

Fall 2019

# THE Tumaini FUND USA

The Tumaini Fund Vision–To develop a sustainable community in the Kagera region in northwest Tanzania

## DR. DOUG WILSON VISITS TUMAINI FUND TANZANIA

**M**y wife Susan and I first worked in Kagera in 2001 when an explosion of AIDS was seen in Kagera from the neighbouring countries of Rwanda and Burundi. Soldiers on the losing side of the civil wars were driven over the border attacking local women and girls and passing on the deadly virus.

The countryside was full of ragged children looking after children while very few adults (especially men) could be seen. The situation was appalling.

After working on a response to the situation for a year, my wife, Dr. Susan Wilson, returned to Kagera in January 2003 to set up the Tumaini Fund and has returned there once or twice each year since to supervise the programmes.

I next visited Kagera in 2009 and was impressed by the work, but still saw great, almost overwhelming need. At that time Tumaini had only one office, and we took part in opening the very first tailoring vocational training school. At that point Tumaini had dug about 6 wells.

When I visited the work again this June 2019, I was amazed at what had been accomplished. There are now 4 main offices, all in good order, 1 sub-office and the beginnings of a 6th office.

There are 5 vocational training schools for tailoring - each for 50 students, taking a 2 year course that includes English and Math tuition, as well as a small tailoring school on the island of Ikuza, and 5 carpentry vocational schools.

There is a fully-built elementary school and a bore-hole in the village of Kabalekela, neither of which were there when I last visited. There was no school then and the children were illiterate and innumerate.

Some 100 wells have been dug, each bringing clean water to 300 villagers each, but rising to up to 1000 people in the Dry Season when people from other villages have to come for water when their own sources dry out. Susan and I visited many of them during our fieldwork.

We visited house after house built by Tumaini - giving decent accommodation to orphan families. When I last visited, we were building adobe or mud brick houses, but now the houses are beautiful fired brick houses, with windows and doors made by our carpentry schools.

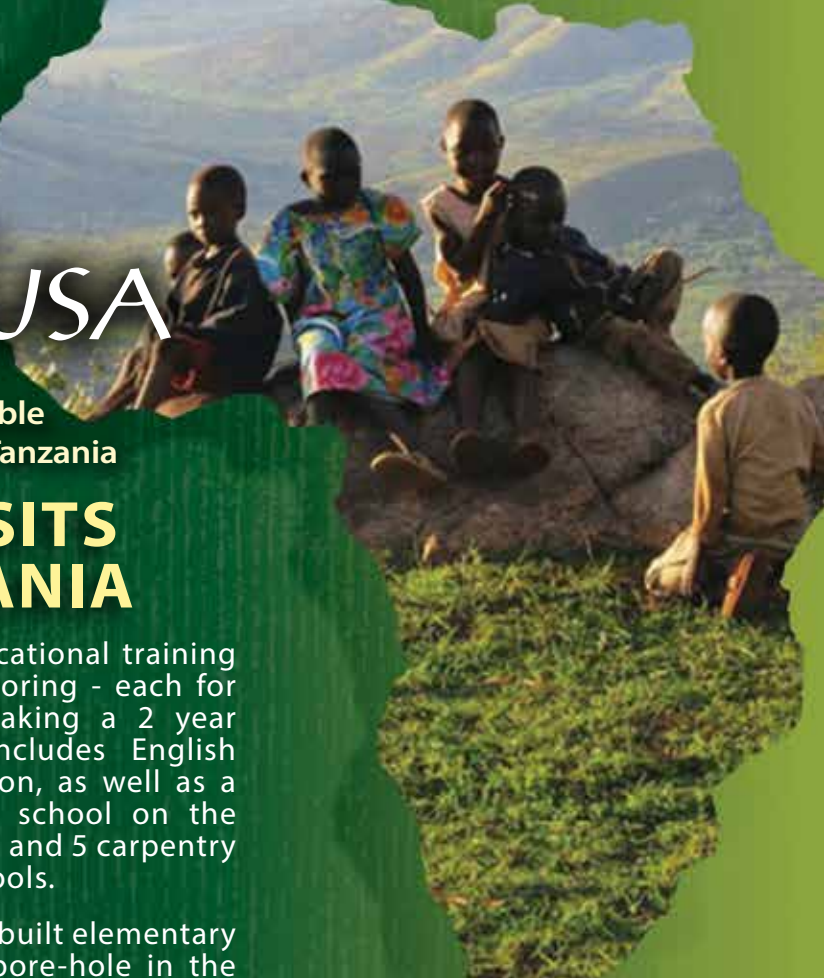
We met countless young people who came to thank us for their degrees or college diplomas. None of these young people would have been educated without the work of Tumaini. We

