

**TWAM**

Tools with a Mission

# Our news

**Education without a skill is almost completely useless**

January 2022



**Empowering people with the tools that create livelihoods and transform lives**

## Welcome to TWAM News



Welcome to the first edition of TWAM News in 2022. We are focusing on the life-changing ability of skills training and tools to create long term sustainable livelihoods. Most importantly livelihoods that can impact many more

lives and entire communities. For the majority of people living in the developing world it is skills training not education that provides their lifeline out of poverty. This is why we have also included updates on our plans for growth in the UK and why we are so excited to share with you our 2021 achievement.

*Mike Griffin, Chief Executive*

### 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 are in particular need of drivers at our Coventry Refurbishment Centre. If you are interested please contact the Ipswich office, we'd love to hear from you.

### Financial support

TWAM operates seven refurbishment centres across the UK and sends out over 20 containers of tools a year. 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.

*“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”*

1 Peter 4:10

### About us:

Tools with a Mission is a Christian charity enabling people to earn a living and support themselves and their families. In many countries people have few skills, little education and no means of earning a living. A switch from aid dependency to self-sufficiency is impossible without help. TWAM started over thirty years ago, and has since provided this help by collecting and refurbishing tools and equipment no longer required in the UK and sending them overseas. Through collectors and centres across the UK, our team of dedicated volunteers and supporters help transform thousands of lives every year.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

### Tools with a Mission

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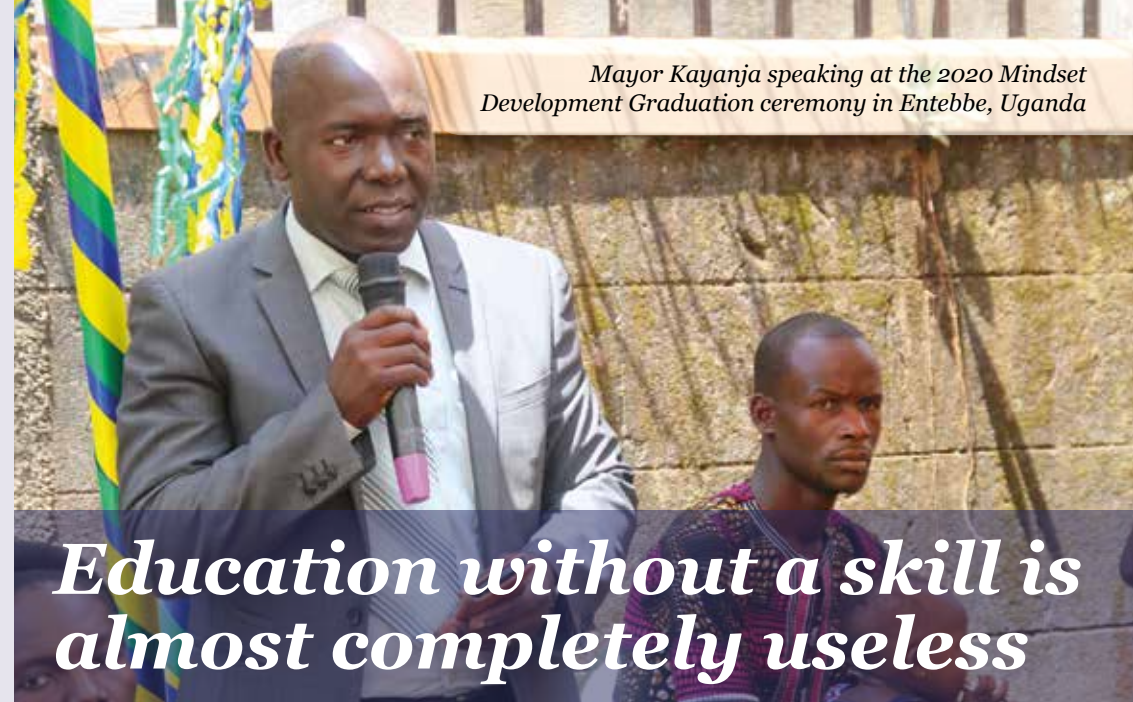
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*TWAM is grateful to the Aall Foundation for their long-term generous support of our work.*

