

THE CHANGARAWE PROJECT

Registered charity 1098215
50 Chelsham Road, London SW4 6NP
e-mail: changaraweuk@gmail.com
www.changaraweproject.org

AUTUMN UPDATE 2014

News from Luke Edwards-Stuart, Chair of Trustees.

Dear Friends of Changarawe.

This year we celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the opening of The Zawadi School in 1999. A huge thank you to everyone who attended the dinner at the wonderful Ironmongers' Hall in London and made it such a lovely evening. It was particularly exciting to welcome Felistas Kalomo (CDTFN Executive Director) and Mary Fulgence (CDTFN secretary) to London for the week. During the week Felistas spoke at a Britain Tanzania Society seminar on "Improving Excellence in Education in Tanzania". They enjoyed themselves very much and we would like to thank everyone for making them feel so welcome.

We are also enormously grateful to everyone who sponsored the extraordinary "Kili on the Ben" event in June, and of course to all the participants too! It was our most successful fundraising event ever and congratulations to Mark Baylis for the idea and fabulous organization. It's been a busy year!

2015 was another year of stability and steady growth for the Changarawe Project. We are very grateful to the continuity provided by our senior management team of Felistas, Mary and Gaspar Ngulwa and the continued loyalty of all of our Tanzanian staff. We had only one departure this year - our Orphan Welfare Centre caretaker Laidir Mwilafi - and we are delighted to welcome Daudi Shabani as her replacement. We continue to benefit from a stream of talented volunteers from nearby Mzumbe University and are also pleased to announce that Children in Crisis (CIC), who also use CDTFN to implement their projects, now have two full-time staff in the office as well. All of these new faces add dynamism and vision to our already strong and experienced team and we are delighted at these developments. We are also pleased to report that we have now started a staff pension scheme, into which all of our staff contribute monthly.

Our projects continue to flourish. The latest cohort of Zawadi school children have just graduated at another colourful ceremony and will start primary school next year. Eleven Form IV students, 28 Form II students and thirteen Standard 6 (primary) students have just taken their national exams and we await the results. Paolo Mlaji continues to enjoy his Higher Diploma in Art and our two A-level students (Alex Lukoo and Agape Mgana) are doing well. Our library has been re-stocked and updated with curriculum specific textbooks and a brand new blackboard installed. The number of grannies in our Bibibabu Scheme is up to 50, and we've allowed first-time users of

the **Micro-finance Scheme** to borrow twice in the first year if they meet their repayment deadlines. Finally, a special mention needs to go to our wonderful **Peer Educators** who continue to surpass themselves and have recently given an outstanding performance to large crowds at a national event to mark **World Aids Day**. Expertly led by **Jonas Mbwila**, they are developing a national reputation and their future looks promising.

Our beautiful **Changarawe textile products**, made in the village by **Redina Mtei**, continue to sell very well in the UK, particularly the practical and colourful cook's aprons. They are available to purchase at **Moens**, the superb butcher in Clapham and via the details on the website, although the patterns change so fast that it's difficult to be too specific about colour. For the first time this year we also have lovely Christmas cards made from **Zawadi School artwork**, and thanks are due to **Lizzie's at Webbs Road, London SW11** who are selling them.

So what challenges lie ahead over the next five years? Firstly, we will increase our focus on secondary and vocational education. We are determined to give all our orphans with academic aspirations a chance to succeed in their national exams and will be recruiting an EFL teacher on a rolling annual basis to support them with English. We will also develop vocational training programmes for those whose academic prospects are less good. **Secondly**, we will focus on projects to improve the sustainability of the Project; in particular we will focus on activities, infrastructure and programmes which the local community can pay to use, thus raising revenue which can be used to invest in our own orphans.

We are looking closely at a partnership with **Whizz Education**, which we hope will help us meet both these key challenges. They will install an ICT suite of 24 networked laptops, a broadband internet connection and software and support for an innovative online Maths programme. Our students will undoubtedly benefit hugely from this facility. However the start-up and operating costs are significant and we are looking at ways of meeting these costs locally by hiring the facilities out to community groups. We will consider our options in detail during the next trustee visit to **Changarawe** in February 2015.

Finally, a big thank you is also due to our outstanding team of 8 Trustees who work so hard in their spare time to keep the charity going. Particular mention should be made of **Michael Robarts** who has been running the finances since we achieved charitable status in 2003. *All our work is voluntary, all donations go directly into the charity and no expenses are taken from donations.*

Many thanks again to all of you for your continued support,

Luke

Trustees: Luke Edwards-Stuart, Chair of Trustees; Michael Robarts, Finance Director; Kathryn Beveridge, Fund-raising Coordinator; Robert Watkinson, Web-site and fund-raising; Rose Baylis, Health and fundraising; Tatyana Eatwell, legal issues; Sarah Konopka; American representative and general back-up; Carolyn Walford, Founder, Textiles and general back-up.

Address for donations, **Priory Farm, Balscote, Nr Banbury, Oxon OX15 6JL.**