



UMOJA ORPHANAGE KENYA

MARCH 2015

CATHY SPREADS THE WORD OF UMOJA IN INDIA

IMPORTANT DATES

16th May:

4th Annual Charity
Dinner

September :

5th volunteer tour
departs Mombasa

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February was a big month for Cathy being asked to guest speak about the Umoja Project at Rotary District Conferences, universities, schools, and orphanages in India.

Cathy was hosted by Rotary International Districts 3160, 3202, 3201, 3180 & 3211, being chief guest speaker at district 3211 conference.

She was also taken to many hospitals, farms, and rotary projects in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, and guest at various rotary clubs. Please see Cathy's Corner on page 4 .



SHIPPING CONTAINER ITEMS — TIME IS RUNNING OUT

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

If you or your business would like to help us stock our 2 containers with essential items that are needed for our first children's home please contact cathy@umojahome.com **Click on our [wishlist](#)**

We also need funds to transport the containers to Kenya. Any amount is gratefully accepted.

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

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

We still need in new or very good condition:

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





4TH SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEER TOUR—JANUARY

January was another big month for Cathy taking Sharon Kinraid our only volunteer to Kenya for 2 weeks. The Ebola crisis and security worries affected our numbers, but as Sharon witnessed you are as safe as anywhere else in the world in these troublesome times.

Sharon had a wonderful time and saw first hand the difficulties of living in abject poverty and the challenges of creating such a project in a developing country. Sharon built many great relationships with the locals.



She could see the dire need and worked so hard at helping plant our seedling nursery and participate in our 2nd Permaculture Design Course, working hard on the land.

Sharon also enjoyed a 4 day 3 night safari, volunteering feeding 800+ children, visiting our mentoring orphanage to see their project and being able to see their new triplet orphaned girls.

We celebrated our team efforts for the project with the slaughtering of a goat & eating together in the local tradition.



RAWCS Project No:
51/2011-2012

MORE THAN AN ORPHANAGE PROJECT— EMPOWERING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Umoja Orphanage Kenya joined with **Permaculture Research Institute Kenya & Base Titanium Mining Company** who sponsored the training of 34 local Kenyans including 7 women in Permaculture theory and practice using our land as a demonstration site in January.

It was wonderful to host the 2nd training course after the success of our first one in April last year. It was also great to see so many of our first trainees turn up to learn more, so hungry for knowledge to sustain themselves and their families.

2 trainees also came from the Goodlife Orphanage (our mentoring orphanage and always a great support to us) to learn about permaculture practices,

Joseph & Priscilla our Kenyan trainers returned to host the 2nd course, and are doing a 2 day follow up course at the end of April. We have identified several who we intend to have sponsored for further training as they will become trainers for their community and hopefully be able to be employed by Umoja.

"I want to become a permaculture teacher and I want more teachers to come and help us learn."



"It has been a great miracle to me, coming to know how to make compost, how to make liquid manure, how to make double dug garden beds, saving the seeds, making kitchen gardens and many more. May god bless you."

It is so good knowing we are making a difference. These are just 2 of our quotes on our feedback forms



Bundaberg Sunrise Rotary

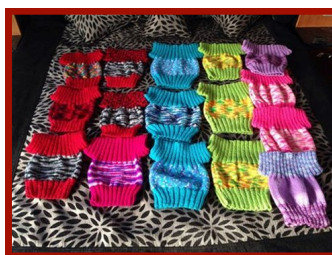
Proudly supported
by Rotary Club of
Bundaberg Sunrise

Cathy proudly a
member of Rotary
NextGen E-Club

Proudly
supported by



- * All Rotary Clubs and Non Rotarians who participated in our 2nd World's biggest dinner party which raised \$15,000, especially Wayne Limbrick who is our organiser extraordinaire!
- * All who participated in our annual Charity Golf Day, especially Dan Thomas who is also our organiser extraordinaire!
- * All donors 2014 & in 2015—your funds have helped us continue our house construction and pay wages to our 4 Kenyan employees.
- * Schools who participated in World Orphan's Day late 2014 and the funds you raised for our house.
- * Ros Stafford from Gladstone who donated the funds to connect our electricity to our project. Ros also donated our first 2 cows named after her grandchildren, water tank and guttering to our cowshed. What a woman!