**twam.uk**

[facebook.com/toolswithamission](https://facebook.com/toolswithamission)

*Mayor Kayanja speaking at the 2020 Mindset Development Graduation ceremony in Entebbe, Uganda*



***Education without a skill is almost completely useless***

You might expect TWAM to say this, but this was said by Vincent Kayanja, Mayor of Entebbe when he was guest of honour at the tailoring graduation ceremony of over 100 vulnerable women at Mindset Development, TWAM's partner in Uganda. Mindset trains mostly younger women from rural ultra-poverty areas, most of whom have lost a parent thus making them extremely vulnerable to street gangs and forced underage marriage and sex-work.

It was into these desperate situations that affect young men and women alike that Mayor Kayanja spoke. In countries where there are few offices, a school certificate will rarely save you from the appalling consequences of poverty. But, in countries where the vast majority of people work for themselves in make-shift workshops, open air yards and even on work benches fixed under a tree, tools truly provide a means of escape.

This is why TWAM is so passionate and determined to meet the huge and growing demand for our tools. This is why we want to double the number of tools we send to Africa to 1,000,000 every year! That's 30,000 tool kits and machines to transform lives for good.

But there is even more good news. You will read in the next story that one person trained and equipped with tools, rarely results in just one life being transformed. It is almost always the case that they then go on to train others in the skills they have learned, and even let them use their sewing machines and tools to get started.

The long term economic sustainability of skills training and tools is remarkable, so please read on and get excited about the lives being transformed and the plans of TWAM to transform thousands more, and please take to heart the words of Mayor Kayanja:

***‘Education without a skill is almost completely useless.’***

# Train one and get five more free!

Most of us love a 'buy one - get one free' offer but with skills training and tools you can achieve so much more. Skills and tools give one person the opportunity to help many more people. Deborah is a typical example as she shares with great joy:

*"I have opened a school, teaching tailoring. I have five in my class, but that will grow."*

When Mayor Kayanja made his statement that 'Education without a skill is almost completely useless' (see previous article) he could have been referring to Deborah. Most children in Uganda complete primary education, as school fees are very low at just a few pounds per term; but when they rise steeply to several hundred pounds for secondary school, many children drop out. Deborah's parents managed to find the money to send her to secondary for O levels but had no money for her to stay on for A levels. Despite having some O levels, which would be more than most, she tells us:

*"I stayed home after school because I had no job. After school I had no money, but my uncle told me about Mindset and that training was free. I went along and they accepted me."*

## Meet Deborah...



Deborah found no amount of education made any difference when there were no jobs. So having reached the same conclusions as Mayor Kayanja she looked for skills training. She graduated from Mindset the top of her year, so received not one but two TWAM sewing machines. Deborah never had thoughts just for herself, so she tells us:

*"When I finished my course I started working from my parents' home. I love tailoring because it helps me make clothes for my parents as well as selling clothes to earn money."*

*I have opened a school, teaching tailoring. I have 5 in my class but that will grow as I am established. Where I am in my village there are very few tailors, so that is why I decided to help. I do not change fees to the girls as no one can afford them. My father says it is better to be generous. I am teaching my students all that I learned at Mindset."*

## Meet Esther...

*"I was shattered when I dropped out of school and wondered what I would do."*



Esther is exactly the kind of person whose life is completely transformed by skills training and tools. She too has trained in tailoring at Mindset and she tells us her story:

*"I completed primary education but dropped out of secondary school because my dad died and my mum was left with 3 children. There was no money for school fees. I was shattered when I dropped out of school and wondered what I would do."*

*Both my brothers had to drop out of school and they now do day labouring on building sites which is not good. Without my tailoring I could have become a domestic worker which can be very dangerous because when you are young you can be abused. Tailoring is much safer."*

Esther's life has been transformed and thankfully she will never have to experience what she feared might happen to her. Esther too has gone on to help others and she tells us:

