



# Our News

July 2024

## Partnerships for livelihood creation



Empowering people with the tools that create livelihoods and transform lives

# Welcome to TWAM News

It is such a joy to consider and recognise all our partners, donors, volunteers, and the fabulous people that make TWAM the success that it is. Thank you for all that you do, most of you unseen (long drives to collect or deliver tools, quietly refurbishing a tool, programming software applications, speaking to community groups and so much more!). We have just witnessed so many of our partners coming together at our Annual TWAM Day and Annual General Meeting. Thank you for all that contributed to the success of the event and a special thank you to New Life Church in Rugby for hosting us so well in their excellent premises. We will be focusing on partnerships for the coming season and hope you would invite us into your networks and share opportunities where we can communicate the gift that TWAM is, not only to the recipients of our kits, but to all of us who are involved.



## John Noble

Chief Executive Officer

*"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."*

-1 Corinthians 13:13

**From April to July, we sent three 20ft and one 40ft containers. We sent 2 to Zambia and 2 to Uganda. Between them they contained:**

- **808** Sewing machines
- **65** Knitting machines
- **171** Carpentry kits
- **68** Carpentry workshop
- **138** Builders' kits
- **40** Plumbers' kits
- **64** Electricians' kits
- **23** Groundworkers' kits
- **67** Agricultural kits
- **87** Boxes of power tools
- **153** Computers

**2,300 total toolkits**

## 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, have a look at our website or call our Ipswich office.

## Time to donate?

We are always looking for more volunteers to help in our centres and to collect tools where they live. Please visit [twam.uk/volunteer](http://twam.uk/volunteer) to browse our available roles or ring 01473 210220 for more information.

## 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 donate online, 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 our Ipswich office.

## Tools with a Mission

2 Bailey Close, Hadleigh Road Industrial Estate, Ipswich, IP2 0UD

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# From deep struggle to soaring ambitions in Uganda

**In the lush green landscapes of Uganda lies the St. Anthony training centre — a sanctuary of opportunity for the local community's youth.**

What was once a simple chapel has blossomed into a vibrant hub of vocational training, empowering students to forge their own paths out of poverty.

**One such student is Benedict, a bright-eyed 17-year-old whose radiant smile masks the challenges he's overcome.** The son of a Kenyan father and Ugandan mother, Benedict found himself adrift after financial struggles forced him to drop out of school.

The future seemed uncertain, shrouded in the limitations of his circumstances. But then, Benedict joined St. Anthony's, which changed his path forever.

Benedict vividly recounts his inspiring journey: **"Those first few weeks, I could barely lay a brick straight,"** he

laughs. **"But the instructors here saw something in me. They believed in me."** Week after week, under the patient guidance of his instructors, Benedict's skills blossomed. He immersed himself in the world of construction and bricklaying, the initial clumsiness replaced by a newfound confidence.

Today, he beams with pride, **"I can now build an entire kitchen from the ground up!"** But Benedict's ambitions stretch far beyond modest structures. He intends to master his craft, earn diplomas and degrees, and ultimately become a professional engineer designing grand estates and high-rise flats. **"But first,"** he shares, his eyes sparkling, **"I'll build a beautiful big house for my mother. She sacrificed so much for me."**

St. Anthony's support Benedict, allowing him to pay what he can as a boarding student. Despite the financial obstacles he faces, Benedict refuses to let anything deter him from this aspiration.



**Mercy, a 22-year-old fashion enthusiast from Gulu, is another shining example of the transformational power of tools.**

Her story starts with a childhood dream – a dream of vibrant fabrics, elegant designs, and the satisfaction of creating something beautiful. **“Ever since I was little, I wanted to work in fashion design,”** she recalls. At St. Anthony's, that dream is becoming a reality as Mercy diligently pursues her Level 2 certification in tailoring and design.

Her skilled hands deftly manoeuvre fabric, crafting elegant dresses, vibrant bags, and intricately embroidered wallets that showcase Uganda's rich cultural heritage. **“Right now, I'm learning to make the puffed sleeves on our traditional women's dress, the Gomesi,”** she explains, holding a piece of chitenge, the colourful Ugandan fabric. **“It's a very important part of our culture.”**

Mercy actively seeks out knowledge, spending her afternoons observing the experienced artisans in their workshops, soaking up every detail, every technique. During peak seasons, she assists them, gaining valuable hands-on experience

while also connecting with real customers. She hones her skills and builds a network that could be crucial in her future endeavours.

