

TWAM

Tools with a Mission

Our News

January 2023

The tools that change the world



Empowering people with the tools that create livelihoods and transform lives

Welcome to TWAM News



Mike Griffin, CEO

What a year we have had! Once again due to the amazing commitment of our staff and volunteers we have sent 17 containers of tools to Africa in 2022.

This is what they contained

- 3000 Sewing machines
- 350 Knitting machines
- 650 Carpentry kits
- 180 Carpentry Workshop kits
- 200 Boxes of power tools
- 1000 Computers
- 400 Builder's kits
- 320 Mechanic's kits
- 100 Mechanic's Workshop kits
- 180 Plumber's kits
- 240 Electrician's kits
- 320 Agricultural/Groundworker's kits

In total around 12,000 kits and large tools were sent.

These went to Zambia, Zimbabwe and Uganda to support about 350 churches and community groups.

"Look at the nations and watch, and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told."
Habakkuk 1:5

About us:

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 support local people, meeting local needs with life transforming skills training projects. We supply the tools to equip the training centres and to give to trainees when they graduate. With this support we see long term sustainable livelihoods created. Thanks to over 500 volunteers in the UK and your support we will continue to transform lives and communities.

Tools to donate?

To find your nearest collection centre or to contact a local collector check our website or contact Ipswich.

Time to donate?

We always need more volunteers in our centres and also collecting tools where they live. Please go to timefortwam.uk or ring 01473 210220 to find out more.

Financial support

We keep our costs very low but we still need a lot of support. We value all gifts whether one off or regular. You can send donations to our Ipswich postal address or request a Standing Order and Gift Aid form.

Prayer support

TWAM depends on prayer. If you don't currently receive our quarterly prayer diary and would like to, please contact the Ipswich office.

Tools with a Mission

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**I do not
feel good
when my
congregation
is struggling**



Stephen, the trainer

What do you do when you look around your community and church and see everyone struggling from the crippling effects of ultra poverty?

This was the dilemma for Edward, the Pastor of the very small Living Gospel Church in the rural village of Chifuduli in Zambia.

The answer, as you might expect from Tools with a Mission, is to set up a Skills Training Centre. Edward chose carpentry because the biggest need he felt he could meet was training young men who had dropped out of school and had no hope of employment. So first of all he tells us:

“I learned carpentry so I could open a workshop and train people and every morning I am at the workshop.”

He then applied for TWAM tools and received a carpentry workshop kit and power tools. Edward had never seen so many tools! He opened his workshop with three young men from the church and two from the community. He recruited Stephen, a local carpenter, as the trainer. Stephen tells us why he decided to support Edward’s project.

“I came to this carpentry class because I am already a carpenter but I struggled to find work and didn’t have any clients. Now, I earn good money as I teach others. I teach, while we make furniture, doors, and other items to sell. I want to transfer my skills to them. It is useful for the students to learn by making things. That way, they can sell them afterwards and make some money.”

Stephen explained to us the incredible impact of tools and training. Young people can learn while they make things they can sell. This gives them both a skill and an income. This way, the community benefits with employment and skills coming to the village. Stephen benefits from young trainees to help him and the opportunity to use many more tools than he could ever hope to own himself. So, everybody benefits!

But the project became a victim of its own success as they were producing more goods than the local community and surrounding area could sustain. But Edward, undeterred, decided he would move the workshop to Samfya, the nearest big town. Now they have large premises and trainees from both the village and the town.



Edward, the Pastor of Living Gospel Church

With more trainees and a large customer base, the project is now doing so well that it can fund all the community work of the church back in Chifuduli. This includes - supporting vulnerable women, widows, school dropouts and the long term unemployed. It may have seemed that the community would suffer when the workshop moved to Samfya, but, as Edward hoped, the opposite was true. The centre has been so successful that Edward now tells us:

“I want to open a Training Centre back in the village. The Samfya workshop will stay open to make and sell furniture to raise funds to support the training in the village. My plans are well advanced and next year will see the move.”