*"People from our church used to give us food, but now they do not have to as I can afford to buy food. I now support my family more than my mother."*

Esther's plan is for her brothers to leave day labouring and support them so they can go back to school. This will transform their futures as much as tailoring has transformed hers. Tools really are the gifts that keep on giving. She has big plans, and continues:

*"I plan to have my own business and the best place is in the shopping centre in Entebbe. That is where I plan to go, as there are many customers there. Now I find my customers by word of mouth, for when I do a good job my customers tell others. I make clothes and bags."*

Deborah and Esther have had their lives transformed by skills training and tools, and as a result are going on to help many more in their communities and families. With your support so many lives can be transformed forever. Thank you for making all of this possible.

*“Most of the youths in our community have nothing to do despite performing really well in their secondary education.”*

In Ndola, the third largest city in Zambia, roughly the same size as Leeds or Edinburgh, Clifford Chipungu runs the Christian Association Reliance Youth Movement (CARYM). Once again his words (above) and experience echo that of Mayor Kayanja from Entebbe (first article) that *“Education without a skill is almost completely useless.”*

He tells us why he set up CARYM and says:

*“The major need in our community is to equip the youths with life survival skills to help them sustain their livelihood and achieve their ambitions in life. Most of the youths in our community have nothing to do despite performing really well in their secondary education. Therefore, a life skill is a good investment because it helps them to be able to stand on their own.”*

Clifford also saw first-hand the results of poverty and the desperation caused by the prospect of nothing to look forward to other than long term unemployment. It is hard for many of us to appreciate the dark despair of a young person setting out on life with literally nothing to hope for and nothing to look forward to. He continues:



*Clifford (standing right) with some of the students from CARYM*

*“I came to realise that the core reason why our community is so poor is because our youth are engaging in illegal activities due to their lack of work. If we could train them and keep them busy it would be better for the whole community. So we decided to start training and turned to TWAM for help with the tools. I decided I must help with this, when I realised that the other reason most people in our community are stagnant in life is because of waiting for someone else to lift them up or for the government to give them employment. But we know this will not happen and therefore, the best way to uplift our living standards is to start the work ourselves. When people see how willing you are to train and work, and what you want to achieve, they will support you.”*

Clifford shows us that skills training and tools not only benefit those being trained, but the whole community as crime reduces and income rises. When the

people see their youngsters training and becoming committed to advancement, the whole community gains the hope and positivity missing in so many ultra-poor areas.

When Clifford opened the training centre in 2017, it changed far more than the lives of the students. So far over 300 young people have been trained in tailoring,

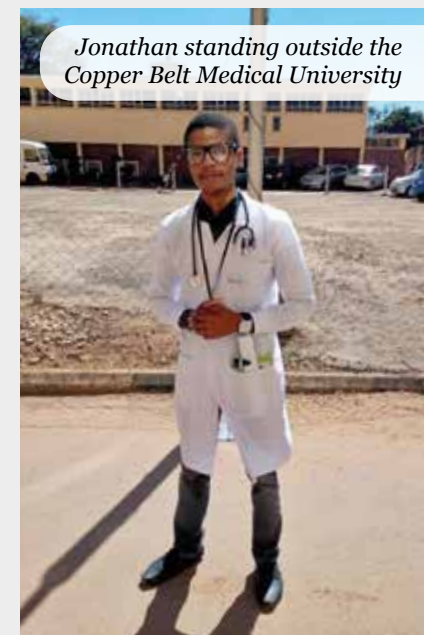
carpentry and joinery, metal fabrication, electrical engineering and plumbing. The training courses last for one year and all include placements with local firms to gain experience and hopefully be offered employment.

Clifford proudly introduces us to one of his former students.

## Meet Jonathan...

Jonathan did very well at primary and secondary school but could not afford to complete his education. It was a very bitter and heart-breaking blow, which could easily have led him into a street gang. But he joined CARYM and trained as a carpenter. He used his skills to start saving and with the support of Clifford applied to study a Bachelor's Degree in Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) at the local university. It was because the university recognised his drive and determination that they offered him a 75% scholarship. The remainder of his fees and the money he needs to live on, is enhanced by selling furniture he has made.

