

TWAM

Tools with a Mission

January 2025

Our News



Three amazing women

2024 achievements

Looking forward to 2025

Giving communities tools to build a future for themselves

Welcome to TWAM News

On behalf of all at TWAM, I'd like to thank you for supporting us - I hope this latest edition of our newsletter will continue to inspire and inform you about the life-changing work we do.

Much has changed over the past twelve months, and we have high ambitions for 2025. I invite you to continue to walk with us into the new year in whatever way you can - whether by supporting us financially, volunteering with TWAM, or simply by spreading the word to your loved ones about our mission.

I wish you personally a very happy New Year, and hope you enjoy reading about some of our successes and hopes - including a very special story about the power and determination shown by three Zambian women in the face of adversity.

Warmest regards

John Noble
Chief Executive Officer

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8



Thanks to your support, these tools have just reached the Youth Inclusion and Empowerment Network, one of our Ugandan recipient organisations. The delight on their faces is clear to see!

Tools with a Mission

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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 tools to equip 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.



Time to donate?

We are always looking for more volunteers to help in our centres.

At present we particularly need volunteers in our refurbishment centres. Please visit twam.uk/volunteer to browse our available roles or call us on 01473 210220.



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.



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.



Thank you to our volunteers!

Our volunteers are the backbone of what we do. 500 men and women across the UK and Africa give their time and energy to our life changing mission, and we are ever thankful for what they do.

Could you join us?

We are always looking for new volunteers to support us in our refurbishment centres. You do not need to have worked with tools before as we provide training. No matter what your skills or experience, there is something for everyone.

TWAM is a Christian charity that welcomes people of all faiths and none.

If you would like to find out more, please get in touch on 01473 210220. You could support us in our offices, at our tool benches or as a member of our van team.

More details can be found at twam.uk/volunteer.

The story of three amazing women



It's a tough life being a church pastor in Africa: long hours, a seven day week and no set salary, just a percentage of the church collection.

The vast majority of the training centres we support with tools are set up and run by pastors who earn very little. In affluent areas this would not be an issue, but when the entire congregation lives in ultra-poverty, the pastor can end up receiving just a few pence. So what is the answer?

Joyce, a shining example

The Samfya Bible School in Zambia was so concerned about the problem of pastors living in abject poverty that they took a leaf out of the training centres and, as part of their theological training, offered some additional practical skills. Among the most popular course is tailoring. Joyce - pictured above - is their trainer and she tells us why she has agreed to support the Bible School in this important way:

***“I mainly train people to do God’s work and plant churches, because this will help everybody in the community. I first came to a seminar here and while here I found out they needed a trainer.*”**

“Straightaway I offered to help because I had the passion in my heart and God saw in me the skills to help.

“I teach six Bible students in the afternoon and ten women from the community in the morning. All the women are very poor so there are no fees for the training.

“What is most rewarding for me is to see all of them going from knowing nothing to having a skill that will help to support their families. I am happy to see the change and know that now they can do so much.”

Joyce shares with us her wish to support pastors as they prepare to leave college and go to their first churches. She is a shining example to the graduating pastors of how to show a practical expression of God’s love to their new communities.

Rebecca, who gained new skills

One of the six students from the Bible College is Rebecca. Her husband is a

pastor of a small church in Samfya and her new skills have transformed their lives. She tells us what a difference her skills are making:

“The church didn’t have the capacity to support us financially, so we had a difficult life. Sometimes we had food, and sometimes we didn’t. I chose to learn tailoring to support our family, to earn a living.

“I’m enjoying the course very much. Without this class, I would just be doing nothing.”

Rebecca is from a very poor family and had to drop out of school when she was fourteen, so she has known the challenges of poverty her whole life. Her new skills provide security to her family and the opportunity for others to benefit as she trains the poorest members from the church and community.

The stories of Joyce and Rebecca are excellent illustrations of the impact of training one person and indirectly helping hundreds more as that person shares their skills.



“ Sometimes we had food, sometimes we didn’t. I chose to learn tailoring to support our family. ”

Neri, with no one else to help

This alone would be a great story but Rebecca trains ten other people from the community and one of these is Neri. She shares with us her story:

“I had nothing to do in my life. I left school in grade nine because my family had no money. So I got married, but my husband died and I was left alone. I had no one and I was suffering. I have two children, but they don’t look after me.