met nurses, accountants, social-workers, engineers and many teachers - all so committed to their work, all so thankful for the help they had received and very keen to do whatever they could to help Tumaini with its activities.

There were 2 huge irrigation projects beside Lake Victoria which had turned what had been a desert into a fertile plain of corn and rice and vegetables.

Wherever we went we saw plaques to record the contribution of Tumaini Fund USA and what your organisation has achieved has been amazing. Not only have many thousands of children's lives been changed for the better, but many, many have been saved altogether. Many of the children we saw in 2001 could not have survived without the help which Tumaini has given them, and so much of this help has come from Tumaini Fund USA.

Thank you so much,  
Dr. Douglas Wilson MB ChB, MRCP





## DRS. SUSAN & DR. DOUG WILSON IN NAPLES!

The Wilsons will be in Naples Nov. 9 - 18th. The Sewing for Hope ladies will be hosting a luncheon at Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church on Tues., Nov. 12th to welcome the Wilsons.

This will be Dr. Susan Wilson's husband, Dr. Doug Wilson, first trip to Naples. Let's give him a big welcome! Please RSVP by Nov. 9th to Lis Wilson at 239-289-1282 or [lis@sewingforhope.com](mailto:lis@sewingforhope.com).



## DR. SUSAN WILSON WITH HER NAMESAKE, SUZANA WILSON

Suzana lost both of her parents to AIDS and she lives with her aunt who has health problems. Her role model is Dr. Wilson & she aspires to become a doctor—so determined to get her education that she awakes at 3:30 a.m. (no alarm clock) to walk in the dark for most of the 3 1/2 hours it takes to get to her school & then again walks home after school. Her only pair of shoes were in pitiful condition, as you can see in the photo of Dr. Doug Wilson holding one of them. Students must wear shoes in order to be allowed in school. Fortunately the Wilsons bought her a pair of shoes, & made arrangements for her to receive room & board at her school. There are many more out there like her, waiting desperately to get the school supplies, uniforms, shoes & perhaps a bike to ride to far away schools. **WILL YOU HELP?** To fund a child to go to secondary school cost \$100 a year.

## PARKSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS!

Dr. Susan Wilson's presentation last February about the Tumaini Fund was well received by the students. They were so moved after learning about the difficulties that the orphans face, they wanted to help in some way. So they decided to collect coins over a period of a few months which totaled an impressive \$400.00. They chose to designate these funds for mosquito nets which help protect the orphans from Malaria.

School Counselor Tom Gemmer is pictured with the donation.



## TREASURER'S REPORT

We hope you all have had an enjoyable Summer and are preparing for the excitement of the holidays coming up! Just some quick but very impressive statistics to share with you regarding how much you all have and continue to help our mission....

Tumaini Fund USA received a total of over \$260,000 stemming from just short of 300 donations through September 30, 2019. We've been holding steady thanks to Tumaini Fund's loyal and generous donors like you!

Another exhilarating visit to Naples, FL from Dr. Susan Wilson

back in February with our Colors of Hope event held at the beautiful Naples Sailing and Yacht Club as well as a week of visits to our local churches, schools, and Rotary Clubs brought in \$200,000 of that total!

2019 to date has allowed four much needed transfers to Tumaini Tanzania for a total of \$224,000! Of that amount, over \$131,000 were sent for specified purposes including a generous \$88,000 designated to build shallow wells, which will aid in providing clean water to the areas most needed. \$22,800 will go toward building houses and \$12,000 was directed

towards education. Over \$90,000 was sent as General Support Funds to address some of Tumaini's most demanding needs under the direction of Dr. Wilson.

