

TWAM

Tools with a Mission

Volunteering opportunities with us



Empowering people with the tools that create livelihoods and transform lives

Meet Merve and Sue - this is our story

“We first heard about TWAM when we saw a leaflet at Nayland church back in 2008 and we got in touch because we thought it was a brilliant idea. We decided we would help by becoming volunteer tool collectors. At first we did that in our local church, but living in a small community, word quickly spread and soon people were asking us to collect tools, if they could drop off tools and even if we would help with a house clearance. Which we did!

When we retired we decided we'd offer some of our time in Ipswich. We wanted to help more because, for us it was about recycling and livelihood creation. We thought, what better way to love your neighbour. We find that it also gives us a sense of purpose and some structure to our week. We get great fellowship and friendship too. Lots of people like us, volunteer because they can do something much bigger than themselves.

We miss it when we don't come in with our friends.”

Sue volunteers in the Ipswich Haberdashery team. Merve works with the Carpentry team and drives the van



We are a Christian charity that collects donated usable tools, refurbishes them, sorts them into trade kits and sends them to the developing world for livelihood creation.



We send tools to a growing number of countries including **Burundi, DR Congo, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe**

What we do

We send tools to equip training and skills centres within all the countries we serve. We help support thousands of churches and local groups transforming their communities through skills training. We also provide toolkits and machines to be given to graduating trainees to provide them with lifelong employment.

Why we do it

Through skills training and tools vulnerable women can break free of ultra-poverty, send their children to school and put food on the table. Young people and child headed families can free themselves from street gangs and sex-work. Long term unemployed men and woman can gain the dignity of work and provide for themselves and their families.

The majority only need help once and will then provide for themselves for their rest of their lives.

What we send

We send around 24 containers packed with around 16,000 tool kits and machines to Africa every year. That's over 750,000 individual tools. You can see what we send at twam.uk/toolkits-sent

We save around 500 tonnes of tools from landfill every year by sending 280 tonnes to Africa and recycling a further 180 tonnes that are broken or unsuitable to send.

These numbers are going up every year, thanks to the amazing work of our volunteers.

The simple, eco-friendly journey of a tool destined for livelihood creation



5. Where they are unloaded and sorted

4. Our vans take the donated tools to our Refurbishment Centres

6. Before being lovingly refurbished and packed into trade tool kits

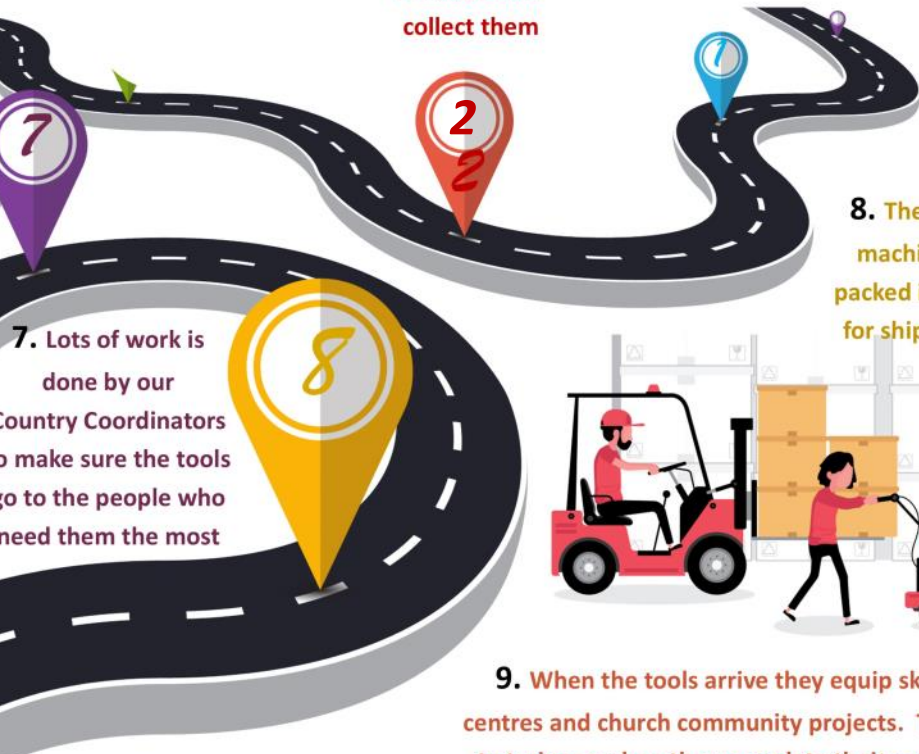


3. Our van teams collect from our Tool Ambassadors



2. Our Local Tool Ambassadors collect them

1. Tools donated by the lovely public



7. Lots of work is done by our Country Coordinators to make sure the tools go to the people who need them the most

8. The tool kits and machines are then packed into containers for shipping to Africa



9. When the tools arrive they equip skills training centres and church community projects. They are given to trainees when they complete their courses so they can set up businesses and transform their lives and those of their families.