This shows how projects can just grow and grow. A small community project provides the confidence to open a large financially sustainable Training Centre which, in turn, supports a smaller, financially dependent, Centre back in the village. The benefits are huge, not least because all the growth is by local people, meeting local needs and with local funding. By not relying on financial donations, the project becomes long term sustainable. It really is win-win.



The spacious Training Centre and workshop

But there is yet more to get excited about as Stephen the trainer has now been inspired by the impact he has had on the trainees at the Centre. So he tells us that his life has transformed from a failing business, with no customers, to:

“I plan to pass my skills to even more young people by opening my own Skills Centre. My wife is a tailor and teaches students, so we want to open a Centre together where we can teach carpentry and tailoring. If you are selfish with your skills, you don’t give other people room to grow. You have to share your skills to remove their poverty.”

This truly is the power of tools when placed into the hands of vision-driven local people, with a heart to transform their community. Thank you for helping Edward and Stephen achieve their ambitions.

I could buy, maybe, one screwdriver!

One of the cruellest experiences of life is to be given hope and then have it taken away.

This was the experience of Kay from Samfya, Zambia. He thought all his dreams had come true for, when he was accepted for an electricians training course. He worked hard and managed to pass all his exams. He had such high hopes that his life would change and a life of poverty and struggle would be behind him forever. But his hopes were dashed, when he realised he had no money and no means to buy the tools he needed.

The provision of tools is often the biggest hurdle to overcome - because they are hard to find; very expensive to buy; and, generally very poor quality. Hence Kay tells us:

“I was already trained but had no tools. I could buy, maybe, one screwdriver as they were so expensive.”



As a result he could only find a few days work each month assisting an established electrician. His life seemed hopeless because he knew that he could not work and support his family if he could only afford to buy one poor quality tool at a time. Then everything changed. He tells us what happened:

“I knew TWAM helped lots of people, so I hoped they would help me. I applied for a TWAM electricians kit and I got every tool I needed at the same time. The tools are very strong and much better than anything I can buy in Zambia,”



Kay's electrical shop

Kay received his tools in 2019 and it changed his life. He continues to tell us:

“After I got my tools, my life changed. Now people call me for work and the money I earned helped me open an electricians shop in March 2021. Now I supply my customers from the shop and do contract work.”

Kay now has a busy shop and a successful business. He employs four other electricians who, like him, were struggling without tools. With his TWAM electricians kit, Kay has not only transformed his life, but also the lives of the four people he employs.

Kay's story shows the life-changing impact the provision of good quality tools can have; and importantly, when all the tools needed are provided at the same time. Kay is typical of the thousands of tradesmen and women that together we help every year. Thank you for supporting Kay and all those who will benefit from his tools over the coming years.

An historic milestone: our first container from Rugby!

Tuesday December 6th is one of the most important and historic days in the life of TWAM!

Our new Rugby Refurbishment Centre dispatched its first container to Zambia! Just 3 months since the Centre opened and through the amazing work of our staff and volunteers, the first shipment was ready for Africa. It is hard to overestimate the achievement when virtually all the volunteers were new to TWAM and had to learn from scratch - the refurbishment of the tools; their packaging into trade-kits; and the complexity of preparing a load for export.

Firstly, we want to say a huge “thank you” to all our volunteers and secondly a huge “thank you” to all our supporters who gave to our Rugby appeal and who pray for us and support us throughout the year. To have achieved this during the effects of Covid, and now the cost of living crisis, is quite something!

As you read through TWAM News, we hope you will understand the incredible impact it will have when the container arrives.

Container reaching half full after just a few hours



The 20ft container includes a staggering 913 individual tool kits and machines. It will support no less than 35 different community groups and churches, supporting literally hundreds of trainees.

If you would like to know more about the tools that each kit contains, you can visit our website:
twam.uk/toolkitcontents

Rugby is due to dispatch eight containers next year to add to the sixteen going from Ipswich. The next container is due to ship at the end of February and will be headed to Uganda.

This is what we shipped to Zambia in our first Rugby container. Virtually all the tools were sorted, refurbished and packed into tool kits by our amazing team of incredibly hardworking volunteers in Rugby.

