



Click onto Umoyo

Now you can see all about the Umoyo Orphan Project simply by clicking onto our web site at www.umoyoorphanproject.org - or if you prefer it the easy way, Google "Umoyo Orphan Project."

You'll find a completely new web site, still being developed but already home to a variety of fascinating facts and figures. Did you know that Graham Laing, one of our Trustees, was once in the London Fire Brigade? Or that Sarah Mtonga, our Founder and Principal Trustee, grew up in a small village in Malawi? Or that we currently support sixteen children as they go through Secondary Education?

It's all there in a web site which is neatly divided into easily accessed subject areas - "Home", Latest News", "The Team", "Administration" and "Donations". Admittedly some of the detail has yet to be filled in, but Michael Owusu has done a magnificent job in putting it all together. Not entirely surprising because Michael is a freelance IT consultant working for leading City companies. Michael is kind enough to give a significant amount of his time to helping the Project.

How you can help

To enable yet another student to go to secondary school or college; or support any of our other projects, donations may be made by cheque, completing the form opposite and sending to: Umoyo Orphan Project, 1 Princes Street, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 1ED.

If you would like to assist in raising money or organising an event, then please write to Chris Kitson email: chris@umoyoorphanproject.org

Becoming a Trustee

Sometimes in life opportunities are presented that need careful reflection and consideration before commitment. Others arrive and straightaway you instinctively know that you must respond positively. When I was asked to be a Trustee for the Umoyo Orphan Project I knew that it was something that I had to say yes to.

For several years as a committee member I have observed first hand the positive impact that the charity has made to the lives of those living in Njebwa in Northern Malawi. I have also witnessed the skill, passion, commitment and sheer hard work of those closely associated with this charity. They are a small but dedicated group of people giving their time, energy and talents, without payment, to ensure that increasingly challenging projects are completed quickly, effectively and within budget.

I have been inspired by Sarah whose desire to improve the opportunities and welfare of those living in the village where she was brought up, prompted her to gather a group of people who could help her dream become a reality. Her energy and enthusiasm is infectious and her links with the village invaluable. I believe one of the real strengths of the charity is that it does not work through third parties and that every pound raised is put to good purpose. A real trust has been built up between the Umoyo trustees and committee members and the village committee in Njebwa.

I retired in March of this year having worked for 42 years as a civil servant in the Ministry of Justice. For the last five years I worked in the Corporate Equality Division. I have seen through this work how important it is to ensure that the disadvantaged are given every chance in life. How poor education and facilities can impact so negatively on peoples futures. I hope that I can use some of my past experience to assist Umoyo. I know that the charity has some great projects that it wants to deliver and I am very excited about working with others to bring them to fulfilment.



To: Umoyo Orphan Project, 1 Princes Street, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1ED. I would like to help with school buildings and education, please accept my cheque for: £ _____
 To increase your donation by 25%, please tick this box:
 I am a UK taxpayer; please add Gift Aid to this and all future donations until further notice.

Signed:	Date:
Name:	
Address:	
Postcode:	

*You must pay an amount of tax which is at least equal to the amount we claim on your donations - currently 25p for every £1.



Enabling and Empowering Independence

New school building now started HERE WE GO!



WHO likes going to school? Surprisingly, the children in the village complex around Njebwa love the idea of school. Unfortunately, at least one of the buildings is in such poor condition that only two of the three classrooms in the school can be used throughout the year. The third classroom, which has no proper roof, can't be used in the rainy season. Classes have to be fitted in as best they can, which means that some children can't attend all the classes - and none of the classrooms are properly furnished.

Soon all this will change. By the end of November, all being well, there will be a brand new building which will provide two brand new classrooms. All classrooms will be usable throughout the year and all

will be properly furnished.

It's a splendid tale of funding achievements matched by local resource. Here in the UK various supporters of the Umoyo Orphan Project have worked ceaselessly to acquire sufficient funds. Over in Malawi, the Village Headman and his team have been thinking how far they can provide materials from local resources, cutting out the need for costly purchase and transportation. The result has been a sensational speed-up of the whole undertaking. Building work has now commenced and completion is likely in November, before the start of the rainy season.

My school will look like this.... Soon, thanks to your help, me and my friends will be able to use a new

school building very much like this one. At present there are only three classrooms in the school I go to, and one of these classrooms has lost most of its roof. This means there are problems fitting us all in, especially in the rainy season! There are no desks or chairs. We simply sit on logs on the floor and although we like our lessons, there's nowhere to put our satchels and our books and its not easy to write things down.

Now we can look forward to a properly built, properly roofed school with four classrooms where we can have uninterrupted lessons all year round. We are promised real desks and chairs. We are all very excited by this news and we are all going to help with the building.



Just back from Malawi

Sarah Mtonga, who is Founder and Principal Trustee of the Umoyo Orphan Project, is just back from a five-week visit to Malawi. Sarah tells us that she met Edward Chisomo Mtonga who is doing very well at his Nursing College, where he is funded by the charity. The charity would hope to be able to fund many more students in future. Sarah also met with the Njebwa Village Committee that is in charge of the allocation of the charity's funding in Malawi. The Committee expressed their thanks and gratitude for all that the Project is doing for them, but (at Sarah's request) also produced a wish list which is 12 items long, ranging from school uniforms for primary school children to pots, pans, plastic plates and cups for funerals.