10. And we're also saving around 400 tonnes of tools from potentially ending up in landfill every year.



Our volunteer roles

In our Refurbishment Centres in Ipswich, Rugby and Halstead

Refurbishment Champion

There are so many opportunities in our centres from the amazing team who unload the vans and sort the tools into trades (carpenters tools, mechanics tools etc) to the volunteers who refurbish them, pack them into kits and load on to containers. We will provide training and an experienced volunteer to work with you, so whatever your role we'll make sure you are confident and comfortable.

Office Champion

There are lots of roles in our small busy office in Ipswich from answering the phone, responding to emails and post, to working with the office manager on larger projects. Many of our volunteers have specific roles they help us with. Rugby has a smaller office.

Home based volunteer roles

Van Teams in Ipswich, Rugby, Maidstone, Farnham and Redcar

Our van teams collect tools from our Tool Collectors and the general public and deliver them to our Refurbishment Centres. You will also need to help load and unload the van. You'll drive our modern vans and meet lots of great people.

Tool Collector

This is a great role and essential to everything we do. You will receive a TWAM email and your details will be given out to local people asking to donate tools. You will agree how far you are willing to travel and whether or not you would like people to drop tools off with you. It is a great opportunity to meet lots of kind people and get to know your local van team. You decide when you volunteer and when you collect.

Community Ambassador

A great role sharing the story of TWAM with community groups, Rotary clubs and churches. You'll get a speaker pack, loads of support and only be asked to go to groups you are confident with.

Community Fundraiser

A great role for people who like organising fundraising and promotional events in their community. We'll give you lots of ideas and support.

Church Ambassador

We value the support and prayer of churches and this role helps us share the good news of TWAM through literature, notices, coffee mornings and lots of creative ways.

Country Coordinator

Country Coordinators are responsible for supporting our work in Africa. There are three main roles:

Processing applications, working with our in-country partner and volunteer teams and supporting the applicants of our tools.

Assessing all the groups that receive our tools one year after they have received them.

Setting up and running a national training programme in maintenance, repair and safe use of tools. This involves working with our in-country training team.

We value all our volunteers and want you to benefit from your volunteering role with us

If you volunteer in a Refurbishment Centre

We will provide you with a full induction, including all the important safety information, plus all the things it's good to know such as where to make a coffee, where to find the loo, and where to park. You will be introduced to the team and will quickly feel part of our family.

If you volunteer from home

If you collect tools you get to know your local friendly van manager and drivers. You'll also be introduced to other local collectors and volunteers.

If you volunteer in a van team

You will have your own van manager for support and information. You will drive a modern reliable van and drive to some great places and meet some really amazing people donating tools when volunteering with TWAM in our tool collection team.

For every volunteer

You will be given a TWAM fleece, polo shirt and volunteer handbook. You will be sent a monthly volunteer e-newsletter full of lots of information and resources and be invited to local volunteer and national events.

You will be able to download our dedicated volunteer app for your phone and have your own online account where you can find lots of personalised information for your role.

I would like to give some time to TWAM

The best way to apply is online at
twam.uk/volunteer

On our website you can find out lots more about us and all the volunteer opportunities. There is a link to a simple online application form that can be completed in a few minutes.

Or you could give us a ring volunteer for a chat
01473 210220

If you do not have access to the internet or would prefer to talk to us first, then you can ring Paul Daley, our Volunteering Coordinator. He will be available Monday and Wednesday to Friday 9.00am-4.00pm. We can send you a paper copy of the application form if needed.

The application form requires two character references and once we have received your application we will contact them and also give you a ring to introduce ourselves.

Please call us on 01473 210220 between 9.00am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday and we'll pop an application form in the post.

Thank you, we'll look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to TWAM!

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