155	Sewing Machines - Electric	2	Mechanic's Workshop Kits
28	Sewing Machines - Manual	19	Agricultural Kits
7	Sewing Machines -Treadle	6	Groundworker Kits
18	Knitting Machine Kits	26	Computers
2	Hand Knitting Kits	8	Welding Machines and Kits
29	Haberdashery Boxes	3	Angle Grinders
56	Carpentry Kits (for one person)	4	Boxes of Bibles
11	Carpentry Workshop Kits	1	Chainsaw
40	Saw-Packs of 3 saws	1	Compressor
28	Boxes of Power Tools	1	Planer/Thicknesser
26	Builder's Kits	913	Total Packages
14	Electrician's Kits	(Many of the above kits contain more than one box)	
15	Plumber's Kits		
46	Mechanic's Kits (for one person)		

Container finished and ready to close the doors and send on its way to Zambia



Tools instead of poaching

TWAM works with many different groups, seeking to meet a huge variety of challenges; but some of those challenges may not be what you expect. A great example of meeting an unexpected need is the Tikobane Trust in Zimbabwe founded by Ndlelende Ncube. His challenge is to reduce poaching and protect the environment. He tells us:

“As a young person, I believe I am the change that I want to see in my community. Many of my friends are in prison and two were killed while poaching. I narrowly escaped the poaching temptation myself. With the little and poor education that I and many others around me have, it is hard not to poach”

Ndlelende recognised that this would not be achieved by increased policing and patrols but rather by addressing the issues that lead to poaching. We'll let him explain the problem:



“With few opportunities and little education, many people, especially youngsters and men are unemployable. So they will instead opt for poaching as a way of living. This has led to many men being killed or arrested for poaching, leaving their families alone without support and facing deep poverty”

So Ndlelende decided to provide opportunities by opening a carpentry workshop. He applied for TWAM tools and opened his Training Centre in March 2022 with 35 trainees. He is very well organised and tells us:

“Our course is 6 months long. We hope to see our trainees learn a skill that will help them to make a living and desist from poaching. We are also working with a local college so that our trainees will further their training to higher standards.”

But, breaking the cycle of dependency on poaching is incredibly hard. So how has Ndlelende succeeded? Well let's ask one of his trainees, 19 year old Ishmael Sibanda. He has lost his parents and is a child headed family making him very vulnerable to the poaching gang. He tells us:

Campaigning for animal rights in the community



"I did not finish school after my uncle was arrested for poaching. I was just doing piece work around the community, which pays very little and is very hard. One woman saw how hardworking I was and offered to refer me to the Tikobane Trust. They told me about the training and I was so interested."

I knew I had to find work, with my uncle arrested and my siblings to support. When I heard about the carpentry training, I fell in love. After my training I want to open my own shop, employ people and also help my siblings to finish their school through the income that I will get from my shop. I also want to help to train other young people just like I am being trained."

Both Ndlelende and Ishmael could so easily have gone into poaching and ended up in prison or worse. They could have destroyed valuable wildlife savannahs and killed many precious wild animals. But their lives have been transformed and as a result their communities are beginning to change.

Ndlelende shows us that what we care about; people, poverty, vulnerable women, children, education or the environment and wildlife, tools can help make a difference and bring about transformation. We'll give him the last word:

"Thank you so much to the donors of TWAM. To you, they may just be tools, but to us - they are the way to a bright future. Tools are the hope for many young and old alike in our community. We really appreciate your support."



Training camp to change the mindset of local youngsters

Thank you for giving me a second chance

One of the great strengths and benefits of supporting local groups meeting local needs, is that people, who would often be marginalised and forgotten by larger projects, are identified and helped by smaller, local projects.

Mehluli Ncube is a fine example. He was released from prison after serving eleven years. It is very hard in any society for ex-offenders to start again, but extremely hard in a culture where family is everything and their rejection is devastating and socially isolating.

But Mehluli was noticed by the Family Life Projects Trust in Zimbabwe. During his many years in prison, he had learned tailoring so all he needed was somebody to believe in him and offer him the very precious gift of a sewing machine. Until he met Mkhululi from Family Life, he did not hold out any hope for an act of kindness. But he received one when he was offered a sewing machine of his own.