What a remarkable turnaround, whereby education cannot replace skills, but skills can make education possible. This shows just how important skills training and tools are, even to a budding surgeon! Imagine the impact of Jonathan's training as he goes on to save thousands of lives during his medical career. There really is no limit to what skills training and tools can achieve.



*Jonathan standing outside the Copper Belt Medical University*

Once again we are left with Mayor Kayanja's words *“Education, without a skill is almost completely useless”* - so powerfully illustrated.

We'll give Clifford the last word:

*“We would like to thank our TWAM partners for the help they have given us, because it will help us train so many more students. May the Good Lord bless you in all your work now and forever more.”*

# One amazing year

2020 was a challenging year and the early months were adversely affected by significant travel restrictions, meaning our volunteer collectors could not collect tools. Undaunted, we still managed to send 14 containers to Africa. We're so proud of our volunteer team and our supporters whose generosity has made all of this possible. We want to share with you all that you have helped us achieve.

We're so grateful and want to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers and supporters.



Tools arriving in Zambia

## Our impact in Africa

### Tool kits and machines sent in 2020

2545	Sewing Machines
347	Haberdashery Boxes
193	Knitting Machines
217	Bags of Knitting Machine Wool
96	Hand Knitting Packs
437	Carpentry Trade Kits
177	Carpentry Workshop Kits
197	Boxes of Drills and Power Tools
374	Pack of 3 Saws
771	Computers
69	Computer network Kits
442	Builders Kits
101	Groundworkers Kits
170	Agricultural Kits
248	Motor Mechanics Kits
108	Mechanics Workshop Kits
138	Plumbers Kits

174	Electricians Kits
102	Welding Machine and accessories
3083	Large tools, machines and other boxes of tools

**9989 - an incredible total sent**

### Tool Kits by country

1431	DR Congo
3089	Uganda
4684	Zambia
785	Zimbabwe

### Projects supported per country

13	DR Congo
95	Uganda
193	Zambia
40	Zimbabwe

## Our impact in the UK

We have an amazing volunteer team supporting what we do. Many are retired, but we also work with long term unemployed, ex-military personnel in rehabilitation programmes, ex-offenders and young people with Support Workers. In total we have:

### Our volunteers:

72	Ipswich Refurbishment Centre team
8	Head office team
	Coventry Refurbishment Centre team
28	Halstead Refurbishment Centre team
13	Chesterfield, Chichester, and Sutton Coldfield local volunteer collection teams
24	Van driving team (operating 5 vans)
38	Volunteer Tool Collectors
191	UK based volunteer Country
6	Coordinators
7	Board of Trustee volunteers
<b>387</b>	<b>Total UK volunteer team</b>
168	Volunteers in Africa
<b>555</b>	<b>individuals involved with TWAM</b>

In addition, there are 6 full time TWAM staff and 7 independent volunteer-led workshops based across England and Wales with around 100 volunteers between them.

## Our impact for the earth

TWAM has always had its green credentials and sustainability at its heart. We believe a hammer should remain a hammer, so we champion reusing tools rather than recycling them. It takes far less resources to refurbish a tool rather than recycling it and turning it into something else.

Therefore, we're proud that we have been able:

1. To save around 250 tonnes of tools from potentially going to landfill and shipping them to Africa.
2. To save over 100 tonnes of tools not suitable for Africa from potentially going to landfill by selling them for recycling or reuse.
3. To save nearly £1,500,000 by refurbishing and reusing tools, rather than buying them new.

This all amounts to around 1,367,173kg of CO2 emissions saved every year.

We believe this all adds up to a superb life-transforming achievement. Thank you for helping to make it all possible!



# *“Through my knitting I have learned to believe in myself again”*

Patrick lives in Livingstone, Zambia and he attends a very small knitting class at his local church which has just two students. He is 23 but is still going to school. This is not unusual, but shows a great deal of determination. Most children who are denied their schooling, because they have no money for school fees, never return and suffer from the lifelong obstacle of not having a basic primary school certificate to show future employers.