After her course, Mercy plans to complete industrial training followed by an apprenticeship – all building blocks towards her ultimate dream of launching her own business. **“I want to be a 'fashionista!,”** she declares with a radiant smile. **“Creating one-of-a-kind pieces that make Ugandan women feel beautiful and empowered.”**

Benedict and Mercy's journeys are powerful examples of the transformation happening at St. Anthony's. They represent just a glimpse of the many lives this centre uplifts. From school dropouts like Benedict to young women with dreams like Mercy, St. Anthony's doesn't just teach trades; it fosters an entrepreneurial spirit.

Here, students develop technical skills that pave the way for sustainable livelihoods. Many graduates land coveted jobs in hotels, restaurants, and workshops, their skills in high demand.

**This holistic approach extends beyond the centre's walls.** Through partnerships with local schools, St. Anthony's expertise reaches more students. Teachers leverage the centre's resources, incorporating vocational training modules into their curriculum. It's a win-win situation, ensuring these essential skills are spread throughout the community, equipping future generations with the tools they need to succeed.

**Sustainability is another pillar of St. Anthony's philosophy.** They've cleverly converted sewing machines to treadle-powered ones, a solution that's both environmentally friendly and practical. It reduces their environmental footprint through reuse while teaching students valuable repair skills – a highly marketable skill, enhancing employment prospects.

The centre's affiliation with UGAPRIVI (Ugandan Association of Private Vocational Institutes) further elevates its impact, ensuring adherence to robust standards. Additionally, students can pursue certifications from the Directorate of Industrial Training (DIT), validating their skills both nationally and internationally. This opens doors to

a wider range of opportunities, empowering graduates to compete in a globalised job market.

The support doesn't end after graduation. St. Anthony's commitment extends through ongoing guidance for graduates. They host workshops on business development, marketing, and financial management, equipping graduates with the knowledge they need to navigate the complexities of running their own ventures.

At its core, St. Anthony Training Centre unlocks potential, serving as a springboard into brighter futures. Benedict's evolution from a struggling student to an aspiring engineer, and Mercy's journey from fashion enthusiast to budding “fashionista,” illustrate this extraordinary institution's profound impact.

**In a nation where nearly 40% live below the poverty line and quality education remains scarce, St. Anthony's is having a huge impact. Here, lives are transformed through vocational empowerment, community engagement and an unwavering belief in every student's boundless capabilities.**

Benedict





# A partnership lifting people out of poverty in Uganda

**Mindset Development Organization is transforming lives in the heart of Kampala, Uganda's vibrant capital.**

Tools with a Mission has been partnering with Mindset for years, a remarkable non-profit providing vocational training that empowers vulnerable women and youth, opening doors to sustainable careers and brighter futures.

**Pauline, a young mother of four, knows first-hand the transformative impact of Mindset.** Once destitute, she found hope through the tailoring program.

Pauline gained vital skills in dressmaking, bookkeeping, entrepreneurship, and customer service. **“When I arrived, I had nothing,”** she recalls solemnly. **“My children and I were struggling just to survive day-to-day.”**

But Mindset's training was life-changing. Pauline applied herself tirelessly, inspired by dreams of a better life for her family. **“By the end, I'd saved enough to buy my very first**

**sewing machine,”** she tells us. That machine, purchased through a community savings scheme, became her pathway out of poverty.

After graduating, Pauline launched her own tailoring business, specialising in school uniforms, bags, shirts, and vibrant Ugandan print clothing.

Word spread quickly about her quality craftsmanship and affordable prices. Before long, her products were so sought-after that she hired staff to meet soaring demand. **“I got married during training,”** the proud entrepreneur shares. **“Now, my business income helps provide for our family's needs.”**

Looking back, Pauline can hardly believe how far she's come. She dreams of further growing her flourishing enterprise and paying forward the opportunity by training other vulnerable youth.

**“I'm so grateful for the tools TWAM sends,”** she says. **“They enable people like me to transform our lives completely.”**

Across the courtyard, sawdust fills the air as 24-year-old Chris meticulously crafts ornate wooden furniture like decorative headboards and finely carved cupboards.

The father of one has been honing his carpentry skills at Mindset for two years under the guidance of master artisans.

**“During my training, I was one of only a few students selected for a one-month program in China to learn advanced woodworking techniques,”** Chris shares proudly. He has compiled a portfolio of his work on his phone to attract new customers.

