

Nelly's story: a family transformed by tools of hope

"Before I came here, I had nothing to do. I had no skills and no way to make money. Now, my life has really improved. I can help my husband, I can buy food for my family."

These are the words of Nelly, an inspiring woman, mother, and wife, who discovered a new lease on life through knitting. Every day, she walks for 30 minutes to a training centre, run by the local council in Solwezi, Zambia. She does this because she has seen how much her life has changed since she started to learn knitting. For Nelly, knitting isn't just a skill; it's her gateway to financial independence and a lifeline for her family.

It wasn't always this way. Nelly's family used to have a very tough life. Her husband brought in a little bit of money through exploitative piecework, but he often couldn't find any, leaving the entire family hungry. Nelly knew that this wasn't sustainable, so when she heard about the knitting and tailoring courses that the local council had started to offer for free, she jumped on the opportunity.

Nelly has a four-year-old daughter to look after, and she's currently expecting another child, so the lifeline of skills training came at the perfect time for her. She has already completed her course, and she comes back to the centre to use their machines while she saves money to buy her own. She does this through a TWAM-encouraged Community Savings Scheme, which teaches trainees to put aside a little money from each sale to go towards buying their own machine.

With the money that she earns from selling jerseys and other knitted items at a local market, Nelly is able to pay her daughter's nurse fees, support her husband whilst he looks for work, and put food on the table every single day.

This is the power of donated refurbished tools. They are not just tools, they are lifelines for people living in extreme poverty, empowering them to earn their own money and support their families with their own hands. Every donation is a contribution to this transformation, proving that even the smallest act of giving can create a huge ripple of positive change.