- * John Virgin from Victor Harbor RC who took the time to come and see our project while in Kenya late last year.
- * Volunteer Sharon Kinraid when at the project for donating a 5000 litre water tank, funds towards a concrete stand & funds towards the construction of the house.
- * Those who have supported us by guest speaking on our behalf.
- * Future volunteers who have begun donating to our project (see you in Sept).
- * Meryl Heidke our sewer of 3+ years, and the band of ladies who have been knitting for us.
- * Bundaberg Brewed Drinks for your continued generous support.
- * Child sponsorship donors who have begun contributing in readiness for our first little children.
- * All who have travelled to deliver items to our containers, and posted items to go in our containers

PURCHASE OF DAIRY GOATS

You may well remember Cathy's grandson Tyler and **Glenview State School** late last year raising funds towards our self-sustainability. We are pleased to say we purchased 4 dairy goats, now 5 with a baby kid being born in January. The gift that keeps on giving.



PROGRESS OF 1ST CHILDREN'S HOUSE

Unfortunately currency exchange rates have affected the progress of our first children's home as we try to get the roof on before the rains start at the end of this month and to continue the construction.

We had hoped it would be completed by the end of February, however we are approximately USD \$50,000 short to complete it and are trying our hardest to get the funds to take in our first children as soon as possible.

A bucket fills one drop at a time, so any small amount donated will slowly fill our bucket to finish the house. [Donate](#) Don't forget all donations over \$2 are tax deductible.



The house is totally being built by hand

5TH VOLUNTEER TOUR DEPARTING SEPTEMBER 2015

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**Together we achieve the
extraordinary**



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 a RAWCS volunteer program.

The 5th Umoja Volunteer Tour will depart from Mombasa late September and will give you the opportunity to assist a community aid project.

Join like minded Rotarians and friends of Rotary in Mombasa late September to embark on a 2 week trip.

We are seeking at least 10 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.

We have now taken 41 volunteers to the project.

Umoja Director Cathy Booth will be the tour guide and your tour will also include a trip to a mentor orphanage, 2 options for wildlife safari and working alongside local Kenyans.

E-mail cathy@umojahome.com to register your interest for the upcoming volunteer tour to Kenya.



[Find us on Facebook](#)

www.facebook.com/umojakenya

CATHY'S CORNER

It was an exceptionally busy couple of months for me working on the project in Kenya, having our volunteer Sharon with us, and overseeing the Permaculture Design Course, organising the food and having mammas cooking every day for the 34 trainees, plus our casual workers and our full time employees, plus all the usual follow up things & organising I have to do when in Kenya. It was lovely to spend New Year's Eve in Kenya once again, and it is very different to how we celebrate and a lovely cultural experience. It was good Sharon was able to experience it too with me.

Our sign is completed in recognition to Australian Aid in partially funding the internal security compound fence for the children's homes. We were able to complete our 2 composting toilets, and plant many crops to sell for further income. Training our local community and continue to build relationships with them is very rewarding. The unfortunate thing is we had to turn so many away each day as word got out that we were training. We could only take a certain amount of trainees. Everything is in place for when we take in our first children. Creating firm foundations for sustainability is incredibly important so that we can sustain our children when we intake them. Soon we will be having our safari website live and people will be able to book safaris with us with all profits going directly back into the Umoja Project. Stay tuned. It is our hope that soon we raise enough funds to complete the house. That will be one special day when we intake children.

India was a great experience and I did manage to get a few days to relax. Speaking in front of so many people (up to 2200) was quite amazing and the Rotary District Conferences are quite spectacular. The hospitality was incredible and I met so many amazing Rotarians doing amazing things in their country. I visited Anantapur, Bangalore, Vaikon, Changancherry, Thekkady, Alleppey, Mangalore, Calicut, Cochin, & Wayanad to name a few places. Visiting orphanages and schools was a bonus to me and my thanks go out to all who looked after me.

