



TWENDENI

A newsletter for Sukuma Twende Trust
Issue: 01

Chairman's Message

Welcome to the first production of our newsletter TWENDENI.

Sukuma Twende Trust was first initiated after a group of cycling enthusiasts got together to participate in a charity event at Oshwal Centre. Sharing common goals & interests towards helping the less fortunate members of our society, the group grew from strength to strength becoming a part of the annual 'Rhinothon' event that raised funds to build a fence around the endangered Aberdare forest, Nairobi's principal water tower.



**Hitesh Shah – Chairman
Sukuma Twende Trust**

Why Sukuma Twende? Funnily, this name was borne when our members kept on chanting these words to motivate each other during their training sessions.

Shouts of "Sukuma" (PUSH) and "Twende" (GO), was exactly what pushed the cyclists to eventually win their first cycling event to raise funds for the Oshwal Centre Grounds, 20 years ago! The name stuck and was used henceforth for all future cycling events.

Fast forward to 2015, and the Westgate tragedy, where we lost one of our members, Mitul Shah. His bravery inspired us to raise funds for the Amani Gardens at the Karura Forest.

This was the beginning of the formalization of the Trust, which now focuses its work on core areas under our four pillars: Environment, Sports, Education and Welfare.

We currently have a 80-strong membership comprising of spouses and children of the founding members who are the driving force behind a variety of heartwarming projects ranging from tree planting, food donation, sanitation drives/construction of an ablution block, vocational training, setting up school libraries, construction of a sand dam. reusable sanitary pads distribution, to name but a few.

The above projects would never have come to fruition if it were not for the immense support we get from our donors and well-wishers.

On behalf of the members of the Trust I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude and a very big Asante Sana to all of you who have always supported us in our projects. Our signature fund raisers such as the annual Moonwalk and Golf Tournaments have been instrumental in providing us with the funds to make a huge impact and difference in the lives of the less fortunate members of our society.

About Our Patron



Rameshbhai Shah - Patron

Hard work, Determination and honesty are the strong family values he lives by.

Ramesh Shah born into a large family in 1946 envisioned success from an early age. At a juvenile age of 13, he pursued a path of hard work to enable the up bringing of his family. From a truck driver to a salt and sand trader, to a store owner he travelled across the country gaining skills and knowledge in business.

He successfully ran East African foundries and accumulated several businesses along the way. He lives by his word and ensures wellness for others before himself.

In his days of hard work, he has created employment for over 1000 people, educated more than 100 children and is an active donor in several charities globally. "The education I didn't receive is that I want a thousand others to have" a saying he deeply commits to. Rameshbhai is a leader, a guru, a visionary and a man with great laughter.



Aims of Sukuma Twende Trust

The original Sukuma Twende Group formalized themselves and the Trust was formed in April 2017. Operating under 4 main pillars: SOCIAL WELFARE, EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION & SPORTS, the Trust has through various initiatives initiated and completed several projects.

All these initiatives fall under the aims of the Trust that is to empower & enhance the lifestyle of our fellow Kenyans through provision of skills and materials as well as improvement of infrastructure where needed.



1. EDUCATION: to provide Learning Institutions with the necessary equipment, infrastructure and learning materials so as to improve the overall learning experience.

“Educate even just one child and you raise the standards of the entire family”

2. WELFARE: to improve the welfare of the less fortunate members of our society through empowering them with the necessary tools, skills and infrastructure
3. ENVIRONMENT: to increase forest coverage in Kenya; reduce our carbon footprint and save/ conserve the water towers
4. SPORTS: to improve sporting skills amongst our youth through provision of sporting equipment and skills training



SUKUMA TWENDE TRUST



2020: YEAR IN REVIEW

“We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give.”
Winston Churchill

2020 started relatively well. Other than the Australian wildfires, it still felt like any other year, well rounded. Life felt refreshed and recharged, and most of us looked forward to another 12 months of hard work, fun and of course, charity in various forms.

However, all this hope came crashing down when the first case of Covid-19 was detected in Kenya in March. Coincidentally, this was around the same time Sukuma Twende was to host one of its signature fundraising projects, the golf tournament on 15th March. Fortunately, the country had not gone into lockdown yet, and the event went off without a hitch. However, on this same day, President Kenyatta announced the immediate effect of Covid-19 protocols that would remain in place to this day.

Kenyans, being the sensible people we are, took it all in stride and life did not have to be as restricted as most countries in the west. Masks, shields and sanitisers became natural to everyday life without much complaint, but as expected, it was not enough.



As the virus spread, the economy suffered, and like in any developing nation, those living on or under the poverty line took the first and hardest hit. The unemployment rate sky-rocketed and even households that were financially stable before the pandemic, were affected greatly.

Unlike many European countries like the United Kingdom, Kenya did not have the luxury of providing furlough schemes, and there was only so much aid the government could give. As a result, it came down to NGOs,



like Sukuma Twende Trust (STT), to take action and help however and wherever possible. Although STT does work on four pillars: environment, sports, education and welfare, the primary focus became the welfare of our fellow Kenyans.

Library

With the support from our donors, R. Raja Trust and in collaboration with Story Moja, STT opened a third library, this time at Komarock Primary School in January. The students have pledged to make good use of the library, and Story Moja will monitor and train the librarians and students.



Golf

A charity golf tournament was held in March, a key fundraiser that supports many activities of the Trust.



The principal sponsors of the event were GA Insurance. Other sponsors were Etihad Airways, Elite Tools, Simba Corporation, Holiday Bazaar Ltd, Kenblest Bakery, MBA Construction, Broadway Bakery & Mukesh Velji Shah amongst others.



To appreciate the caddies, a tournament was held for them the week prior to the main competition.



