

CHOLE CHANGING

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHOLE MJINI TRUST FUND
Issue 6
www.choletrust.org



REDUNDANCY BECKONS!

Robin Cooke-Hurle, the Trust Chairman, writes:

We were already preparing this Newsletter when the letter on the right arrived by email from Athuman Tawakal, following his graduation from the University of Dar es Salaam.



Athuman with his family

His degree is a huge personal achievement for Athuman, especially after years of struggle to get an education; there is more detail of his earlier life on our website.



With his father

however his obvious commitment to his community and country also supports one of the Trust's key objectives of facilitating self sufficiency for the Chole community. We will have succeeded when people like him make us redundant!

THE CHOLE MJINI TRUST FUND

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"LET'S SUPPORT EACH OTHER ..."

In 2009 Athuman Tawakal became one of the first people in the history of Chole to win a place at university. He graduated in 2012. This, in his own words, is what it means to him.

The Chair Person
The Harambee Committee and The Chole Mjini Trust Fund
P. O. Box 33
Chole, Mafia

Athuman Tawakal
Phone: +255 712 566161
E-mail: atawakal@gmail.com
Dar es salaam, Tanzania

May 18, 2013

RE: THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN ME AND SUPPORTING MY STUDIES

The heading above refers. I, Athuman Tawakal, with great honor writing to you with sincere gratitude to say THANK YOU and your committee (Harambee) for your financial support given to me to pursue my three year bachelor degree in SOCIAL WORK at the Institute of Social Work Dar es Salaam.

It has been a long journey that was full of challenges, twist and turns, ups and downs but also sweet moments and eventually I made it. I always believed that "Nothing is impossible with determination, hard working and support both moral and financial". If you have a GOAL and dream to fulfill it is possible. I had faith in myself and I always believed that I can be whatever I deserve and I still believe anyone else can as well. I have now (2012) completed my studies at this level and graduated successful with GPA 3.8 (Upper second class). Through your support you have made me achieve this and fulfill this dream as well as open room to think and dream big.

A degree in SOCIAL WORK means a lot in my life as it is something that I wanted to achieve in my life and it is something that I love doing (Social Work) as it reflects directly to social welfare, but also paved a way for further studies for the next level. This degree addresses human life in all most important aspects which directly or indirectly have impact to people's welfare. Through this degree, my thinking capacity has increased, but also has increased my knowledge and skills of different issues/things that in one way or another have impacts to human welfare and lives in general. It has made me reflect back to my community and society in general and see different angles that need to be addressed and shaped in order to create conducive living environment and improve people's welfare starting from individual, community, and national level. It has given me new perspectives, strategies and ways to take action as one way of paying back to the community.

Education is such an important tool to individual development, Chole/Mafia community and Tanzania as a whole. "We need Education". Through this education I can be a good role model and an inspirational figure to my own community in setting good example for others but also be able to lift up others especially young generation who really need huge support in education and became catalyst for positive change. I'm aware "social problems" and challenges that my community face like, HIV/AIDS, Poor Nutrition, poverty, lack of self awareness, child growth and development issues and negative attitude and perceptions towards different issues/matters that either directly or indirectly affect individual or community welfare and lives in particular. All these increases level of vulnerability in the community and hence something needs to be done to eliminate them.

Finally, I would like to thank and acknowledge some individuals who have directly supported me through this and these includes; Anne De Villiers and the family, Debora Ash, PhD and the family, Rajabu Tawakal, Keith Mitchel and the family, Robin Cooke-Hurle, my dad and the family and Edgar Turuka. I appreciated all your support and my message to you all is that "I am from CHOLE/MAFIA and now with a DEGREE and AGENT FOR POSITIVE CHANGE. Your support, faith and believing in me and with my determination, hardworking and discipline proved that anyone can become whatever he/she deserves regardless where you are from". I am now ready for moves, ready to take action, ready to give or join hands to anyone who acts as catalyst for community positive change and I dedicate my bachelor degree to the community. Let's support each other and lets work together to create community that is full protected from all sorts of social insecurities/risks and improve people's welfare.

THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN/ASANTENI SANA Sincerely, Athuman Tawakal

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ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT			
Surname: TAWAKAL	First Name: ATHUMAN	Middle Names:	
Registration No: BSWANT 200803	Sex: MALE	Birth Date: 1985-05-08	
Date of Admission: 26/11/2008	Year of Admission: 2008	Admission Type: DIRECT ENTRY	Date of Completion: 02/11/2012
Country of Origin: TANZANIA			
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Programme Name: BACHELOR DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK			
Division: G.P.A: 3.8		Degree Class: UPPER SECOND CLASS	

IT SPONSORSHIP

Late last year we appealed for sponsorship to support the IT installation in the Learning Centre, and are thrilled to announce that Really Simple Systems has pledged £3,000 a year 'for several years'. RSS is a market



leader in CRM (Customer Relation Management) systems based on 'cloud computing' for small companies. The Company makes clear that its support for Chole is pure generosity, writing on its blog "if you're wondering how this might relate to Cloud CRM systems, we have to admit that the link is tenuous, especially as the island does not have a full time Internet connection. But we are hoping to rectify this as the technology becomes affordable".