Patrick tells us why he has been unable to complete his education. He says:

*“My father died leaving my mother with eight children. She could not support me, so she sent me and my youngest sister to stay with her big sister. I had to stop school because my mother could not afford my fees.”*

This is where the offer of skills training and tools can make such a difference. It is not just about learning a skill, but also learning to believe in yourself and gain self-belief. It was when Patrick realised he could achieve something that he became determined to go back to school and complete his basic school certificate.

So when his oldest sister got a job and offered to help him pay his school fees, Patrick jumped at the opportunity. It will take Patrick another year to catch up and his only income is from the things he is able to knit. The church allows the students to use their knitting machine outside of class times to support themselves.

The church and the knitting machine have been a lifeline for Patrick, allowing him to look after himself while he completes his schooling. In the long term, Patrick hopes he will be able to do an engineering job of some kind. This is a good job with good long-term prospects.

Patrick’s life has been turned around, but what he really wants to do is support his young brothers and sisters to go back to school as well. As he progresses, this should be possible and another wonderful example of how training and tools can transform not just one life, but in time, a whole family.



*Patrick sitting at the training centre’s sole knitting machine*

# *We will not be defeated - not even by a pandemic!*

We are talking a great deal about the ambition of TWAM to double in size and have an ever greater impact around the developing world. To achieve this growth, it cannot be limited to our work in the UK, but also to the countries that we serve.

To achieve our goals we have been developing in-country volunteer teams and long-term mission partners in all the countries where we work and we want to introduce you to our Zambia team. It consists of committed and incredibly enthusiastic volunteers who finally managed to have an in-person conference at the headquarters of our partner, United Church of Zambia (UCZ) in October 2021. It was the third attempt to arrange this meeting around various lockdowns and travel restrictions.



*Some of the delegates from the conference outside UCZ headquarters.*

The team consists of Rodgers N’gambi our TWAM Country Leader, who works with Paul Seymour - our UK based volunteer Country Coordinator to manage and develop the work in Zambia. They are supported by five Regional Development Managers dotted around the country who work with applicants and groups to encourage long-term sustainable projects, and finally a group of 26 District Development Teams, working in smaller areas to develop the work in their own communities. Overall this amounts to well over a hundred team members.

The main team members met for a day’s conference in Lusaka and were joined by UK staff from Ipswich, via Zoom. It was a very profitable day and helped develop the work. We also agreed important steps forward - such as how projects will be assessed to ensure their livelihood is actually creating an impact.

The great stories in TWAM News don’t just happen. It is because of dedicated, committed and incredibly hard working teams like this. So please be encouraged in your support of TWAM, that we all work really hard to make sure every tool and every penny counts.

# A thank you letter to you - from Zambia

We receive many letters of thanks and thought we would include one from Pastor Davies who has received tools from us for many years. He writes to you:

Dear Friends

I just want to share my great appreciation for your support. The tools we have received have changed the lives of many vulnerable people in our province of Luapula. 90% of our people are in great poverty and cannot even afford to have two meals a day. They need their lives to be changed through tools and skills empowerment.

I decided I could meet this need when I learned about TWAM at a Pastors Fellowship meeting. I heard how TWAM tools had made skills training and employment possible. So I applied to TWAM and after a year received the tools I needed to start a skills centre with just a small number of people.

I decided I should do this, rather than let someone else meet the needs, because we must learn to believe in ourselves and be confident that if we are united and work in partnership with TWAM we can change the lives of vulnerable people.



*Pastor Davies outside the Luapula Training Centre*

Working together, we have met a lot of needs by introducing mobile training programmes to reach the most remote areas. We have been able to set up two skills training centres in our main towns of Samfya and Mansa. All of this has allowed vulnerable people to access our training programmes and since we started in 2016 we have trained over 600 people.

Other challenges of the community we want to help are to make sure all unemployed youths are empowered with skills and tools. In partnership with the Zambian government, we have opened the Luapula Skills Training Centre for 400 students. With the help of TWAM we have managed this, our biggest vision.

