



# PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION (WATU)

P O. Box 10045, Moshi, TANZANIA. Tel: +255 27 2754502 / 0754 884013 / 0715 884013

Residence Alpes et Lac, 1938 Champex-Lac, Valais, SWITZERLAND. Tel.: 0041 (0)27 565 44 92

Emails: [pamojatunaweza.watu@gmail.com](mailto:pamojatunaweza.watu@gmail.com). [r.heery@bluewin.ch](mailto:r.heery@bluewin.ch) Website: [www.e-watu.com](http://www.e-watu.com)

Dear Friends of WATU,

Welcome to the **November 2012** newsletter

## EDITORIAL



*In this edition you can read Nadine and Emilie Christenson's account of their time working at Shiri Mgungani. It is very exciting that so many of our young volunteers remain committed to WATU. Magali and Vicky accompanied us on the trans-Europe ride for a week, Pontus will be making a new promotional film in February 2013, David often sends new ideas for fund-raising and Casper has worked hard for us on publicity material. Khyra, Shadie and Lara remain in contact. Thank you to all of you and a warm welcome to anyone who would like to volunteer in the future. We are particularly in need of trained teachers, especially of English as a Working Language.*

*This year has been an exciting one with a great leap in the dark at Shiri and a vote of thanks is owed to our teachers. Next year we will need to focus on consolidation whilst we build the basis of a school which can be sustainable. For this we need your assistance. I would like to thank all of you who have been so generous in your support this year and ask, humbly, that you continue in this support so that we can turn that important corner. I hope you enjoy the enthusiastic reports from our students at Shiri....a first for the Newsletter!*

*I am already engaged in writing an account of my ride (which will also include material on WATU) any proceeds of which will all go towards supporting WATU. As mentioned, a second promotional film about WATU is planned for February and we expect a substantial expansion in numbers in the kindergarten as well as the senior secondary.*

*It is all very exciting. Thank you! Ahsanti sana!*

## News From Josiah .

There is a lot going on at the Shiri Mgungani Campus:

We have two student teachers doing their teaching practice at our kindergarten. They are Glory Obidiah and Beatrice Aloyce. They are students at Sinoni Teachers College in Arusha doing a one year course in Early Childhood Education. They are working with teacher Veronica and they will be with us for three months.

Plans are underway for our students to do community service around the village. We have talked about this with the village leaders and are looking into areas where they think we could help. On our side I said we could help in teaching adult people how to read and write, conduct extra tuition lessons for lower secondary classes and do hard labour activities with the villagers.



We have begun computer lessons for people around. We have started with two women who work for the Shiri village Savings and Credit Society. We charge what similar institutions in town charge for similar programmes. A two week course in introduction to computers costs 25,000 shillings (ie about 15 swiss francs. ed.) The lessons are being offered by our geography teacher Mr Joshua Mmamba.

The small campus looks a bit more beautiful now that we have planted flowers and shrubs around.

We are organizing a special programme for Form IV students who need to resit their O Level exams. We have sent out adverts and if all goes well we intend to start next year even with as few as two students. We will ask them to pay as they do in town. The teaching will be done by our teachers as a part of their job.

We are in the process of creating and distributing as vigorously as we can our publicity material for next academic year which, because of a change in the dates of the school year very recently announced by the Government, will be for July 2013. Mr Mwirabu and I have given presentations in the surrounding villages, and will do the same in churches and mosques in Moshi, Pare District, and even in Dar. We will advertise the school on local radio and with posters throughout Moshi. We will be talking with local secondary schools and asking our present students to talk to Form IV leavers.

Graduation from the kindergarten will be on 7<sup>th</sup> December this year when we will say goodbye to those children who will be moving on to full primary school. The parents have agreed to pay virtually all of the costs of this ceremony.

## **New Light Now Shed On Shiri**

### **Generous donation of 100 solar lamps**

Thanks to a very generous donation from **Bill and Trinidad Carney of WakaWaka Lights** our students at Shiri can now work during the long evenings. WakaWaka lights are small solar powered lamps which can be fixed to a bottle top and which provide more than enough illumination for hours of work and recreation in the long hours after seven o' clock when it gets dark There are four settings from very bright to a simple night-light. This donation also means that the students no longer need to use the kerosene powered lamps which were not only smelly and expensive but also potentially very dangerous.

