

## DONATIONS TO AITO MEMBERS' INITIATIVES

As there are so many good causes that AITO companies themselves are involved with, we decided to donate some of the funds raised at the AITO Conference 2004 (Dubrovnik) to six projects nominated by our members, namely: -

- Sunvil Holidays – Kefalonia Animal Trust Society (KATS), Kefalonia
- Nomadic Thoughts – Street children rehabilitation in Mexico
- Tribes Travel – Olmolog school in Kilimanjaro, Tanzania
- Guerba World Travel – Amani Home for street children, Tanzania
- Serenity Holidays/The Gambia Experience – Ker Sanyang school, The Gambia
- Wildlife Worldwide – Yosefe school, Zambia

Here are some updates from the initiatives...

### Kefalonia Animal Trust Society (KATS) – Sunvil Holidays

KATS was formed in 2003 by a group of dedicated people (including Sunvil representatives) to deal with the growing number of feral animals on the island of Kefalonia. Donations go towards feeding, homing and, most important, neutering of strays via a network of carers in various villages. The site has been cleared and the building of the centre is due to commence, consisting of three blocks of kennels, a clinic and recovery area.



### Street Children Rehabilitation Project - Nomadic Thoughts

Continuing the work as outlined in Dubrovnik, NLM is a charity that supports children and young people in Mexico who have been physically, sexually or emotionally abused.

Operating in Puerto Vallarta, the street children whose very existence is sustained through begging are as young as seven. Facing starvation and without family these vulnerable children instantly become targets for drug dealers. To support their habits the children resort to prostituting themselves. With Puerto Vallarta offering one of Central America's largest tourist locations the horrendous reality is that there are tourist paedophiles only too eager to take advantage of these street children.



NLM is directly involved in all aspects of the childrens' lives. In addition to providing each individual child with emotional, practical and medical support, on a daily basis, NLM is ultimately able to sustain their rehabilitation through a long-term education programme.

In addition - whilst focusing on 'Prevention' – NLM also supports local 'Kids at Risk', 'Working Kids' and 'Pregnant Teenager' projects.

The £1,000 donation received from AITO was immediately invested in the Street Children Rehabilitation Programme locally in Mexico. In addition to assisting us with purchasing of new clothing for the children, the money also contributed to their first ever 'Full Medical' examination (including AIDS testing) and the facilitating of education materials.

Nomadic Thoughts have been directly involved in the setting up, managing and overall administration of NLM. Jono Vernon-Powell (Nomadic Thoughts Owner/Director) is the Charity's Chairman. Nomadic Thoughts' office is the charity's Registered Office, official operations centre, administration and UK management location.

A full 'Business Plan' is available on request.

For further information please see [www.newlifemexico.com](http://www.newlifemexico.com) and/or [www.nomadictoughts.com](http://www.nomadictoughts.com)

### Olmolog school, Kilimanjaro, Tanzania - The Tribes Foundation – Tribes Travel

Guy and Amanda Marks as Trustees of The Tribes Foundation were able to visit Olmolog on 27th July 2005. They were very impressed with progress at the project and were able to see for themselves the work being done.

The Tribes Foundation has made a grant to Olmolog for the expansion of their existing school. This is a remote location to the west of Kilimanjaro in a wilderness area bordering Kenya.



The funds from The Tribes Foundation have provided 2 new classrooms, a block of 10 toilets for the children and 2 new accommodation units for resident teachers. The contribution from AITO is directly attributable to the accommodation units.

At the time of the visit all the brickwork for these rooms was complete up to eave level and the roofing timbers were in place. The Tanzanian government has provided the roofing material in line with their policy of joint community projects whereby if the community get the building up to the eaves, they provide the materials for the roof. These had been delivered and were in fact being fitted to the building during the course of the visit.

The school rooms add extra capacity for 80 pupils in a school which currently benefits around 480 children. The design of the accommodation units incorporate water catchment from the roofs and storage. Without this the pupils had to take turns to walk long distances to carry water to school for the teachers.

### **Amani Home for Street Children in Tanzania – Guerba World Travel**



Amani Children's Home currently operates out of a rented house that is exceedingly undersized and inadequate for the needs of more than 70 children. For example, every night nearly 60 of the boys squeeze together in what used to be the master bedroom!

Last year, through the help of generous donors, Amani bought a 1.5 acres (0.61 hectares) plot of land in Moshi. In mid-September, we were granted a building permit, and requests for bids for materials and construction have been submitted to local contractors. If all goes well, groundbreaking will occur in November! Though we are well on our way, there is still much to be done.

The project has become much more ambitious than originally envisaged. Other companies and individuals have joined the fund raising effort. The Guerba Kilimanjaro climb raised over £28,000, with all funds raised going to the project and all expenses for the 10 climbers, including flights, being paid for by Guerba.

The total raised from all sources in the UK is now over £74,000. All this money is in, or has been put through, the registered charity Guerba for Good. No administration or other such expenses have been deducted. The overheads are zero.

### **New Kitchen & Store Room for School, Ker Sanyang, The Gambia - Serenity Holidays/The Gambia Experience**

Our school development fund was set up in 1989 to fund the building, renovating and equipping of schools in The Gambia. Together with the help of our clients we have assisted over 60 schools across The Gambia.

The money raised by AITO has been used to build the new kitchen and storeroom in Ker Sanyang Lower Basic School. 151 pupils attend the school ranging from 7-12 year olds. The construction has been a whole community effort – parents and staff, men building and women fetching water and carrying food. They can now store food securely and hygienically and keep it away from roaming animals.



Education is the future of any country and The Gambia is no exception.

### **Yosefe Primary School Project (Zambia) – Wildlife Worldwide**



Together with funds raised by Wildlife Worldwide, the money which was raised at the last AITO conference has gone a considerable way to building new accommodation for school teachers.

Perhaps the most exciting development that we have undertaken is collaboration on the evolution of a website for the school to enable outside donors to see images of the school, see images of the classrooms and the children and (very shortly) to sponsor certain children through their schooling. This facility will be going live in the course of the coming weeks and is likely to make a huge difference to the students. The pupils who are 'sponsorable' will have been selected by the Headmaster and Deputy Headmaster of the school.

One of the more innovative 'widgets' that we will shortly be instigating on the site is the facility for people to be able to pay a nominal sum to hear the school choir in full (beautiful) voice.