Chris' talents are in high demand, including a stunning cypress sideboard he recently completed that he says will sell for 500,000 Ugandan Shillings (over \$130 USD).

The income allows him to pay rent, feed his baby daughter, and save for their future.



**“Now I'm able to support my family through carpentry while also training the next group of carpenters,”** he explains.

Mindset also offers a SACCO (Savings and Credit Co-operative) program to help graduates save money and then borrow to purchase machines and equipment to start their businesses.

Poverty remains widespread in Uganda, with over 40% of the population living below the international poverty line of \$1.90 per day.

But for many like Pauline and Chris, Mindset's comprehensive vocational training programs offer a transformational path out of poverty and towards stable, dignified livelihoods.

From bustling classrooms to sawdust-filled workshops, Mindset equips the next generation of Ugandan entrepreneurs and artisans. And with partners like TWAM providing the essential tools, these determined trainees can successfully navigate the journey from poverty to self-sufficiency – and brighter futures.





## Clement is a man on a mission

**Clement is a man on a mission! He is an entrepreneur with a good education and computer skills.**

He could have chosen to accumulate wealth and lead a very comfortable life by Zambian standards.

However, he chose a different path, quite literally. He shares where he walked and how it changed his life:

**“When I walked these streets and witnessed young people engaging in destructive behaviours such as alcohol abuse, it touched my heart, and I felt compelled to help them.**

**I approached them and inquired about their reasons for these actions. They expressed having nothing – no work, no food, and no prospects. So, I decided to try to assist them.”**

Clement is an exceptionally courageous man. Most would avoid paths where gangs congregate and

would certainly not feel brave enough to approach them, especially when they were intoxicated.

Moreover, challenging their self-destructive behaviour was an even bolder act.

The answer Clement received from the young people echoed the sentiments heard thousands of times across the countries we serve: lack of education, skills, employment opportunities, and, consequently, a lack of hope.

Feeling hopeless, they turn to alcohol, drugs, street gangs, and crime as a means of escape.

Clement could have walked away, secure in his education and opportunities, and dismissed their plight as someone else’s concern.

However, he chose to selflessly take action. As he explains:



**“I wanted to help underprivileged youth. I learned from a local TWAM volunteer that I could apply for tools and completed the application. I received five computers and opened a business centre.”**

He then invited some of the young people to join him and train in computer skills and administration.

They learned how to use computers and type letters and documents – services in high demand, as few people have access to such facilities.

The Samfya Business Center, established in 2019, has enabled Clement to train dozens of young people he has personally invited off the streets.

Clement's courage is remarkable. He bravely walked the most dangerous paths, approached intoxicated gang

members, invited them to train with him, welcomed them into his business, and trusted them to make positive choices – not cause harm.

Through his bravery, compassion, and skills, Clement has successfully helped numerous young people escape extreme poverty, long-term unemployment, substance abuse, and crime.

However, Clement's bravery, compassion, and skills would have amounted to little without the five computers he received from TWAM. These computers, discarded as slow and outdated, were lovingly and expertly refurbished by TWAM's volunteers.

**It is truly miraculous what so little can achieve when placed in the hands of a courageous individual like Clement.**





## Tools are transforming a remote village into a thriving community

**In the remote village of Kalundu, Zambia, the path to a better future was once narrow and uncertain — until now.**

Through TWAM's mobile training program, which aims to equip underserved communities with vocational skills, women like Alinase and Nancy are acquiring talents that can lift their communities out of poverty's grip.

Kalundu is located in Luapula province, one of the poorest regions in Zambia, where over 80% of people live below the \$1.90/day poverty line. Most villagers survive through subsistence farming, cultivating just enough to feed their families each season.

For Alinase, the 3-month tailoring course opened up thrilling new possibilities. **“When I started, I had no experience at all. I struggled a bit because I also work in the village,”** she recalls.

As Kalundu's Environmental Health Officer, Alinase's job involves disease

prevention through water sampling, food inspections, and community education. But she was determined to find a way to continue giving back.

**“I was so interested in fixing any damaged clothes on my own so that I could offer this as another service to the community.”**

Kalundu had no tailors for the longest time. Whenever someone needed clothes mended or made, they had to endure the gruelling 200 km journey to Mansa town, crammed into overcrowded pickup trucks bouncing along dusty roads — trips that risk deadly traffic accidents, which claim many lives in Zambia annually.