With the much-anticipated November visit by Dr. Wilson soon approaching, we truly look forward to the exciting events planned while she visits our local supporters and updates us all on how each and every one of your efforts positively impacts and changes the lives of the people we are supporting.

— Emily Swope, Treasurer

# SEWING FOR HOPE VOLUNTEER VISITS TANZANIA

Pictured is Barbara Caldwell who holds the Sewing For Hope "record," having made well over 1,000 dresses for Tumaini Fund orphans! She presented dresses that she made to a widow, Bebe, & her grandchildren. Barbara said, "I made that caftan quite a few years ago from fabric that friends brought to me from Africa. I knew it was time for the caftan to return home. Bebe & her family need a new house, so she was added to the 'list' for a new Tumaini house."

Barbara wrote the following about her trip to Tanzania:

A trip to Kagera, Tanzania with Dr Susan in January was an opportunity of a lifetime. The weather was mild with only a little rain. The lush tropical landscape reminded me of Naples. And the hills were alive with the sound of celebrating as we drew near to the villages with new wells or new Tumaini homes. We met Susan's people and we were blessed by their genuine hospitality and thankful hearts for what Tumaini has done for them.

During our 2 week stay in Kagera, we gave out many SFH dresses with T-shirts and undies to the young ladies of Tumaini Fund. Hats and dolls were given to the children and small treats were given as well. But perhaps the most rewarding distribution was done at the secondary schools. Hygiene Kits from SFH were given to the girls which enables them to attend school every day of the month. Having the hygiene kits enhances the girl's prospect of success in school. What a blessing it is to be a part of this worthwhile organization!

Barbara is pictured with Paskazia, an orphan who lives with her grandparents who both have leprosy. The team of volunteers who accompanied Dr. Wilson on her trip to Tanzania last January brought 2 sets of clothes for Paskazia...dress, t-shirt and undies and school supplies. The little boy got a jumper(sweater) and a knit hat. They gave a solar lamp and mattresses to the family. Everyone had been sleeping on the dirt floor. So even though they had a new Tumaini house, the family still lacked many of the basics. The family knew the team was coming to visit so they were wearing their very best.



Barbara & Paskazia

## HOLIDAY APPEAL FOR SCHOOL FUNDS

Education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty for the orphans. You can help them to have a much brighter future by donating \$100 which can provide a year of secondary education, a bike to get to far away schools, a sewing machine or carpentry supplies for vocational schools. Please help us to raise enough by January to fund the students for the next year.





# SAVE THE DATE!

**SATURDAY  
FEBRUARY 15, 2020**

Our annual fundraiser will once again be held at the beautiful Naples Sailing & Yacht Club but with some new and exciting changes. This will be an African themed event & include a professional team of musicians & dancers from Miami. Invitations will be going out in January & more details will be posted on our website [www.tumainifundusa.org](http://www.tumainifundusa.org).

THE  
**Tumaini**  
FUND USA

553 Galleon Drive  
Naples, FL 34102



## DONATE ONLINE AT [www.tumainifundusa.org](http://www.tumainifundusa.org)

### MISSION STATEMENT

The Tumaini Fund USA's mission is to help the estimated 200,000 impoverished AIDS orphans in the Kagera region of Northwest Tanzania to survive and become self-sufficient, by prioritizing education and helping to meet basic needs such as nutritional support, clothing, housing, mosquito nets and access to clean water.

### TUMAINI FUND USA DIRECTORS

Mike Moore, Past President; Dr. Lou Foley, President; Mick Moore, Vice President/President-Elect; Emily Swope, Treasurer; Barb Bixby, Recording Secretary; Sally Barker, Correspondence Secretary; Doug Burke, Roger Conant, Grace Gokturk, Joe Meade, Rev. Wendel Meyer, Rick Swope, Lis Wilson, and Dr. Susan Wilson

Please visit our website for more program highlights and updates: [www.TumainiFundUSA.org](http://www.TumainiFundUSA.org)

May God Bless You!



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