Mkhululi tells us:

“It was a joyous moment to see Mehluli receive a sewing machine, with tears of joy. Thanks to TWAM for the gift of a sewing machine which will make a huge difference in his life.”

Mehluli received his sewing machine and embraced it with a passion and enthusiasm only shown by someone who knows they have been given a second chance at life they never dared hope for. Family Life’s mission is to help train youths, orphans and vulnerable women, but when you are local you do not turn away from anyone with a desperate need you know you can meet.

Mehluli with some of the bags he has made and his TWAM sewing machine



So, “thank you” for offering this very precious gift to Mehluli. A gift, not just of a sewing machine, but a second chance to get his life right.



Penninah with
her family

A very special letter from Penninah to you

Below is a lovely letter we received from Uganda which we were asked to share with all our supporters. It is a wonderful insight into the heart and passion of the people we serve and their selfless desire to change their communities. Penninah writes:

Dear Friends at TWAM

Firstly, allow me, on behalf of everyone here at Save Community Care Foundation, to greet you in the name of our Lord, and to thank Him for bringing us through the pandemic.

May I tell you my story? I was married off at the age of thirteen to a Village Chief because my parents needed to raise tuition fees for my elder brothers. This hurt me so much, as I had believed we were equal and shared the same opportunities. I then understood, the hard way, that this was not true.

Thankfully, unlike most of my friends, my husband was willing to enrol me back into school. I vowed to become a teacher and make sure every girl had an education. I was given the chance to reshape my life, keep my vow and become a teacher. I retired in 2010 and shifted my focus to youth unemployment and the marginalisation of girls and boys, which is a major challenge in my country. It is slowly eating up the younger generation.

I decided it was something I should do, rather than let somebody else do it. Many other organisations do tremendous work in Uganda in the same field, but I just wanted to be the change-maker that I desire.

I started training in early July 2020, when I received your tools, and have trained 15 girls and 4 boys aged between 12 and 18 (*as at July 2021*). Our courses vary, but, on average a certificate course lasts 4 months.

Please allow me to share the story of Martin, one of our students.

He was born to a polygamous father who was wealthy and Martin didn't know any suffering until the unfortunate death of his father who was a taxi owner and driver. The extended family came and took everything from his mother and they were left homeless and penniless (*this is illegal but very common*). Martin was left looking after his mother and three siblings at just sixteen. They moved into a Ghetto. He had no chance of avoiding crime, until we found him and offered him a course in welding. We helped him with tools and capital to start his workshop and now he is a successful welder. This has changed all their lives.

So, “thank you” TWAM. I would love to add that I pray for your blessings and may the Almighty God bless you KINGSIZE!

Penninah Muhwezi
Save Community Care Foundation

Penninah's heart is so beautifully revealed to us, as she translated great pain, in her own life, into loving hope in the lives of others. It is a genuine privilege for TWAM to support her and stand with her. Thank you, Penninah, for writing this moving letter to us.



Martin's workshop

Tools transform lives for good. When we send tools to the right people, with the vision, compassion and skills needed to train and equip people, we can achieve amazing things. But we can't do it without you. Please support us if you can, and together we can have an incredible impact on countless lives.



My Response: I would like to send quality tools to some of the most vulnerable people in Africa. Please accept my gift of:

☐ £15 ☐ £25 ☐ £50 ☐ £100 ☐ £150 ☐ £250 ☐ Other £

Name:

Address:

..... Postcode:

Or you could **donate online at twam.uk/donate**; by **phone to 01473 210220**; using our **bank account details**. Please include your surname and postcode as a reference.
Barclay's Bank - Account 33190994 Sort code: 20-44-51

Would you like to receive our **Supporter e-news** once a month? It's packed with up to date news and great stories. If so please give us your email address below, **or go to twam.uk/stayintouch** to sign up online.

My email is:

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years, to Tools with a Mission.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: Date:

Please notify the charity if you want to cancel this declaration; change your name or home address; no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher rate or additional rate and want to receive additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

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