Alinase and a friend get together every Sunday to practice. **“That's the day I dedicate to sewing because I'm not working,”** she says.

But Alinase has even bigger plans — to lead a project employing other trainees in making school uniforms for local children starting next year.

Nancy, too, felt the desire to do so much more: **“I did not want to just sit at home and do nothing, waiting for harvest,”** she explains.

Her husband supports her ambitions, saying, **“Farming is only seasonal, but knitting is every day.”**

While farming remains their primary income from crops like maize, Nancy dreams of opening her own shop with a TWAM knitting machine.

**“I want to have a skill as an option besides farming, for when there is no farming work to be done or our crops fail.”**

The passion for learning new skills is widely shared in Kalundu. When Davies Chibwe, a TWAM regional manager, announced the mobile training, 28 students enthusiastically enrolled — some walking over two hours each way for the daily classes.

Davies spearheaded the project by providing three sewing machines and an instructor who lived in Kalundu for three months, her expenses covered by the community. The impact has been transformative.

This program's success has inspired plans to renovate an existing building into a permanent training centre with dormitories, so rural students can reside on-site instead of commuting long distances.

For Alinase, Nancy and their classmates, these new skills are opening new possibilities.

**“People are getting very interested,”** Alinase shares. **“We hope this program spreads widely.”**

Opportunities like this can provide pathways to self-sufficiency, dignity, and hope. Thanks to TWAM's support, those paths are now being forged in villages like Kalundu.

Nancy



# CORBEL



## Corbel and TWAM team up to equip training centres with computers

**TWAM is very grateful to be supported by a large number of people, groups, organisations, and companies that see the value of our work and want to play their part in transforming lives.**

Our local connections and support from partners enable us to create sustainable transformation on a global scale.

One shining example is our invaluable relationship with Ipswich-based IT company Corbel Solutions Ltd.

Over the past year, the generous team at Corbel has donated over 230 computers, monitors, keyboards and mice to support TWAM's development initiatives across Africa.

This high-quality equipment, provided through a stock refresh at Corbel's workplace recovery sites, is vital for bridging the digital divide in underserved regions.

When TWAM faced a shortage of computer equipment in 2023, Corbel answered the call with the provision of over 150 Windows 10 PCs.

Tim Goddard, a director of the company, recognised the immense need for technology in the disadvantaged communities we serve. His vision connected Corbel's newly decommissioned business assets with the perfect charitable destination.

The impact of that initial contribution was profound, empowering our African partners with tools for administration, education, communication and vocational training.

Access to reliable computing resources opens doors to literacy, marketable skills, and income generation that can lift whole communities out of poverty.

Corbel took their support even further in 2023 by donating an additional 80 computers, monitors, keyboards, and mice.

**We are immensely grateful for their sustained generosity and aligned vision of using practical skills to create opportunity.**

While TWAM's primary impact is in Africa, we are headquartered in Ipswich, with centres in Halstead and Rugby, along with groups and volunteers across England and Wales.

We cherish our local corporate, church, and individual partnerships.

Collaborations like our relationship with Corbel exemplify how regional connections can catalyse worldwide change through ethical resource redirection.

By facilitating donations of refurbished IT assets rather than disposal, Corbel prevented premature e-waste while simultaneously empowering TWAM's

holistic livelihood creation model.

Our mission is to provide tools, equipment, and training that foster self-sufficiency through skills-based enterprise, education, and economic opportunity.

Corbel's computers will directly enhance these efforts across the continent.

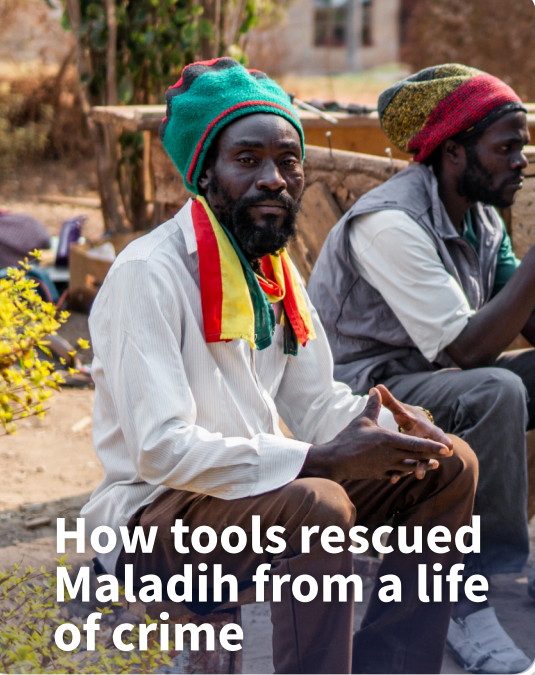
From the TWAM team, we wholeheartedly thank Tim, the Corbel staff, and all who made this invaluable technology transfer possible.