"There is much to be done" Says Sarah " But there is no doubt that the Umoyo Orphan Project has already improved the lifestyle of many people in this area. What we need now is more funding and especially the sort of continuous support that comes from donations by Bank Standing Order."

How you all helped towards the new school building

Concerts and Quiz Nights



For the last three years a number of volunteers have arranged a series of concerts, quiz nights and other events to raise money towards the new school. Artistes such as the Djembe Drummers, the Eclectics Choir and violinist Aisha Syed Castro together with the acclaimed pianist Nigel Hutchison gave freely of their time to support such events. Enthusiastic audiences helped to raise very considerable sums of money and these events also gave much-needed publicity to this very deprived area of Africa.



Parties and Barbeques

One member of the committee, Graham Laing, has raised an impressive amount of money over the years simply by holding barbeques at his own home and asking his guests to contribute.



The will to give

Some people have thoughtfully left money to the Umoyo Orphan Project in their wills. Joan Tarry, who died in 2008, left money for donations. £1,000 of this was given to the Project - a donation which will be commemorated, by special request, on a plaque.

Giving by Standing Order



Pat, who regularly contributes to the Umoyo Orphan Project, says: "One of the most valuable ways of helping is to set up a standing order. The pictures of the dilapidated school in Umoyo affected me deeply. As a retired teacher, I was very happy to commit to a monthly payment to help raise money for a new school building. It's so inspiring to see the differences that the UOP is making in the village. I would encourage others to lend their support and become a part of this life-changing project."



Help from the churches

For a whole year Putney Methodist Church made the Umoyo Orphan Project their adopted charity, making a significant boost to the funds. This church also lets the Project hold meetings on their premises at no charge which helps to make fund-raising events that much more viable. Not to be outdone, Hounslow Methodist Church has also given most generously and plans to continue its support. The Parish of Mortlake and East Sheen, representing three local Anglican churches, also gave a liberal contribution in 2010.

Enthusiastic Youngsters

Riverhead Infant School in Sevenoaks has taken on fund-raising for the Umoyo Orphan Project as a major assignment. They have run a series of events, including a Nativity Play, which has substantially helped with funding towards the new Malawi school buildings. Their latest scheme, held in January of this year, was The Umoyo Talent Show, which raised a lot of money. One of their more outstanding achievements was the raising of enough money to pay for no less than 6,400 bricks for the new building. Children of all ages readily identify with the problems of these African youngsters. Other schools may well like to take up our offer to give talks and help set up a scheme for raising money as a special project.



Charities

The Umoyo Orphan Project is pleased to acknowledge the support of various charities. Some would prefer not to be named but we can say that the Royal Society of St. George (Abu Dhabi Branch) has been of particular assistance in finding money for the new school building. The Royal Society of St. George was founded in 1894 with the noble object of promoting "Englishness" and the English way of life. These days its role is primarily educational, promoting the common cultural heritage of people throughout the English-speaking world, including our former Dominions and Colonies. The Society now focuses its work on the younger generations of English and kindred people whose most valuable inheritance is our nation's history and culture.



Individual Enterprise

Some individuals are kind enough to devote time and talent to raising money on their own initiative. There have been all sorts of ingenious schemes. Teacher Ruth Kelly, for example, has completed five kilometre sponsored runs in Hyde Park to help the Project. At one time Ruth also made jewellery which was sold and proceeds given to the Project. Other ways of raising money have included a "sponsored slim" - a significant loss of weight by one member of the committee meant a useful gain of money for the Umoyo Orphan Project.



Cup Cakes Contribution

From time to time various organizations are generous enough to give the Umoyo Orphan Project part or all of the proceeds from an event. This year, for instance, Melanie MacLaine arranged an unusual "Cup Cakes Concert" in Christ Church, East Sheen. The audience enjoyed some great performances by talented young people. Children who attended were invited to decorate cup cakes, with fantastic results and many delighted winners of the "Cup Cakes Competition". The event was highly successful, raising an impressive sum which Melanie divided between two charities, giving 50% to Umoyo.



Corporate Giving

A number of companies are currently considering how they can best help the Umoyo Orphan Project. This helps to show that they are charity-minded and forward-thinking, considering the needs of Malawi as a developing nation. The Umoyo Orphan Project team are always happy to come into companies in order to show the Board how they might most usefully become involved.



Long-Term Giving

Brad Cutter says "I believe in supporting Umoyo on a monthly basis because it allows for greater longer term planning. Monthly giving is a way of not overlooking other's needs. I know that with the benefit of gift aid, the charity can claim an extra £2.50p for every £10.00 I donate. This costs me nothing but means a lot to helping others who really need it. Countries like Malawi are crying out for change, and your spare change can make that change happen. I think of how we take education as a given right, when in a lot of countries secondary education is a luxury, and it's something that an ordinary person here can help address, by making a small monthly donation to permanently change the lives of others! Monthly donations are the easy and convenient for me, the bank takes care of it each month and I know the money is being used to fund a chance of life through education. A world bank report in 2008 stated that education helps reduce the risk of HIV among young girls, so it's a matter of saving lives in some cases."