Pandemic Welfare Projects

FOOD DONATION, BLANKETS & CHILDREN PROJECT

Large-scale food donation drives began across Kenya to combat wide-spread hunger as the pandemic destroyed livelihoods.

- In May 2020, STT partnered with Shree Visa Oshwal Community to provide food rations for a month for 100 families in Northern Kenya through Kampur Diaries.
- The Brook Centre, a school for deaf and autistic children was also supported through this initiative.



Along with food, there was an immediate need for improved hygiene. Three corporates took swift action to sponsor plastic buckets with taps. These were: Nairobi Plastics Ltd, Holiday Bazaar Ltd and Savco Stores Ltd.

Similarly, Acropolis Insurance Brokers Ltd sponsored 1000 multi-purpose buckets which could be used for food rations or water storage. Earth Angels partnered here by sponsoring the first batch of food rations.



Project Shona Drive

In June 2020, we donated twelve sewing machines to various institutions that worked to empower and rebuild the lives of victims of domestic abuse, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, violence and discrimination. The institutions sought to make these individuals economically self-reliant through education and skill development training. The beneficiaries were:

- Tuinuke Women's Group
- Centre for Domestic Training and Development/Talia Agler Girls Shelter
- Euphrasia Women's Centre
- Earth Angels (who will further our cause by supplying the machines where there is a need)



A further six machines were donated in November 2020 to:

- Magoso School - to continue their initiative of stitching and selling carrier bags.
- Daughters of Kenya

Children for Children Initiative

CHILDREN FOR CHILDREN

Challenge yourself!

- Go for a run
- Go cycling
- Paint
- Read a book
- Get solving
- Cook

Join us in spreading warmth this cold season

OPEN TO PEOPLE OF ALL AGES

Details: MAPSA No. 200715
Contact No. +254718840239
#sukumawinter

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One of the biggest and more successful welfare projects undertaken was that by the resourceful children and young adults of the Sukuma Twende. The 'Children for Children' project was initiated, whereby one had to raise funds by undergoing a self-set challenge be it, reading, sports, cooking, art, dancing etc.

The funds raised purchased 6000 blankets for over 20 charity groups, just in time for the cold Nairobi 'winter' in July.



Non-Covid Related Projects

SANITARY PADS PROJECT

To support the continuous education of girls, Sukuma Twende Trust initiated a re-useable sanitary pads donation drive. Each pouch contains 5 reusable pads, 2 panties and a bar of soap. The recipients were women from:

- Mararani village in Lamu, supported by African Corner, Lamu
- Shela Village, Lamu
- Women's Hope Kenya (400 packs)



COMPUTER & TEXTBOOK DONATION



In November 2020, with the hope of schools re-opening, Sukuma Twende donated 17 computers and 920 textbooks to New Dawn Education Centre.

Sand Dam Construction

Water is a precious commodity and rare to inhabitants of dry or semi-arid areas of Kenya. Utilising funds from the Moonwalk, STT in partnership with APA Apollo Foundation, pledged to build a sand dam that would benefit Kithuia Self-help Group in the Makueni County of Machakos District. Ground-breaking work began in early 2020 but was soon stalled. However, in October, STT was able to visit and assist in the final construction of the dam. We are happy to report that the dam is now filled with water after the rains, which will help resolve so many of the local community's problems. Utooni Development Organization, an NGO working closely with Kenyans, were the on-site project managers.



Hita & Kishore Karania kindly sponsored 50 food hampers and Fruit & Moringa trees for each of the families living in that area. Some of the trees were planted at the Dam Area.

← APA, Sukuma Twende and the local community members busy helping with the construction of the dam

Following the short rains in October and November, the dam is full of water. The whole area that can be seen in the first picture is now under water. Notice the tree behind the canter in the first picture is now partly under water in this picture



Our Continuous Projects

TREE PLANTING

Sukuma Twende Trust's concern for the Earth's future ensures that it lays a lot of emphasis on environmental conservation, tree planting being the main one.

- Sukuma Twende Trust has partnered with the Mount Kenya

Trust, and between 2018 and 2020 a total of 86,485 trees have

been planted in the Marania region, which is over 120 hectares.



- Of these 50,000 were planted in October 2020 in memory of one of our young members, Jaini Hitesh Shah, whose passion lay in environmental conservation.

Environmental Conservation Initiatives

Remembrance !
Birthdays !
Anniversaries !
Achievements !

Pledge a Tree to mark these occasions @ Ksh.100/- per seedling

A vibrant beautiful tree benefits everyone in this life & future generations

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SUKUMA TWENDE TRUST
In conjunction with
SHREE VISA OSHWAL COMMUNITY, NAIROBI

PAYBILL No 200715.
CHEQUES PAYABLE TO SUKUMA TWENDE TRUST
(CHEQUES CAN BE DROPPED AT COMMUNITY OFFICE, OSHWAL CENTRE)

Environmental conservation does require continuous funding. STT has now managed to collaborate with two institutions to enhance this:

- Mr. Bhupi Shah has generously allowed us to use his site for monthly collection of wastepaper, which is further supported by Chandaria Industries Ltd by their pledge of matching the amount collected.
- Visa Oshwal Community Nairobi has also agreed to partner with STT to raise funds for tree planting by allowing us to place a banner at Oshwal Centre at every prayer meeting. However, this is not limited to funerals only; pledges can be made for any celebration. We are happy to note that several pledges have already been received towards this.

PAYBILL No 200715.
CHEQUES PAYABLE TO SUKUMA TWENDE TRUST
(CHEQUES CAN BE DROPPED AT COMMUNITY OFFICE, OSHWAL CENTRE)

For more information, we can be contacted by Email:
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We hope you will take it upon yourselves to support us. No amount is ever small and goes a long way in making someone smile.

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SUKUMA TWENDE TRUST
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