“I have been learning tailoring for nine months. I am also good at hand sewing, I can even make babies’ clothes. Through tailoring I am able to support myself and it has helped me to survive. I had no one else to help me and without tailoring I would be worthless.”

Samfya Bible School is a wonderful example of everything TWAM does. It uses our tools to equip its training centre and train its students. Then it trains young pastors and their spouses so they can go out into the community with confidence that they can support themselves. But through the selflessness we so often see in situations like these, they use their new-found skills to help the poorest in their churches and communities.

We were moved by Joyce, with her passion for training people, but we will give the last word to Rebecca.

“I hope that I can help others when I am a fully trained tailor.”

Thank you for the incredibly important role you play in helping to train people like Joyce, Rebecca and Neri.



Celebrating 2024...



The new year provides a chance to look back at the successes and challenges of 2024 – a year of development at TWAM

This year has seen three new members of staff appointed and an unprecedented number of containers sent. New local friendships have been made, whether through connecting with like-minded people at the Christian Resources Exhibition, or partnering with other UK tool charities to share news and experience.

TWAM has also built up its presence overseas, sending our first Tanzania container for several years and strengthening our bonds with partners and volunteers in Zambia.

Our CEO, John Noble, visited Zambia in November. It offered him a chance to speak to our recipients and partners directly, as well as see the challenges they face due to the unprecedented drought in southern Africa.

Following the generous response to our forklift appeal (the new forklift is pictured above, driven by Trevor Maynard, our Head of Refurbishment), we are appealing for a drought relief fund to help those who are struggling. You can read a little more about this appeal in the box on page 11.

...looking forward to 2025

We reflect with gratitude on the success of the TWAM community in 2024.

The statistics on the following pages speak for themselves! Well done and thank you for the many different ways in which you have supported us.

Thanks to you, TWAM enabled over 45 livelihoods each day throughout 2024!

But what of 2025?

The year holds great promise and exciting challenges. In 2025 we plan to send 25 containers, with over 20,000 toolkits. Our mission objectives include:

- To reduce the time applicants wait to receive their tools.
- To subsidise freight costs, in order to ease the burden on communities struggling with unprecedented drought.
- To share excess stock of tools (where we have more than a year's supply) with UK- and European-based charities that demonstrate evident need.

Our primary aim in 2025: to enable over 50 livelihoods a day!

To meet these plans, our family of over 600 volunteers will continue to grow, with roles varying from marketing and fundraising to driving vans and office support. Our most immediate need is for volunteers in our refurbishment centres, to match the ever-increasing demand for



toolkits with the ever-increasing supply of donated tools. Should you know anyone with the willingness and time to volunteer in either our Ipswich or Rugby centres, please direct them to www.twam.uk/volunteer. Volunteers don't need prior skills or experience, as training will be provided.

We want to do even more!

We aim to increase our income in 2025 so that we can offer value beyond just sending toolkits. We want to help recipients improve their business and product development skills in order to build long-term livelihoods that sustain their entire communities. And we continue to be committed to providing proper training that ensures the tools we send are safely used and well maintained.

Neither our achievements to date nor our plans for the future would be possible without you. We encourage you to join with us in faith as we look forward to another year - a year in which TWAM will bring hope to so many lives in Africa.

Thank you!

What is The Toolbox?



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

You may be surprised to learn that at TWAM we don't send just tools, we send kits! Each tool that is collected from our generous donors goes into a kit, perhaps for a mechanic, a plumber, an electrician, a tailor, a carpenter...the list goes on.

Donate a certain amount each month and over the course of a year you will 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 which 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

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 about the most. 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. Things could have looked very bleak for baby Emanuel, but now his father has work and has left poverty in the past. But there are so many more families like Emanuel's who need our help.

