



553 Galleon Drive  
Naples, FL 34102



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General Inquiries/Volunteer Opportunities: Tumaini Fund USA • 553 Galleon Drive • Naples, FL 34102 • [info@TumainiFundUSA.org](mailto:info@TumainiFundUSA.org)

Thanks to the generosity of friends of the Tumaini Fund USA, we were able to wire \$215,000 to Tanzania so far this year. You can still help us in reaching our goal of raising \$250,000 by considering a contribution to fund one or more of these needs below.

#### **No Contribution Is Too Small To Make A Positive Impact:**

- \$10 – Mosquito Net for Protection Against Disease
- \$25 – Solar Lamp for Homes
- \$100 – Bicycle for Transportation to Water and School
- \$100 – Secondary School Tuition for One Year
- \$625 – New Home for a Family
- \$5,000 – Drill a Shallow Fresh Water Well

To make a contribution, please send your check to Tumaini Fund USA—553 Galleon Drive—Naples, FL 34102 or visit our website at [www.TumainiFundUSA.org](http://www.TumainiFundUSA.org) and click on Donate.

Sewing for Hope - Lis Wilson at (239) 262-8678/[lis@TumainiFundUSA.org](mailto:lis@TumainiFundUSA.org)  
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## FOUNDER SPEAKS AT GALA FUNDRAISER TO KICK-OFF 2014 CAMPAIGN

June 2014

# THE Tumaini FUND USA

The Tumaini Fund Vision—To develop a healthy, sustainable community in the northwest region of Tanzania

Last October, Britain's Queen Elizabeth honored Dr. Susan V. Wilson, the founder of the Tumaini Fund, by awarding her the MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in recognition of her services to AIDS orphans in Tanzania. This award is one of the highest honors a civilian in Great Britain can obtain short of being knighted. In her remarks to a group of 165 Tumaini friends who attended a Naples fundraiser in early March, Dr. Wilson thanked all who had contributed to the work of the Tumaini Fund since its creation and told them that the Queen was really recognizing their efforts, not hers, when the Queen included her name on the list of honorees receiving the MBE award.

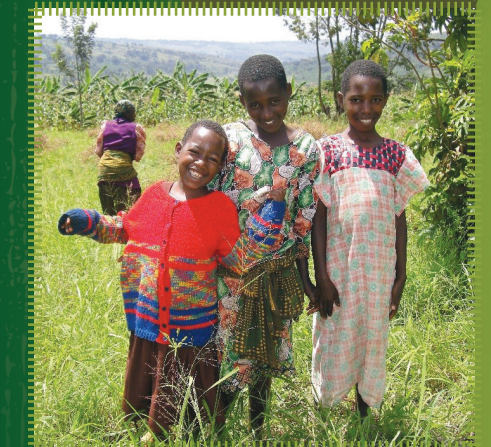
Much has changed in the last 13 years and many orphans have died. AIDS education has been a priority for the government and for churches. Churches will not marry couples unless they have been HIV tested. AIDS treatments are now available. So, while no official government census has been taken since before 2000, it is likely that the number of AIDS orphans now living in the Kagera Region is much smaller than 200,000.

The Tumaini Fund now supports about 25,000 AIDS orphans and, thanks to a recent donation enabling us to register more families for support, that number will be increasing to around 30,000 this year. However, it is apparent that there are tens of thousands of AIDS orphans living in parts of Kagera that the Tumaini Fund has yet to reach. There is more work to be done!

When the Tumaini Fund registers an orphan for its support, it provides that child with two sets of clothes,



Before and After - Sewing for Hope



Children benefiting from Tumaini Fund

a school uniform, paper and pencils and a mosquito net. Dr. Wilson showed pictures of orphans who had only one piece of clothing when she first met them. Like the picture above, the children were dressed in rags and were too embarrassed to go to church or to the market and they couldn't attend school without uniforms. With The Tumaini Fund and Sewing For Hope help, young girls receive bright-colored dresses made by volunteers in the U.S., the Channel Islands, Canada and New Zealand. The smiles on these girls' faces show a much different picture and the children are now proud to be seen and to attend school.

Dr. Wilson also showed a series of pictures of individual orphans taken over a span of several years. Orphans who were first photographed when they were sick, hungry, poorly-clothed and sad-looking were subsequently shown as smiling, healthy, well-dressed children who were now going to school and earning good grades—thanks to the support they had received from the Tumaini Fund. She also showed a number of pictures of orphan families standing in front of their

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## Orphans *Who's Lives Were* CHANGED Thanks To **THE TUMAINI FUND**

The Tumaini Fund was established in 2003 by Dr. Susan Wilson to bring aid to impoverished orphans living in the Kagera Region of Tanzania. Two of the first group of orphans that the Tumaini Fund supported were Lingson Kasomwa and Leonard Paul. Recently Dr. Susan Wilson asked each of them to recount how Tumaini changed their lives.

The older of these two will be 31 years old this year. His name is Lingson Kasomwa. When he was born in 1983, his father was working as a policeman, struggling to support his family which had grown to include his wife and six children. Health conditions forced his father to retire when Lingson was 12 years old. At the time, Lingson's mother was very sick.

Since his father was no longer bringing in an income, Lingson was forced to seek work. Over the course of several years, he found opportunities to work in a variety of jobs. He started working in the mining industry; he made bricks; he worked on a farm; he fished; he sold fruits; he sold clothes. Lingson reports that orphans are willing to work at any wage to get money to survive and that orphans are often exploited and abused.