This support has already made a difference, with one IT training and maintenance session carried out in January, including vital repairs to a damaged hard disk drive, and a second scheduled for the middle of the year. These sessions are invariably very well attended, and the Learning Centre IT is becoming a vital resource to the community.

The next challenge is to deliver broadband to Chole, which is technically difficult because the island is so remote and the available power is so low, being confined to power provided by solar panels. The solution will probably have to be satellite broadband, and we continue to research that. Input from any supporter with practical experience would be very valuable indeed.

Really Simple Systems is at www.reallysimplesystems.com/

CHOLE MJINI LODGE

The Trust is about helping others - but there are many other reasons to visit Chole!

A web search quickly brings up virtually unanimous praise for Chole Mjini Lodge as a very special holiday destination. Built and owned by Anne and Jean de Villiers (see www.cholemjini.com for the full story), since January 2011 it has been operated by AfrikaAfrika, who combine it with their other stylish safari lodges in pristine wildernesses.

You can contact AfrikaAfrika at

www.afrikaafrikasafaris.com

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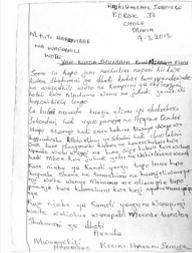
Email: info@afrikaafrikasafaris.com

Please do not hesitate to contact Anne de Villiers personally about the Chole Project at anne.k.dev@gmail.com

DONOR RECEPTION

Unfortunately a donor reception held on 12 March coincided with one of the coldest days of the year and appalling weather, so many people were unable to actually attend. Nevertheless it was a wonderful opportunity for people with Chole in common to meet each other, courtesy of the generosity of Ann-Mari Beatty and trustee Ivo Hesmondhalgh.

Riziki Serenge, the Harambee Committee



Chair, sent this letter. However, because the Chairman had to admit that his Swahili did not stretch much further than phrases from *The Lion King*, we heard Anne de Villiers' translation. Riziki expressed her

profound thanks to everyone, and went on to explain how important the Trust's support continued to be because the cost of education remained beyond the means of most Chole families.

There were also messages from Village

Chairman Marbruki Sadiki (right), and Jean de Villiers, who signed off with "We cannot thank you enough, and wish for you all peace, good health and happiness, secure in the knowledge that you have so very well served people who lacked opportunity; that you have used your privilege to help raise up the under-trodden in a land so far away".



The Chairman went on to review the tremendous progress over the last two years, culminating in the admission of eight students to university in 2012. He emphasised however that the future of the Chole project remained fragile, because schooling in Tanzania becomes increasingly expensive as a child progresses through the system.

The project therefore risked becoming a victim of its own success, because the more successfully the community motivated its children to work hard at school, the greater the financial demands. The Trust aimed to support a child from kindergarten as far through the educational system as its talents and motivation carried it, but funding was only secure for the current year. It was the old banking dilemma of being committed long, but funded short!

Funding in 2012 rose to £30,889 from £27,639 in 2011 (both excluding gift aid). The Trustees however estimate that demand will stabilise at around £50,000 per annum, and that the long term nature of the Trust's commitments mean it would be prudent to hold one year's expenditure in reserve. Income for 2013 is at present forecast to be £26,700, excluding any sponsorship proceeds (see right).

THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

We are immensely grateful to a team from Moxons, the wonderful fishmonger with shops in South Kensington, Clapham South and Dulwich, who are setting out on a sponsored Three Peaks Challenge in mid August to raise money for the Trust.



The Three Peaks Challenge consists of climbing Ben Nevis (left), Scafell Pike (below) and

Snowdon, the three tallest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales. The total vertical ascent will be 11,200 feet, or more than half the height of Kilimanjaro - and they plan to do it in 24 hours! Training has already started, with a trip to Scafell Pike over the bank holiday weekend.



We will publish further details shortly, together with how you and your friends can sponsor the team. The Trustees will discuss how to use the proceeds, but our expectation is that we will take the opportunity to strengthen the Trust's reserves.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Chole Trust's objective is to become redundant as the people of Chole achieve self sufficiency. However the road to self sufficiency is challenging, needing a level of investment, especially in education, healthcare and facilities, beyond the capacity of a poor community, however hard it tries.

You can help in any number of ways:

- By becoming a monthly standing order donor. Regular donations are especially valuable, giving children entering the schooling system confidence that they will be able to complete their education.

Just £25 / month funds an annual Form V+ secondary school bursary for a child.

- The Trustees will be happy to discuss specific projects for larger commitments. For example, two long term donors generously fund the Kindergarten.
- If you - or perhaps a family member or friend - is planning an adventure such as climbing Kilimanjaro, then doing it on behalf of the Trust can be a very effective way of fundraising.

- Practical help; for example, a few months teaching on Chole can be rewarding and can contribute a great deal.

If you would like to help the Chole Project then please contact us at:

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