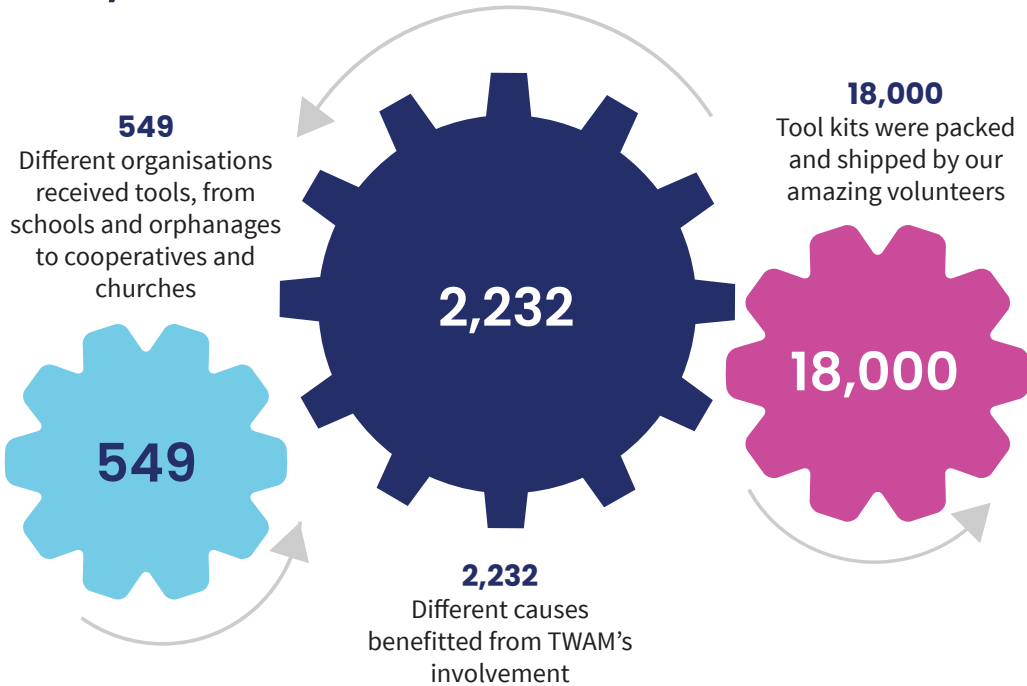
For more information about leaving a legacy to support livelihood creation and having a impact that lasts for generations, please visit our website: twam.uk/legacy



2024 at a glance

Your support has enabled TWAM to affect or transform around 50 livelihoods a day, a staggering amount that we aim to surpass in 2025. And this year we plan to increase the number of containers we send to Africa from 22 to 25.

It is your involvement that makes all of this possible.
Thank you!



The impact of TWAM's work affects many different types of organisations. Of the 2,232 causes that have benefitted in 2024:

- 36% have supported children and young people
- 27% have been women's groups or shelters
- 15% related to causes for the disabled, elderly or chronically ill
- And 9% have been missions tackling long-term unemployment and rehabilitation amongst men.

In 2024 we sent 18,000 tool kits, 40% of which were sewing machines. Sewing and tailoring is particularly welcomed by single women to whom it gives an income. But it supports men as well as women, creating livelihoods that often have a direct affect on the future of children in the community because it means that their parents can afford to send them to school.



50
Livelihoods were affected or transformed every single day

22
Containers were shipped to six countries in Africa

These numbers speak for themselves. It is amazing and humbling that we have been able to meet these inspiring targets. But the mission does not end here - there will be always be tools to send and causes to support.

Our new partners

We are delighted that so many UK and African organisations have created partnerships with us. Mens' Sheds, Groundwork East, KIER, and our corporate partner, amtri veritas, have all visited our refurbishment centres and seen the scale and impact of what we do. Our thanks to all our partners who have contributed in so many ways to our work.

Drought in Africa

You may have seen our recent appeal concerning the terrible drought in Zambia and other parts of Africa. In his trip there in November, our CEO, John Noble, saw firsthand the horrific struggle people are facing - sometimes so horrific that it is taboo to even talk about it. We hope to raise £50,000 to subsidise the freight costs of shipping tools overseas, thus enabling us to ease the economic burden on our recipients. For more information, please visit www.twam.uk/drought or call 01473 210220.

Rugby's festive fundraising

A festive collaboration was held by our Rugby refurbishment centre in partnership with Crackerteria, a local pop-up charity shop and cafe. Crackerteria raises funds for, and awareness of, the plight of women in the developing world and supports their training to be seamstresses – an ethos that we share! TWAM volunteers ran a pop-up stall at Crackerteria to raise funds for our work and highlight both life-changing missions. We were delighted by the generosity of all who visited and supported us.

Just one toolkit can have positive repercussions for a whole community. People like Joyce, featured on page 4 of this edition, share their skills to help create many livelihoods. Please continue to support us to ensure that every suitable tool is used to transform lives in Africa.



Please accept my gift of:

£15 £25 £50 £100 £150 £250 Other: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Postcode: _____

ONLINE

You can donate online at 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, 9am-3pm.

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 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.

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