Lingson recalls that his pastor introduced him to Dr. Susan Wilson when he was trying to find some organization to support him at high school. Tumaini provided funds for school fees, transport, accommodations and food. This

“Tumaini's support **FREED** me from **VULNERABILITY.**”  
~Lingson Kasomwa

support enabled him to devote the time he formerly spent working to attending classes and concentrating on getting an education. In his own words: “Tumaini's support freed me from vulnerability.”

After graduating from secondary school, Lingson received a scholarship from Alliance Française where he earned his diploma in French. In 2009, he is enrolled in a university and earned a B.A. in Education. He is now working on an M.A. in Education.

Your Support is  
Changing Lives  
**EVERYDAY**



## More **LIVES CHANGED**

The second person who wrote about life as an orphan in Kagera was Leonard Paul. Leonard will be 29 years old this year. He is one of 8 children. Both of his parents died when he was very young and his eldest brother became the head of their household. Two older sisters assisted their brother in the raising of Leonard and his four younger brothers and sisters until they married. Leonard finished primary school in 2001 and was selected to enter secondary school. At the beginning some relatives contributed funds for his schooling. However, their resources were strained and it became obvious that without other support he would not be able to continue his

education. He met Dr. Susan Wilson and the Tumaini Fund began to pay his tuition and school fees. After graduating from secondary school, Leonard earned a B.A. degree in French from a university in Tanzania. He is now a secondary school teacher.

In November 2012, Leonard married Elice James who lost her mother when she was young and was assisted through her schooling by the Tumaini Fund. She has a B.A. in Education and is also a secondary school teacher. Today Leonard and Elice devote a large portion of their income to providing assistance to Leonard's younger brothers and sisters.

Tumaini has also provided funds to help Leonard's younger brothers and sisters to complete their schooling. One sister, now 25 years old, is studying at university to earn a B.A. in Education; a brother who is now 22, is studying at a teacher's college; another brother, age 19, is in high school and his youngest sister, now 16, is in primary school.

Leonard is very thankful that he had the good fortune to be one of the first orphans assisted by the Tumaini Fund and attributes that support to changing his life—giving him the opportunity now as a teacher to himself help others to change their lives.

## Groups Throughout the U.S. Join **SEWING** for **HOPE**



The Ladies of Trinity-By-The-Cove Episcopal Church in Naples began making colorful dresses for the orphans in Tanzania four years ago. As news of their Sewing for Hope project spread, sewing groups were formed by several other groups in Naples, including St. Monica's Episcopal Church, the First Presbyterian Church and a group of ladies living in the Deauville condominiums. One volunteer in the Trinity group has produced over 100 dresses herself and, reportedly, her children have challenged her to make 1,000 dresses!

Lis Wilson, the Sewing for Hope Director, reports that not a week goes by that she is not contacted by an individual or group interested in sewing the dresses. The calls have come from Michigan, Colorado, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Georgia, Massachusetts and from other cities in Florida. To date Sewing for Hope's U.S. groups have produced approximately 1,650 dresses, 800 of them in 2013 alone. Other groups have also been formed in Guernsey, British Columbia, Canada, Aberdeen, Scotland and Norway.

For orphans who may have had only one tattered and well-worn garment, these dresses bring dignity and great joy. Without decent clothing, they do not venture out into the village to attend church, since they believe that wearing ragged clothing in church

dishonors God. With the dresses, the young girls are eager and able to attend church and go out to market. It is extremely meaningful to these young children to know that a special person from far away cared enough about them to hand-sew a dress especially for them.



In the past year, the Naples groups have also become involved with a wonderful organization called Days for Girls (DFG). DFG provides washable personal care kits for girls and women who have no sanitary supplies to use during their monthly menstrual cycle. During those days they are unable to go to school or to work. It is the mission of DFG to not only supply these reusable kits but also to educate the women in taking care of themselves with safety and dignity. The ladies from the Deauville condominiums sent 36 complete kits to Tanzania this year.



Pictured above is Mother Alice Sadler of Trinity-By-The-Cove Church blessing two suitcases containing dresses, personal care kits, and others supplies which Warren and Linda DeGolder (also pictured) later delivered to a Tumaini worker while enroute to the East African safari they purchased at the Tumaini Fund USA fundraiser in March.

Anyone interested in joining an existing sewing group or in forming their own Sewing for Hope group should contact **Lis Wilson at 239-262-8678 or at lis@TumainiFundUSA.org.**



Tumaini workers in Murgwanza expressing their thanks to Tumaini for having sent so many beautiful dresses.

### Founder Speaks at Gala Fundraiser to Kick-Off 2014 Campaign, continued from page 1

run-down shelters years ago and subsequent pictures of the same family members standing in front of the new homes which the Tumaini Fund had built for them.

There is still a need for the drilling of fresh water wells. Dr. Wilson showed pictures of the slimy water sources from which children and animals drank and referred to one river known as the “chocolate river” because of the river's dark brown

muddy color. Dysentery caused by drinking impure water is the number one killer of young children in Tanzania today, and being forced to gather water from river streams in remote sections of the region exposed families to attacks from crocodiles and bandits. A local minister noted that people used to say that water represented death but now that Tumaini has provided fresh water wells, water represents life.

Also pictured in Dr. Wilson's presentation, were a number of orphans who had completed secondary school and gone on to earn university diplomas and were now returning to Kagera and joining the staff of Tumaini as office managers, social workers, teachers, etc. These young men and women, grateful for the assistance provided by the Tumaini Fund were now returning to Kagera to help others to improve their lives.