.



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Together we achieve the



Umoja Orphanage Kenya will offer a real alternative to child abandonment. Through a holistic care approach, we will give children a second chance at life and help break the cycle of poverty.

On 17 acres of fertile land in Ukunda, we are building a children's village to accommodate up to six children's homes and a small school. We hope to be self-sustainable by sourcing our own food from fruit and vegetable gardens, a piggery, and chicken and dairy farms. We also have our own safari side-business, which will generate profits back into the orphanage project. Donate to Umoja today and help orphaned and vulnerable children reach their full potential.



Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/umojakneya



CATHY'S CORNER

I would like to send a huge thank you to all of the volunteers for their tremendous work ethic and support of our project. Thank you also to your Rotary Clubs (Gladstone RC, Gladstone Midday RC, Gladstone Rotaract, Victor Harbor RC and Ulverston West RC), the many individuals and businesses who donated items to take to Kenya, and to RAWCS. Rotary has opened up many doors for our non-profit organisation and has helped us spread the word about what we are trying to achieve in Kenya.

TEAM C also had three returning volunteers to the project: Leonie Hills, Leanne Petersen and Adele Hughes. These three women were part of the first volunteer team to Kenya who visited the land and other children's homes back in January 2013 to visualise the need for the Umoja Orphanage and make recommendations for the future of the RAWCS project. Their ongoing support has been very much appreciated and we thank them for encouraging others to become involved. I am certain that, like them, others will want to return to Kenya in the future.

If you would like more information about the Umoja Volunteer Program, please e-mail info@umojahome.com or contact me on 0409 476 444.

For myself personally the most rewarding part of the volunteer tour was the way the Kenyans worked physically and mentally so hard alongside their Australian counterparts, taking every opportunity to learn more from both with our Kenyan permaculture trainers and also our Australian volunteers. The learning was 2 way with our volunteers learning much about the culture of Kenyans. Returning after safari to see the locals taking good care of the trees they planted demonstrated their increasing ownership of the project. To return to Australia and see the work continue and the cowshed complete from the training our Kenyan employees were given by our Australian volunteers encapsulates what Umoja stands for "2 countries working together for 1 cause".

Another incredibly rewarding part of the trip was hand our donated reading and bifocal glasses to locals who had difficulty seeing short or long distance, and handmade dolls to children who have no toys. The smiles say it all.

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

