

THE CHANGARAWE PROJECT

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AUTUMN UPDATE 2009

We celebrated the 10th anniversary of the opening in September 1999 of our new Zawadi School building with a tremendous party at Battersea Arts Centre on September 22nd.

We were delighted to have our Tanzanian Co-Founder and Director, **Felistas Kalomo** here with us. She was accompanied by the head teacher of the Zawadi School, **Helena Mahidi** and we also invited Felistas' daughter **Flora Losindilo Mzee** to join in the celebrations. Among many distinguished guests we were honoured to welcome Her Excellency Mwanaidi Sinare Maajar, Tanzanian High Commissioner.

We were amazed and delighted to have an astonishing 276 people at the event and the wonderful music of the band **Kasai Masai** from East Africa contributed to a very lively and joyous occasion. They followed a beautiful and moving performance of unaccompanied singing by Felistas, Helena and Flora. Before the festivities really started Felistas was pleased to be able to address and thank some of the people who contributed money to the rebuilding of her house following the devastating fire in 2007 in which she lost her son and house boy.

Our textile stall proved to be very popular and we also had a superb raffle. My very grateful thanks go to the donors of the extremely generous prizes who contributed in no small way to the success of the evening.

I would also like to say a *big* thank all of you who came to the party, bringing such a warm and happy atmosphere with you. Many of you have supported the Charity since fund-raising first began in 1998, and I must also thank you all for bringing so many new faces to the party.

During Felistas' visit it was good to be able to have an extensive Board meeting of all seven UK trustees with Felistas, which is only possible when she comes here.

Visits were made to **The Dominie School**, who enabled us through their fundraising in 2006 to open a third classroom at the Zawadi School, and **Newton Prep School** which has been donating copious quantities of school uniform for several years. Helena Mahidi was extremely interested to see some of the methods with which children in the UK are taught and both schools made a tremendous effort to show them as much as possible. We also went to the Tanzanian High Commission for talks with the High Commissioner and some of her staff.

Once again we have to thank **British Airways** for their generous sponsorship of the Changarawe Project with the donation of 4 return tickets between London and Dar es Salaam, enabling us to bring Felistas and Helena here together. It was the first time that Helena and Flora had left their country and they enjoyed The London Eye and the Victoria and Albert Museum while they were here as well as experiencing the Tube and the view from the top of double decker buses.

Textiles. With Christmas and other festivals just around the corner, please remember that the lovely aprons and bags that are made in Changarawe Village by Redina Mtei, make beautiful, unusual and inexpensive presents. They can be ordered by email, the website, or phone - addresses at the top of this page, - or bought at the following shops:- M. Moen and Sons, The Pavement, Clapham, SW4; Clapham Books and Today's Living, both in Clapham High St SW4; North Street Potters and Clapham Physiotherapy Clinic, both in North St SW4; Fair Trade at St Michaels in Oxford.

The Library. The Stationer's Library is now established as a regular part of life for the O and A level students of the Nigel Lloyd Fund. It is open 4 afternoons a week and around 40 children attend regularly and receive a meal when they are there. We very much hope there will be an improvement in their exam results this year and beyond. We have been donated a large amount of art materials and we are planning to introduce an **Art Club** for the younger Lloyd Fund children in the new year.

Florida. I have recently returned from attending a fund-raising event organized in Orlando by Stephen and Marguerite Saker. Marguerite visited Changarawe with Kirstie and Nicky Chadwick in July. They had a fascinating and very enjoyable time there and Felistas and the team entertained them wonderfully and enjoyed showing them all the various activities that they run so well. We very much appreciate their on-going efforts on behalf of The Changarawe Project.

We are hoping to combine the money raised at the anniversary party and the event in Florida, plus two other recent donations from St Mary's Battersea and a Bridge Drive organized by a loyal friend, to replace the ailing School Pick-up which is essential for water collection, the transportation of the sacks of food for the meals we provide, and taking sick children to hospital.

Update. In the Spring Newsletter I appealed for funding for 2 things, a bicycle wheelchair for a paraplegic boy and surgery for an elderly lady with fistula. I am truly thrilled to be able to report that the custom made wheelchair has been built in Dar es Salaam and should be delivered any day now and the lady with fistula is scheduled for surgery in Dar as soon as one or two other health problems have been sorted out. She is currently being treated in Morogoro for these and she is doing well. Thank you so much to all those who were so moved by their stories and have enabled us to help them.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

There will be an opportunity for some last minute shopping with a selection of crafts from Tanzania for sale at **50 Chelsham Road SW4 on Wednesday 16th December from 4-0pm till 8-0pm** accompanied by a glass of wine and nibbles so I do hope to see some of you there. *No invitations will be sent so please email, write or phone if you wish to attend.*

Our once-every-eighteen months Fair Trade Bazaar will take place in the Spring of 2010 - date to be announced.

Thanks to you all from the villagers of Changarawe for your wonderful support and interest.

Carolyn Walford, Director, The Changarawe Project.

November 2009