



Scottish Charity Number
SCO 33311

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After returning from Tanzania in the summer Alice and Louise made the organising of a fund raising art auction their primary focus. As early as August they began discussions with Ken Anderson of One Solution towards providing the venue for an auction of contemporary Scottish art. Artist friends and supporters, many of whom who had contributed to the last auction held in 2001 to raise funds for the Magima project, were approached again and asked if they would like to donate a work to the building and equipping of the nursery and primary school at Namanditi. The response was fantastic and by the end of October we had collected 90 works that grew to 108 by the evening of the auction on the 27th November.

The staff at One Solution at Blytheswood Square in Glasgow worked very hard to make the evening a success and took over the mailing of invitations to Ruda supporters and their own business clients. Their offices were emptied of furniture and transformed by lighting experts for the event. The artwork was available to look at online prior to the auction and there was an option for interested parties to bid. Only a few people took this option with the keenest collectors preferring to see the work and bid for it live on the night. At the end of the auction we had raised £17,500 and this was added to over the next week by further sales to people who had been unable to attend, which took the total to around £19,500. While 80% of the work donated sold on the night we have around 18 pieces left which did not reach their reserve and we hope to sell these at a future event.

Ken Anderson invested a great deal of time and imagination in creating a memorable extravaganza of Jazz music, champagne and canapé and we are indebted to him for the energy and enthusiasm which he and his team brought to this fundraiser. The main stars of the night were the works of art and the exhibition was a fabulous representation of contemporary art, available at prices that while protected by reserves, were often far less than that could have been found in galleries.

Needless to say we are all delighted with the amount raised and would like to thank the supporters of Ruda who turned out in force and were so generous in their purchases. As a result we were able to send some funds out to the school at the end of December and these will be used to buy timber for the school, pay wages and to purchase coal to fire the roof tiles required to complete the existing buildings.

Update on the Namanditi School

The heavy rains have started now, so the cutting of timber has been suspended, but during dry spells this work will continue. A licence had been bought to mine coal from Mukukuru and we are still investigating the possibility of obtaining a licence at a site but nearer to Songea. Since this will take time, the coal from Mukukuru will allow the project to continue for the moment.

Our new focus is on the transportation of the container of school equipment and we have been greatly helped in this endeavour by the fund raising of £3000 by Wilma Johnston and her two daughters, Emily and Alma, who held a race night at Blairdrummond Village Hall. We also have to thank Marina Thomson whose sponsored slim raised an amazing £611.

We have been donated 18 computers from Motherwell College and Tom Feichen has kindly spent many hours reconditioning them so that they are all now in good working order. The last element to be

finalised is the transportation of the container contents from Dar es Salaaam to Songea. Once this part of the journey is sorted the container can be sent. There is also a need to collect bed linen, blankets and towels to send out and we would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to donate second hand linen for the school dormitory.

Magima Village Ceramic Factory

The Magima workers have been working hard since the summer to make the tiles required for the existing school buildings. There has also been contact made between Paul Temple of the Luhimba Project, the representative of the Children of Songea, and the brickmakers. This is potentially another Charity project for which Ruda can provide either bricks or expertise in firing bricks, and roof tiles for their proposed school for the blind in Songea.

The radio programme: Sojourner Truth

A radio programme broadcast on New Year's Day on Pacifica Radio, presented by Margaret Prescod discussed the Ujamaa development work in Tanzania in the sixties. The participants were Ralph and Noreen Ibbott who were part of the Ujamaa development and lived in the village of Litowa with their children, Alice MacFarlane represented the present Ruda development and Selma James of Global Women's Strike which has a keen interest in this grassroots form of development. To listen to this excellent show click on the link below. Once the page opens click on archives and scroll down to the 1st January and then click play. The programme last just under an hour.

<http://www.kpfk.org/programs/142-sojournertruth.html>

Art sale:

Here are some donated art works available for sale if you are interested in buying any of the pieces shown please contact Louise Johnstone at l.m.l.johnstone@dundee.ac.uk All the money raised by sales will go to the school project and the prices stated are half the normal gallery price.

		
<p>Dorothy Stirling: Big Fish (30x30 cms) £550</p>	<p>Heloise Maylin: Catch me If You Can (79x49 cms) £450</p>	<p>Ann Wegmuller: Small Pool (26x26 cms) £240</p>
		
<p>Ronnie Forbes: Gift Sharing (30x30 cms) £125</p>	<p>Christine Woodside: Marrakesh Niche (38x36 cms) £650</p>	<p>Ranjana Thapalyal: Nilla (45x80 cms) £200</p>

