

CANADIAN CONTAINER SHIPMENT 2014

Sponsored by ICROSS Canada & Compassionate Resource Warehouse

Aptly named our "Miracle Container"



Dr Wilson at CRW Victoria



Packing in Nanoose Bay



Donations & school supplies

THE GIFT OF A 40' CONTAINER AND SHIPPING TO KAGERA

In May 2014, Tumaini Fund Canada received the news of this wonderful gift to Tumaini.

The container and shipping costs were donated by ICROSS Canada through Billy Willbond, and the container filled and shipped by Compassionate Resource Warehouse through Dell Marie Wergeland.

Timing was perfect as it coincided with Dr. Susan Wilson's visit to Vancouver Island, and Dr. Wilson visited Victoria to examine and agree on all the available donated items that could benefit Tumaini in Tanzania.

Shipping was planned within three weeks in the hope that the container would arrive before the rainy season began.

DONATIONS FROM NANOOSE BAY

Tumaini Crafters and Friends were asked to complete sweaters, dresses and blankets. Donations were requested for good clothing, school supplies, Personal Care Kit items such as ZipLock bags, and a 50 yard roll of PUL was purchased through Days for Girl's in Vancouver. After packing in Nanoose Bay, the boxes were transported to Victoria through the kind services of local volunteers and Coast Distributers.



Happy Packers



PACKING THE CONTAINER

Compassionate Resource Warehouse's wonderful team of volunteers worked tirelessly for several days to pack every cubic inch of the huge container with hospital equipment, tools, sewing machines, medical supplies, wheel chairs, crutches and Izzy Dolls for the children. Several Tumaini volunteers from Nanoose Bay travelled to Victoria to assist with the packing and finally oversee the completion and sealing of the container.



SEA VOYAGE

The container sailed from Vancouver on June 17th to begin the long sea voyage to Tanzania. Arrangements were made with Stewart Ayling of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) in Dar es Salaam for his office to arrange customs clearance on arrival and overland transport to Tumaini's office in Muleba, Kagera. These arrangements were made by Pascal Makomba of Njombe Iringa agency. The container's passage was tracked on the shipping company website and with a perilous sea journey past Somali pirates, we all prayed for a safe arrival.

ARRIVAL IN TANZANIA & CUSTOMS CLEARANCE

Finally, on September 8th, the container arrived in Dar es Salaam. A backlog of containers awaiting customs clearance caused a two weeks delay in transfer from vessel to the Inland Container Depot. Finally it was our turn for customs inspection specifically by the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS). Imagine our dismay to receive an official government letter that they had found "used under garments" which are not allowed to enter Tanzania and giving us the option to pay a large penalty for disposing of these unacceptable items or return the container to Canada! We were absolutely certain that these items had not been included and needed urgently for MAF to appeal this decision.

In Stewart Ayling's own words *"Eventually we were able to get a meeting with the manager at the TBS and so I drove to the meeting praying that we would find favour with this official. After some introductions, she sat down with us and said "Tell me about the Tumaini fund - my name is Tumaini so I am very interested to understand more about the organization" and from that moment on she simply came up with a very sensible solution to the problem and we were able to move forward. I have to admit I was quite stunned to see God's answer so directly."*

So after a five weeks delay the container was released - we all breathed sighs of relief and offered fervent thanks to God for resolving this.

JOURNEY by ROAD TO MULEBA

Securely loaded on a truck, this huge 40' container began the arduous journey overland to Kagera. Adding to the risk was the beginning of the rainy season, when narrow dirt roads become muddy and slippery and many container loads end up in a ditch.

The first problem arose a few days into the journey - the truck encountered a mechanical problem and broke down! Pascal eventually obtained a replacement truck and the journey continued.

The second problem arose on October 16th, within a few kilometers of Muleba - the truck broke down again with a wheel completely mired deeply in the sandy road.

However, the Tumaini team, headed by the Muleba office manager Gratian Muganyizi, was anxiously awaiting the container's arrival and they soon learned of the breakdown so close to its destination. The decision was made to unload the container at the point of the breakdown.



A team of volunteers was mustered to unpack the container and hand carry all items to the vocational school. Thankfully the road was dry and the rains held off, enabling this massive undertaking.



Boxes carried by hand and head!



With the contents safely transferred to the vocational school, the empty container will be moved to a location close to the Muleba office. It will be permanently placed on a base and be invaluable for storage in the future..

As the contents of the container are distributed, we will receive further photos and reports on the difference that this wonderful gift will make in the lives of the those supported by Tumaini in Kagera.

Around the world, the emails flew ! The container has safely arrived - thanks be to God... Alleluia