



Rotary Club of Parksville

Presentation of Tumaini by Dr. Susan Wilson MBE, Dr. Doug Wilson (both medical doctors)

Host – Valerie Davies

St Mary's Church – Powder Point Road March 19, 2025

Rotary – Glen Bonderud , Judy Elliott

Sometimes when you attend a presentation you are not sure what you will be seeing, maybe with a little trepidation or reluctance and then you get a pleasant surprise of a speaker and organization that is doing the right thing. So it was today. Dr. Wilson's work has been recognized, and she is a recipient of the MBE. Dr. Wilson has worked closely with the Rotary clubs in Naples, Florida and Tumaini has been the recipient of a Rotary Global Grant. She knows Rotary well.

Tumaini, founded in 2003, means hope in Swahili and she is the founder of Tumaini and is still serving as the CEO. In 2024 Rotary Club of Parksville donated 1000 dollars to the organization for the purchase of 4 treadle sewing machines for their "tailoring school". We were approached by Valerie Davies who some of you may know. She is the National contact for Tumaini.

Tumaini is located in the Kagera region of North West Tanzania and has several branches now. Kagera is Tanzania's fifteenth-largest region and accounts for approximately 3.3 percent of Tanzania's land area of 885,800 square kilometres (342,000 sq mi). The region is the size of Northern Ireland.

Susan started in 2003 when the Wilsons were in Kagera in the middle of the AIDS pandemic. This pandemic was a result of returning soldiers from the genocidal war in Rwanda and Burundi. Before the war the region had an infection rate of 2.8%, and soon after the rate was 28%. Infected mothers gave birth and passed the virus onto their children and many children were left to raise themselves, no food, no shelter and no education. Susan tried to find help from the major organizations, but soon determined to

do it herself, starting slowly with 50 orphans. That has now grown to today the organization serves over 200,000 orphans, with 400 parish volunteers and several branches including tailoring and carpentry schools. Teach a skill, earn a living.

The local branch is making personal kits for the young girls so they do not have to drop school during their monthly cycle. From this small donation girls are now able to complete their education. An interesting fact, the students are approximately 65 % Christian and 35% Muslim, and all are treated equally. Of great concern right now is the order for USAID to cease operations and already the personnel have left the country. With regards to the treatment of AIDS patients, the monthly treatments were free of charge, parents lived and were able to look after the children. Currently Tanzania's government is trying to keep the programme going, but for now long is the question. Tumaini is putting together a register of who has AIDS so as not to lose the information should the programme get restarted. (Thank you Trump)

Housing - Tumaini has built homes for those who live in dire circumstances, and please see the photo of a new home. Doors and windows supplied by their own carpentry school and the cost of building one home is about 2,600 Canadian. The goal is 20 homes each year. Hard to believe. They have also started a rainwater collection system from the roof and gutters, a simple storage system rather than walking miles to get "ground water that is full of stuff we do not want to think about" (see photo)



"Clean roof water vs ground water- to help through the dry season"



“The ground water”

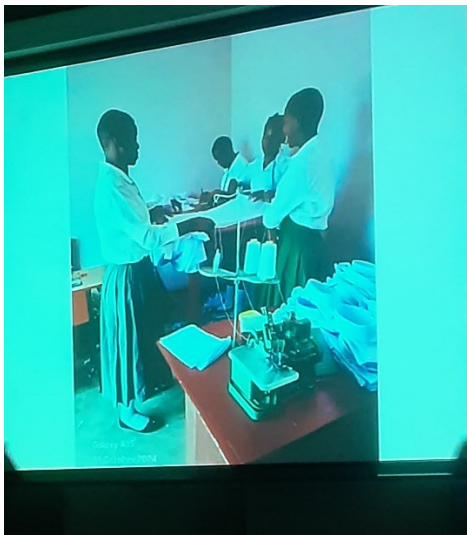
Clean Water- they have also supplied/built/dug wells for villages and developed delivery systems that will give water to 1000 villagers. The cost of a well is about 5,000 dollars and that includes concrete, old-fashioned hand pumps, simple to operate. Hopefully they can do 20 wells each year.

Schools – the orphans’ schools are from elementary to secondary and students have been able to write entrance exams into university; currently they have 440 students in higher degree education. Some good examples of success are an ophthalmologist, a lawyer, and one cerebral palsy person who is now a municipal planner due to the ability to go to school. All came from poverty and helped by Tumaini.



“A new school under construction”

Tailoring and Carpentry schools- a skill means a living out of poverty. These are two year courses where students learn English (the language of the trades), math for the bookkeeping, and business management. We donated the sewing machines for the tailoring schools, 5 schools, 25 machines each and at the end of the course the students can take the sewing machine back to their village. The tailoring school also makes the school uniforms rather than buying them. The carpentry school gets lumber from local sources for the doors and windows of the homes they build. Very low cost.



“The tailoring school making uniforms”

The five branches of Tumaini serves an area with over 200,000 orphans and 400 community workers work in teams of two, man and woman, visiting homes, checking the families and if possible, providing solutions, if not, they are able to call on government social officers.

One of the aspects of having a registry of the students and being able to prove they are orphans is that the government provides loans to orphans to receive their education. With the parents dead, no birth records to prove parentage of orphan status Tumaini has started such a registry with the aid of village pastors. Without the proof the students cannot get the university loan.

It was a very worthwhile presentation, and it is satisfying to know our donation was well used. The local treasurer is Carol Kilner, a friend of Judy, who knows that every dollar donated is forwarded.

END

Written by Glen Bonderud

President, Rotary Club of Parksville 2024/2025