Their partnership directly uplifts lives by bridging the digital divide.

**We look forward to continuing to merge local efforts with global impact for sustainable change worldwide.**

Violet





## How tools rescued Maladih from a life of crime

**In the town of Solwezi, Zambia, a determined group is defying the odds and creating opportunities through vocational training.**

The House of Rastafarians faces significant challenges including widespread poverty, lack of education, and the lure of criminal street gangs. However, their unwavering vision to establish a vocational school that teaches practical skills like carpentry, sewing and knitting is turning dreams into reality.

For now, the House of Rastafarians operates out of a small house, but they wasted no time putting donated tools from TWAM to use. Just three months after receiving carpentry tools, sewing machines and knitting machines, they had already built a small carpentry workshop with six students learning the trade.

**One of those students is Maladih, whose story represents the challenges many Zambian youth face.** With few opportunities, young people like Maladih are often easy victims for local street gangs promising income, however illicit. Maladih was led into a life of crime at an early age. He spent years in prison before his faith eventually guided him toward a new path.

After his release, Maladih committed himself to learning a skilled trade to provide for his family legitimately. The donated carpentry tools gave him that chance. **“If we can make this successful, we can grow our project and help more people,”** he tells us. With his newly acquired skills, carpentry has become Maladih's full-time career, allowing him to support his loved ones by crafting beautiful bed frames in just one day's work.

The income keeps Maladih afloat and able to purchase more materials. **“We've taken care of our stomachs, and we'll send our little ones to school now,”** he said hopefully. Maladih's powerful turnaround is an inspiring example of the impact vocational training can have.

The women of the group have also embraced the new opportunities, learning to use the donated sewing and knitting machines for income generation.

**What began as an ambitious dream is quickly materialising as the House of Rastafarians applies their new skills to make furniture, do repairs, and fulfil orders. Their perseverance is inspiring.**



## The Toolbox

You could make a long-term difference by joining The Toolbox.

Donate a certain amount each month, and over the course of a year, you cover the costs of collecting, refurbishing, and packing all the tools for a certain number of tool kits. You will receive a letter at the end of the year stating what kits you have supported, as well as a calendar. To join The Toolbox and make a long-term difference, go to our website:

[twam.uk/toolbox](https://twam.uk/toolbox)

## My lasting legacy, my gift of hope

**Writing a will can seem a daunting prospect, but it can be a very precious time when we remember the things we care most about.** There will always be more countries and more people that need our help, and your legacy would help to ensure that the most vulnerable people continue to be supported.

We still haven't won the fight against poverty. Below, you can see Yolanda and her son. They once used to go to bed hungry, but now, they always have food to eat. They have left poverty in the past, but there are still so many more families who need our help.

For more information about leaving a legacy to support livelihood creation and having a impact that lasts for generations, have a look at our website:

[twam.uk/legacy](https://twam.uk/legacy)



This edition highlights the vital partnerships that fuel our mission of empowering communities through tools. From local donors generously supporting our cause to the organisations receiving and using our toolkits, collaboration is the driving force behind our impact. We are grateful for your continued support, ensuring that every suitable tool finds its way into the hands of those striving for a better future in Africa.



Please accept my gift of:

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

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### Online

You can donate online at [twam.uk/donate](https://twam.uk/donate) or using the account details below including your surname and postcode as a reference.

**Barclays Bank Account No:** 33190994 | **Sort Code:** 20-44-51

### Card

You can donate by credit or debit card by ringing our head office on **01473 210220**. We're open Monday to Friday between 9 am - 4 pm.

Would you like to receive our monthly **Supporter E-News**? It's packed with up to date news and inspiring stories. If so, you can either write your email address below, or go to [twam.uk/stayintouch](https://twam.uk/stayintouch) to sign up online.

My email address 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 in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations 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, or 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.

# Tools with a Mission

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