



Newsletter 9 – EASTER 2010

“Teach a Man to Fish” Award – LTT is best in Tanzania

The Livingstone Tanzania Trust has been formally recognised out of 260 entrants over 31 countries, for our work in entrepreneurial education by the Global charity “Teach a Man to Fish”. We received a \$1,000 award for the “Best in Tanzania”. The award was in recognition of our program teaching life skills alongside the formal education system. We acknowledge that not all students will make it to secondary school so we teach them farming skills so that they can see value in improving their farms and not migrating to the urban areas in search of a better life that does not exist. We are delighted to receive this award.



USA Trip

At the kind invitation of our donors in New York, the head teacher Walter, our trustee Joas, project manager Jason and I flew to New York to attend a fund raiser for the Water, Power, Peace Programme. This programme is to develop the playground that turns children’s play into electricity which will pump water and light the Sinai School. It was Jason and Walters first experience of the cold and of snow!!! We were also given the keys to the City of Albany.



HEAD TEACHER’S CONFERENCE

The Livingstone Tanzania Trust attended the Heads of Independent Schools conference in Reading. We made some great contacts who were interested in our sustainable and educational approach to school links; we have since been invited to speak at a number of schools which we hope will lead to great things. There is a lot that other cultures can teach us and through our school connections we want to develop that aspect of learning.

PARTNERING WITH HALLER

We are thrilled to be partnering with the Haller Organisation. Dr Rene Haller, UNEP Global Laureate has over 50 years of land regeneration experience in East Africa. Thanks to your support 4 of our team received fish farm training last year; and when Niduk Wijaysingha, the UK Director, visited us in February she was delighted to see them implementing all that they had learnt. The Haller Organisation has now agreed to partner us and help us develop further ideas. Mr Abdullah was the first to copy our fish farm ideas and since his training with Haller he has added two further fish ponds and revised his irrigation system to his vegetable plot. To improve the soil he has built a wormery and has planted Tobacco around his crops. Tobacco is a natural pest control and keeps the little critters away from his main harvest.



Since attending the training Mr Abdullah has become a shining star of the community and offers advice and training to his friends and neighbours. This is a great example of how good work practices can spread within the wider community.

In Feb 2010 we have added a second fish pond on the Waangwaray School Farm. This one has a plastic sheets liner which makes it far cheaper and so easier for the community to copy. There are already 8 fish ponds in two communities and the Town Council have informally asked our farm manager Marcel to provide training for 50 other fish ponds that they want to sponsor in the community. If this materialised we will be very excited. I love it when a plan comes together!!



Livestock

The first stage in creating a better life for Billy the goat was to build him a new home which is designed to be able to be copied by the community at very little cost. The benefit of this type of house is to be able easily to gather goat droppings for use on composting and so improving the quality of the soil. Our dairy goats are all pregnant and Moo the cow has given birth to a female calf, which is very exciting news. The ducks are interesting - having lived with chickens so long they think they are chickens and have not taken to water as they ought to, so we are offering counselling and swimming classes!!

Honey

We have at last got our first batch of “free range organic pro-poor wild killer bee honey” and it tasted fantastic. We will now be able to sell it locally and generate further income for to the school.



Wormery

To aid the compost process and to provide the odd snack for the fish we have built a “wormery”. This system also produces a rich liquid fertilizer that can be diluted and used to improve the health and yield of the crops.





Community work in Sinai

Angela from the Sinai community also received training from Haller. On her return she established a community group and built a fish pond. Being over 800 meters from the nearest water source, the pond was filled by hand which took the community 2 days. Others were so impressed with the strength of unity and purpose that they also established a group. Both have now asked us for help. At a meeting we asked what the community thought poverty was so that we could understand what we were facing. They said that life skills, education, access to capital and lack of farming efficiency were major causes of their poverty. We are now working with this community to establish a long term plan. They want us to consider a Pig Breeding Program. They need to prove to us that this is viable and sustainable and we need to find £500 to offer as a loan to the community and a further £1000 for the training.



Community work in Waangwaray

The ladies in the Waangwaray Groups have been making fuel efficient stoves for local use and we are helping them tinker with the design. The ones with the water taps are more expensive but provide far greater benefit. The efficiency is already at 66% as one set of sticks lasts 3 days rather than 1, so this is great news. The fridges are being tested by people in the community, with the biggest test coming from the lady who runs the fruit and vegetable stall in Waangwaray.



Chickens

We have added a large chicken coop to the school farm so that we can start to generate additional income for the ongoing sustainability of the school. We have also added a smaller coop made from local materials that can be copied by the local community. We were temporarily set back by a bout of Newcastle virus which attacked our flock. We have since become close friends with the vet and we are trying to work together to run a series of training programs for us and the community. The students are starting to learn about chicken husbandry and we are testing the chicken manure against goat manure on the maize to see which is most effective.



Trees

Part of the life skills program is to talk about sustainable living and we focus on the trees. Many trees get cut down each year for firewood and this has a negative impact on the environment. At the same time the diet of the young people could be improved through the addition of more fruit. Establishing a tree planting program seemed the logical next step and the community leaders agreed to help implement and monitor the program. We are delighted to announce that in November and December 2009 the Students at Waangwaray each planted 3 fruit and firewood trees at their homes and also planted avocado, mango and banana trees and passion fruit vines around their school. This is all thanks to so many people who helped on this fantastic project. The benefit of these trees may take some time to be realised but the message is clear. Value the trees!!! We are now growing more saplings so that this can be copied at other schools and other communities

Education

In January/February we built classroom 9 at the Waangwaray Primary school. We now we have 7 good sized classrooms that can comfortably accommodate all the students in each year group and provide an environment conducive to learning. We now want to set about turning one of the smaller classrooms into a learning centre where there will be a library and other learning materials for students to come on their own and enjoy. We have set about buying library books for this and have our first bookshelf. We will then hold reading competitions. Our Teacher training program has been expanded at the request of the Town Council and we are now training teachers from 7 schools. We need more funding for this, but how could we say no to such a request.



Volun-tourism

Volunteering in Tanzania is not like helping out at a local soup kitchen. Tanzania has an abundance of people but it lacks the funds to pay for the materials. When you volunteer with us, we ask you to cover your accommodation and food/guide costs and make a donation of at least £150 a week to the materials. We have a number of people signed up to come out with us this summer to get involved in our work and experience a very different way of life. We also have some donors coming out to see how we have spent their gifts. If anyone else wants to join us in a holiday of a lifetime, please let contact us at Julian@livingstonetanzaniatrust.com

All of this work is done because of your generosity. Thank you