In conclusion I can't forget to be grateful for everyone in the UK who has supported us through donating to TWAM. I say **'thank you – very much!'**

Pastor Davies Chibwe



*Luapula Tailoring workshop*

It is amazing to think that during a meeting of local Church leaders, somebody told Davies about TWAM and as a result he has been able to achieve so much. He may have directly helped over 600 vulnerable people, but he has indirectly helped thousands more by setting up local TWAM teams across his Province.

It is remarkable what can be achieved when you support TWAM and help people like Pastor Davies to achieve truly amazing results and impact their communities for good. So we too say - **'thank you – very much!'**



*Michael receiving his sewing machine and beginning the next amazing chapter of his life*

# “Without your hands you are not going to manage.”

TWAM has had a long established work in the town of Kasase in Uganda. Kasase is a town of extremes as it sits on the border with the DR Congo to the west and the Queen Elizabeth National Park, the jewel in Uganda’s tourist crown, to the east. Kasase does not benefit from tourism, but it does suffer from being so close to DR Congo and the violence that spills over the border.

The danger of being near DR Congo is starkly highlighted by the work TWAM is doing with Kasase Baptist Church. A few years ago this was a large church, but now it is a handful of faithful members working tirelessly to serve their community. The church saw a dramatic decline, literally overnight, as one night rebels came across the border and massacred virtually the whole membership of the church, along with many of the local community.

Undaunted, they began to rebuild, which included contacting TWAM to ask for tools to set up a small skills centre teaching tailoring, carpentry and motor mechanics. It is humbling that despite such personal loss, the remaining members thought first of the pain of their community. When the TWAM tools arrived, they opened the centre and invited in many of the young people who had lost parents and homes.

As the centre became established Salima joined the tailoring course and when we met her in early 2017, she was nearing the end of her 8 month course. She was learning tailoring and business skills, to help her start her own business. She tells us a little about herself:



Salima during her tailoring course



The busy clothes market in Kasase

*“I am a Muslim and am married with one child. I found out about the course from friends who had already completed it. I wanted to get a skill. I thought tailoring is the course for ladies and there is money in it as I can sell things on the market. I want to set up my own business.”*

It is never easy and will be an uphill struggle for Salima, but she is clearly a very determined woman.

The next time we met Salima was in early 2020 before the pandemic stopped travel. Much had changed for her as she has benefited from the Community Savings Scheme which the centre had started to encourage students to save as they train. This meant Salima had some money to buy materials and get her businesses up and running. She tells us:

*“I was given a sewing machine and have done very well. I have started my own business and have got established in*

*the market where I get orders to make clothes.”*

Salima is now very busy providing for her family, but she is also giving back to the centre as she chose to stay on to become one of the volunteer instructors.

Echoing the words of our first story quoting the Mayor of Entebbe stating that education without a skill is almost completely useless, Salima says “Without your hands you are not going to manage.”

Salima tells us that your hands provide your skill, and your skill provides your living, so without skill, tools and hands you will not manage.

Salima shows us once again that even if you live in a dangerous place, where extremes of poverty and violence are everywhere to be seen, you can flourish and you can succeed with training, skills and tools. And perhaps just as importantly you can give something back.



# *Education without a skill is almost completely useless*

In this edition we have focused on some remarkable people proving that skills training and tools can completely and permanently change lives. But we can't do it without your help. Please help us to help them impact some of the poorest and most desperate people in the world while at the same time saving literally hundreds of tonnes of tools from going to landfill.

I would like to help send tools to Africa and be part of the work to create livelihoods and transform lives.

Please accept my gift of:

- £15     £25     £50     £100  
 £150     £250     Other £ \_\_\_\_\_

Or you could donate online at: [twam.uk/donate](http://twam.uk/donate); by phone to 01473 210220; using our bank details. Please include your surname and postcode as a reference.  
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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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 and tick the box below.

Please send me the TWAM **Supporter e-news**

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 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 or additional rate and want to receive the 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.

### **Tools with a Mission,**

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