



Success on Kilimanjaro



Congratulations to the 2011 B2A Kilimanjaro team who all successfully reached the Summit of Kilimanjaro in September! B2A CEO, Mark Topley says "I've heard climbing Kilimanjaro described as the 'most awful and most awesome trek'. I would have to agree. What an experience! From start to finish, it was challenging, fun, rewarding and testing. Getting to the summit was incredible and made all the 'awful' worth it! Knowing that what we were achieving personally was also helping to achieve a world free from dental pain really struck a chord."

The amazing team of trekkers were: Chris Barrow, Annie Bradley, Mike Brown, Matthew Bullard, Mike Chrisp, Caroline Citrone, Sophie Dickson, Julie Hanks, Dominique & Zaki Kanaan, Laura Kimble, Elizabeth Lawson, Fiona Legarth, Richard Leworthy, Keira Malone, Lucy Marshall, Kevin McGraine, Philip Moore, Alison O'Donnell, Diane & Marcus Pickering, Anne Powders and Mark Topley.

The Way Forward

It's exam time and nine more students from Bukumbi Care Centre are expecting to make the big step from Primary School to Secondary or Vocational education in January, bringing the total of sponsored students to 24 for 2012.

Bridge2Aid believes that supporting education at every stage is the only way to break the cycle of poverty.

In 2009, of those who went to Primary School, only 49% children in Tanzania went on to Secondary education.

Family finances and domestic duties will be contributing reasons for that, however, it is attitudes to education that remains one of the biggest challenges at Bukumbi. Many generations at the centre will not have had even a primary education and therefore do not recognise the importance of it. It is this mindset that the education programme is working to change.

It's an exciting time for these nine students who are making their next big step towards a sustainable future for themselves and their families. Thanks to all Bridge2Aid supporters who have already pledged sponsorship. If you are interested in sponsoring a student, please contact rachel@bridge2aid.org.





Meet Daudi Simon

Hearing about a student's background can be a very humbling experience. During the recent student interviews, one student struck a chord with Rachel.

Daudi is 19. He was brought up in a small village around 2 hours from Mwanza. Both of his parents have passed away. Two years ago he was sent to find work in Mwanza and ended up in Bukumbi, he was taken in by a villager. Seeing other children going to school every day, he wished he could do the same. He worked hard to pay for his uniform and equipment and went to Kigongo Primary School.

Teachers said they didn't have much hope for him as he couldn't write very well and he hardly spoke Swahili as he had grown up speaking his tribal language.

Now, 2 years on, his most recent exam grades placed him 20th out of a year of 67 students and he wants to be a Doctor. This is a child who had no support and two years ago, couldn't speak the language and couldn't write. We're very excited about Daudi's potential, he'll be sponsored through Secondary School starting this September. Stay tuned for news of his progress...



The Brind's view of life

It is commonly believed that the pace of life in Africa is slower than in the UK. That has not been our experience so far! After more than a year in the planning, we arrived in Mwanza at the end of June.

Moving to a new country brings challenges; settling into a new home, new climate, new culture, new cuisine and new language. Our daughter Hannah, who was just 6 weeks old when we moved, has now spent most of her life in Tanzania and is thriving. Isaac, aged 2, loves the tasty tropical fruit, wearing shorts and t-shirt every day, and has wasted no time making friends. We are enjoying learning Swahili and

discovering how to function with frequent power cuts, which can be very frustrating when the waiting room is full of patients!

Our role with Bridge2Aid is to help consolidate and build on the dental work started by Dr Ian Wilson at Hope Dental Centre and for Paul to take on the role of Clinical Advisor on DVP. We're especially excited about DVP - providing dental pain relief in areas where people would otherwise have limited and often unsafe options. After just a few months Mwanza already feels like home, and we're glad to be part of a great team that's making a significant and lasting impact.

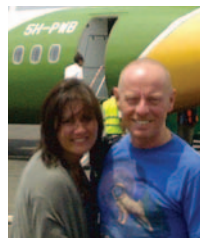


B2A Bash

If you're attending the BDTA, why not join us on Friday 21st October for our Party and Casino Night? Dinner, DJ, live band and Vegas style Casino are included in the £25 ticket. The event will be held at the Birmingham Nec Hilton Metropole.

Joining Chris Barrow for a day

Long term supporter and friend, Chris Barrow came to visit the team again in Mwanza. Chris and his partner Annie visited us 3 years ago to provide coaching and mentoring and it was great for them to meet the team again and see so many positive changes and developments. Having spent the previous 7 days climbing Kilimanjaro, Chris was ready to do what he loves best – coaching teams towards success. We are grateful for the time Chris gave us and hopefully in 3 years time he'll be back to visit an even better and bigger team.



Welcome Shaenna Loughnane

We are delighted to introduce you to Shaenna Loughnane who started working as our UK Manager in September.



Shaenna is married to Phil and has 2 kids. Prior to taking this role, Shaenna was the Business Manager of Chipping Manor, a dental practice that has supported our work for many years. Shaenna has taken part in both DVP and Bukumbi teams so she has a great understanding of what we do here in Mwanza!

Her role in the UK will be to support the UK team as well as helping to strategically support new initiatives as they come along. Welcome!



Supervision of Clinical Officers

Over the past few years, as the number of trained Clinical Officers (COs) grows, we have realized how much it takes to properly supervise and support them. Innocent Bikere has been working with us for quite awhile, but over the past year, has been focussing on the supervision of COs and relationships within the government.