In a separate article the boys have written to express their appreciation



### **LAST MINUTE NEWS: SOLAR POWER AT SHIRI**

We have just received this message from Josiah (more details in the next edition):

. "....please ... confirm that we now have solar power in the classrooms, hostel and in the main office, provided by a local NGO known as UMEME POPOTE. What we have, though, is power for lighting only. There is nothing in the toilets, the kitchen or in the other classroom." (Most importantly, and see below comments from our students) "... we still cannot run our computers efficiently. What remains to do is more than half of what has been done"

## News From Our Latest Volunteers

Habari! Our experience with People's Participation in Education (WATU) as volunteers was too incredible to describe in a short review, but we will do our best to give you an idea of what it was like to be a volunteer in Moshi, Tanzania.

We are two sisters from Geneva (Switzerland), Nadine and Emilie. We are studying at University and wanted to do some volunteer work and gain experience in working in an NGO during the summer of 2012. We heard about WATU from a high school teacher of ours, met with Richard and Katherine Heery (co-founders of WATU based in Switzerland), and from then on we started to plan our trip to Moshi with lots of enthusiasm.

The work we did with Josiah Mchome (co-founder of WATU) in Moshi varied according to the skills and interests we both had. What we really appreciated is



that Josiah had a list of things that he wanted us to do, but then left it to us to plan what we would do and when, and even come up with our own ideas. This was a tremendous

privilege. We spent half our time at the office and the other half at the newly-opened secondary school in Shiri with the teenagers and adorable kindergarteners.

Emilie did an enormous amount of accounting and budgeting, which was an incredible experience for her as she is studying business. Nadine helped with different office tasks: the computers, researching for potential donors, drafting a grant proposal letter etc. At Shiri we gave computer classes to the students and teachers and taught English, and, thus, were able to enjoy a unique cultural exchange. We had a fun time, and became friends with everyone we met at Shiri, and at the office. We are so happy to still actively be in

touch with everyone. Our biggest project was to organize a fundraiser in Moshi, in order to gain support from the community. We thought of having a talent show/play with the students at the Shiri campus and the sponsored students throughout the Kilimanjaro region. The boys wrote and directed a play, which made the event tremendously successful. We received donations of money and in kind (maize, rice, bananas), which was a touching sign of support from Tanzanians.



All of this is to say that WATU can offer you a unique experience, and even allow you to apply your skills or what you're studying in the field. This experience helped us grow through the wealth of human experience and relationships that we were privileged to have. In sum: we met incredible people, felt safe at all times, stayed in a very cheap and simple hotel that was near the Moshi office, went on safaris and wished we never had to leave. We left the country feeling half Tanzanian, feeling like we had received more than we had given, and gained a wonderful and admirable Babu.

Nadine and Emilie Christenson

### Have a holiday and help WATU

A small, well equipped apartment (sleeps 4) in the beautiful village of Champex-Lac in the Swiss, Valaisian Alps is available for rent (summer or winter) at 300 Swiss francs a week, or 50 francs a night for a shorter stay.

All income will be donated to WATU.

Please contact [r.heery@bluewin.ch](mailto:r.heery@bluewin.ch)



## Cross Europe Sponsored Ride Nearly Complete

At the tiny village of Timaru, some sixty kilometres beyond Dobreta Turnu Severin in southern Romania and nearly four thousand three hundred kilometres from Galway in western Ireland where they had started, Richard and Katherine, having run out of time, were obliged to return to Switzerland. The final stretch across the Romanian plain to the Black Sea will be completed in spring 2013



It was the most glorious (and educational) European adventure, passing through ten countries and experiencing more than ten cultures. Along the great rivers and canals, through, lonely countryside where they would sometimes see no-one for hours to the tumultuous cities of central and eastern Europe: Vienna, Budapest, and Belgrade. Katherine, in the car, was Richard's constant support, finding campsites, providing sustenance, drying the tent and a multitude of other tasks. He says he couldn't have done it without her. For those who are interested a description of the route and a few of the adventures can be read at [bikewatu.blogspot.com](http://bikewatu.blogspot.com) and Richard is currently engaged on writing a book of the ride, any profits from



which will also go to WATU.

Richard would like to thank all of you who supported him by donating to WATU. The target of 10,000 Swiss francs has nearly been reached. Any further donations can best be made by using the PayPal facility on the website. Thank you very much indeed.

