

The Anvil

Your monthly update from
Tools For Self Reliance Cymru

It's Official!

All the speeches have been spoken and all the ribbons have been cut. Our fully finished workshop has been ceremoniously opened by the Archbishop of Mwanza and it was big news in Tanzania. It makes a very clear statement that the college is becoming more important in the area than ever before and we're glad to be able to be a part of the regrowth of this institution.

Our workshop is a remarkable achievement and much praise must go to the trustees, in particular Corin Mills, who worked so closely with our crew, the college administration and successfully jumped through all the bureaucratic hoops to pull this project to completion. It is by far the biggest thing we've done in Tanzania to date.

Before and after:



A Story:



'I am Regina a mother of three children living in Ukerewe. My husband was one of the people who received a sewing machine from this project. I remember somebody from SIDO brought the machines four year ago. My husband and I are both trained in tailoring. He took his training at SIDO Mwanza while I was

locally trained there at my home village. I was the one using the machine while my husband was busy with farming.

It was a very good machine and since our home is near a police station and a school I used to get many customers who came to order uniforms. After two years I managed to add two butterfly machines and I started training girls who complete school. Two days ago my husband told me there is another good machine available and asked me to come for it. The tailoring activity helped us a lot. We now have a plot where we plan to build our own house. I am also supporting one child of my sister who is attending secondary school. In addition I contributed to my husband's capital to establish a carpentry project. Luck enough I am also told this project of yours is also providing carpentry tools. I will see if I will be able to take some after consulting my husband.

One thing I really appreciate this project is the way it is willing to visit and help people who are far in villages. Very few organizations or people from big towns who even visit us! Thank you and when I go back I will give the good news to my colleagues in our women group. May God bless you.

Containers 21a and 21b

Well, we've said it before and we'll say it again: The tools are what we do. The workshop is a vital part of the project but it's entirely redundant without the tools we send. Right now it's a race to see if our container ships before Workaid's first Kalwande bound one does. Our C21 is almost full and our friends over at Workaid will also be sending tools to our workshop over the next year. The steadier flow of tools will hopefully eliminate the feast and famine effect that often occurred in the past. We can only manage to gather, pack and pay to ship one or, if we're very lucky, two containers a year so with Workaid seeing the value of our project in Kalwande, the flow of tools will even out and the artisans who need them won't have to wait so long for us to be able to send them.

That's our hope but this all hinges on your continuing support through purchases of our refurbished tools at fairs, festivals, and our little shop in Crickhowell and of course with donations of tools for Tanzania.

Interested in helping us?

We are currently recruiting volunteers to help at events for next season and for volunteers to help with the management of the charity as helpers with general admin or indeed as trustees. If you have an interest take a look at our website. There is a lot of information there about being a trustee and your help would be rewarding for our charity, our Tanzanian artisans and of course for you personally. Our website is <https://tfsrcymru.org.uk> or you can email us for more info at contact@tfsrcymru.org.uk.

Local Events:

Although the major fund raising events are behind us there are still opportunities to visit us before Christmas. Our shop in Crickhowell is open as usual, there's plenty of interesting things in our eBay shop and we will be visiting the following events:

- Fairtrade Christmas Market Hay-on-Wye: Saturday December 7th

Thank you, and as we say in Wales and Tanzania:

Diolch yn fawr / Asante Sana