He has started a huge undertaking – visiting ALL COs who have been trained to date to see how they are doing, get their feedback,

check the dental kit, and talk to the surrounding communities to ensure all is going well. This project will take many more months to complete, but he's well on the way and with very positive results.

COs and communities visited so far provide great feedback and have been very encouraged to have a B2A staff member taking the time to visit and support them.

The 22nd DVP Team



Another successful Dental Volunteer Programme was held in September. One team stayed in town at the ever popular Vizano hotel and trained in Misungwi District. This was the second area that we ever trained in and the officials there were very pleased to have us back there after a two year hiatus. The second team was kindly hosted by Bulyanhulu Mine (African Barrick Gold) and trained in Kahama District.



11 Clinical Officers were successfully trained and 650 patients were relieved of dental pain!

Thank you to the teams who worked so hard, provided amazing training and joined us in our vision of 'A world without dental pain':

Graham Stokes, Stuart Cripps, Sabrina Wegenast, Samantha Stewart, Pauline Watt-Smith, Robert Weld-Moore, Stephanie Rose, Kate Stewart, Michelle Larson, Michele Manson-Perry, Jade Miller, Judy Beckerson, Mark Flynn, Liza Benting, Emily Holroyd, Sahir Kara, Kathy Davidson, Caroline Turpin, Sinead Kerr, Amy Sellers, Leslie Livermore and Laura Hole.

Clean water supply at Bukumbi Care Centre

After several years of planning, investigations and building, Bukumbi Care Centre now has access to a clean water supply.

The original system was beginning to show its age; low water pressure, damaged pipelines, high pumping costs, rusted and corroded pipes and water tanks resulted in a sporadic, unreliable and unsafe water supply.



The new system uses existing tanks which have been re-lined, the existing pump house has been renovated, the pump has been replaced and water meters and solar panels have been fitted, pipelines have been replaced and re-laid and a new sand and polypropylene yarn filtration system has been put in place. All of this was done in partnership with other organisations in the area.

The new system will supply clean water to Bukumbi Care Centre and to the surrounding Bukumbi village community, reducing the instance of Typhoid and other water-bourne diseases in the area.

Accessible help

Another community in Kahama District now has access to oral pain relief! Mambile Membe is a Clinical Officer working at a health centre that services nearly 20,000 people.



He was trained on the recent DVP to supplement his current medical skills. Not only was he happy to learn how to extract teeth, but he was also excited about the Oral Health Seminars and information he was given and intends to use this knowledge to help his community avoid problems before they begin. Another 20,000 people with access to help. Slowly, but steadily, we're on the way to a world free from dental pain!



Relieving dental pain... One Village at a time



For only £10 a month, you could help provide emergency dental care to one village in East Africa. To find out how, and for a chance to win a bonus prize, come and see us on stand D06 at BDTA (A-dec stand D05) and have a go at our jigsaw. Look forward to seeing you there.



It's A Knockout

This year's event was a great success despite the rain and cold! 14 teams participated in the event to raise nearly £10,000. Fun was had on the various obstacles while dressing up in chicken suits, racing through foam and being knocked over by swinging balls. Hilarious photos can be found on our Facebook page. Thanks to everyone who came out to support us and have a good time. Get a team together and join us next July for another great day out.



Jump out of a WHAT?

Congratulations to the 11 crazy people who recently jumped out of airplanes for Bridge2Aid! Stuart Burn from Performance Finance jumped with co-workers and friends and says the experience was full of emotions; "apprehension, anxiety and a good helping of sheer terror mixed with excitement, exhilaration and elation. With, at the end of jump, a very large helping of relief!" Thanks for taking part!

Contact Kerry if you're interested in surprising people next year with your amazing feat.



Leading the Way

Our plan, in Mwanza, is to have a team led by Tanzanians and these two fantastic ladies are leading the way!

Jackie Kajabago (B2A Finance & Operations Manager) and Grace Godfrey (HDC Practice Manager) have taken on many new responsibilities over the past year and are both an active part of the Management Team now. Both women have families, live in Mwanza and keep us smiling but on our toes! In this male dominant culture, we are so pleased to have Jackie and Grace in such important and influential roles.

Take on the Kili Challenge in 2012

We're preparing for another team of intrepid climbers in 2012! In August, join the B2A team of trekkers who will push themselves to the limit to reach the summit while raising money to support our work in East Africa. Detailed information is on our website or can be sent to you.



Christmas Cards

Christmas is fast approaching and we have two easy ways for you to support our work when buying your Christmas cards this year.

www.charitychristmascards.com offers many different cards that can be personalized online and mailed to you. Just choose to support Bridge2Aid when going through the check out process and 50p will be donated to us for each card purchased.

We also have some beautiful, African themed cards that can be ordered from the UK office. Call Brian on 01243 780102 to order packs of ten for £3.49.

Leave a Legacy

Planning for our inevitable demise (a day way in the future we hope!) isn't high on our list of priorities for most of us. However, when you do write (or rewrite) your will, we hope that you would consider leaving Bridge2Aid a Legacy, a gift to charity in your will, which will help us continue the work that we all feel is so important to East Africa. For more information on how to make this possible, please contact kerry@bridge2aid.org

Keep up with us online - We regularly update our Facebook page, blog and website. You can also sign up for our email list and get updates sent right to your inbox.



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