Thank you very much indeed to the following for sponsoring the ride:

Diana Mueller, Christopher and Christine Spong, Angela and Matt Lonsdale, Brian Wheeler, Michael Wheeler, Geoff and Pauline Causey, Ruth Stokes and friends, Niki Low, Jim and Janet Luongo and friends, Brian Beckham, Brijdeep Sahi, Alex Seager, Brandt Wagner, David Rees, Stephanie Woods, Eddie Shirey, Jamie Williams, Vicky Seymour, Tolga Alpagot, Jon Barstow, Emily Gachot, Gary Levy, Ellen Dobbs, Peter and MaryJo Giroux, Pam Harris, Helen Inman, Fay Curtin and friends, Jake Howard, Judith Johnson, Michael and Mary O'Brien, Pontus Wallsten, Dion van der Walt, Matthew Constable, Robert Lawton, Stephen Lawrence, Karen Quincy, Oreste Maspes, Mark Bainbridge, James Elrington, Nicola Folland, Michael Slater, Sonya Matrinez, Daryl Newton, David and Wina Todd, Thomas Heery, The Curtin Family, Ned and Bobby Stokes, Martha Heery and friends, Tony Welling, Tony Cole, Alastair and Liz Mackenzie, Pete Kennewell, Julia Scott, Juliana Passos, Anne and John Armstrong and friends, Kit Morgan, Gill Barton, Anne Morrison, Pat and Andy Reynolds, Richard Williams, John Oaks, Mary Simmons, David Causey, Stephen and Anne Heery, Charles Meredith, Michael, Vincent and Mary Treacy, Sean McOmagh, Rato Rearey, Kevin Willis, Liz de la Cour, Austin Slater, Thomas Hockenberry, Steve and Maureen Clifflen, Andrew and Heather Maclehorse, Robert and Jean Heery and friends, Hazel Marshall, June Doar

## What Our Students At Shiri Say

### The Relationship Between School and Villagers

We enjoy good relationships with the villagers and good cooperation in different tasks such as communal service like cleaning the streams and repairing the roads. These streams that are surrounding our school are a great potential for the economic activities like irrigation in this hot climate. We are also planting trees in our environment. We cooperate in social activities, and in sports and games by forming a football team.

We enjoy our studying through the good cooperation and relationship with our neighbours and we invite more and more friends so as to change our ideas in our daily life and studying in general. You are welcome all.



### Waka Waka lights

In our school there is a problem of electricity supply. We use the generator but it has problems and it is very costly. This leads to difficulty in using the computers, also it leads to difficulties in studying at night.

But now there are **Waka Waka** lamps. These lamps are nice and good for studying, in fact they improve our ability in one way or another. We say thank you, thank you, thank you to those who help us with these lamps. NOW we study at night and at any time.

Despite **Waka Waka** lamps helping us in high percent we still cannot use the computer for further study (at night ed) due to the absence of a power supply which has weakened our study in one way or another. The computers are so important for students especially for searching for many things.

### Sport and Games

WATU Secondary School are involving in various sports and games such as netball, basketball and football but the best one is football. WATU has a small growing team formed by the WATU students and the villagers who are the students of the other schools around us. We don't have a big ground but we have the small one for exercise but for the big matches we are going to play at Shiri Mgungani Primary School ground.

Up to now we have already played six friendly games. We win about three and lose one game and two is drawn. At WATU we have the ambition to have a big and famous team, in the ward, the district, the region, even up to national level. WATU's team doesn't have enough sports and games facilities such as balls, shoes, games uniforms, and other important equipment that would enable us to continue to do well in a match.

### The Environment

The school environment is very beautiful and attractive and it has a good impression for both villagers and students. The school is surrounded by a fence, thorn hedge, which is very strong, something that makes students feel very safe all of the time.

Also there are plenty of shadow trees, fruit trees and flowers of different kinds, something which will inspire other students to join our school because of a good climatic condition which is cool and supports the students without any noise. There is also a stream which is surrounding the school which enables us to be watering the trees and flowers and it helps the villagers to conduct different economic activities by irrigation, especially vegetables and fruit. This situation makes our school unique from other schools and has a good impression.

Generally when you come by yourself you will wonder, and enjoy the beauty of the school and you will see the relationship between students, teachers, as well as villagers.

### WATU Secondary School

The school education is good and there are qualified teachers with enough experience in teaching. Teachers use a good system of encouraging students to participate in discussion during the lesson period. This results in good understanding and high performance we hope in exams. The school has a good library which contains lots of books which enables the students to have enough materials. There are also good classrooms, laboratory for science students and a good environment for students to learn and reach their revision. However, the school has a problem of electricity, but for now students use **Waka Waka** lights during their night studies which helped them much compared to previous times. The school is not connected to the National Grid. We still need enough power which will enable us to use computers in our studies because we are in the world of science and technology.