

NEWSLETTER
EDITION
2019/2020

**REUSE
OFFERS PEOPLE
CHANCES**

**BIKES FOR
SOUTH-AFRICA**

**AFTER MY
REVALIDATION
I NOW WORK AS
A VOLUNTEER**

**EX-PRISONERS
LEARN A TRADE**





AFRICA DOES IT INCREASINGLY BY ITSELF

I have been already for some month director of Tools To Work. I think- and hope- that with my arrival I have made some changes for the workers. I tried to improve the communication within the organisation, to facilitate better cooperation.

I think that my experience in Africa will help the organisation. I lived and worked in Africa more than 25 years and saw that people want to take their lives into their own hands and if necessary assist financially to improve situations. They know how to take their own responsibility. We can stimulate their initiatives to make the projects sustainable. We certainly can help to improve their living standards.

The tools from Tools to Work are received with great joy, as at the Father Grol's Welfare Trust. There are tools in Africa but from poor quality. With 'our' tools vocational training can be given to prisoners, who can start a small scale business once they are free, earning a living with their skills.

We are careful not sending superfluous goods. We had a desk not used anymore and somebody suggested to send it. But desks can easily made locally and we should not spoil the local market. We send the tools and local craftsmen can make the desks.

Lex Merlijn

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HELP US

We are looking for used computers for vocational schools in Kenya and Uganda. Education in these countries is becoming increasingly automated, making it difficult for rural students to register online or download nasal work. The only option is to visit an internet cafe. There are additional costs involved and often miles from home. Can you help us? Then call 076-5810202



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Front photo: young woman in Burkina Faso who has received a bicycle from Tools To Work.

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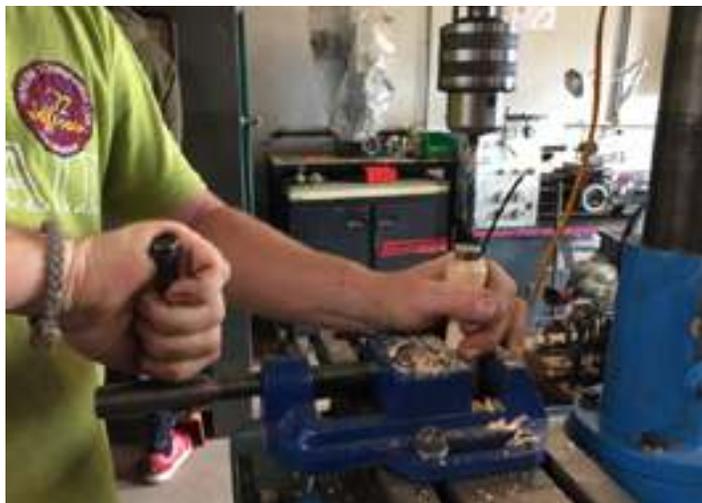
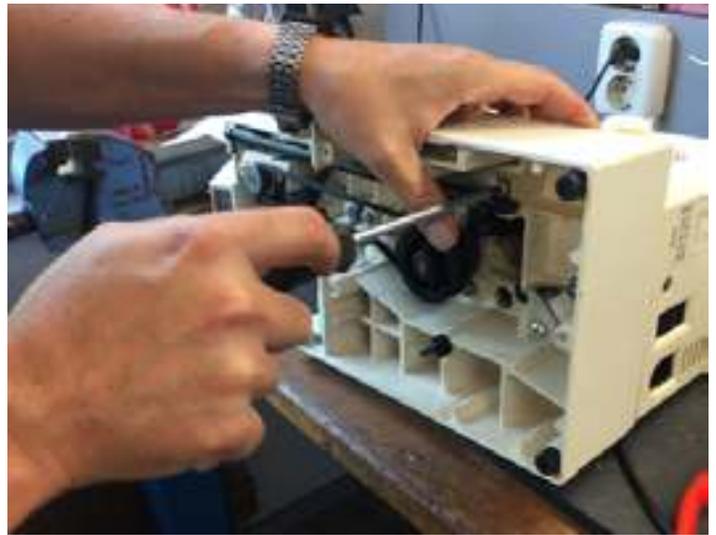


Vocational Training

In Kenya and Uganda increasingly attention is paid to vocational training. Youth unemployment is great and there is a big need for artisans to improve the infrastructure of the country. Though poverty is still a problem, the economy is growing. There are many initiatives to start vocational trainings for young adults where they train as mason, carpenter, electrician, or plumber. Next to a building, textbooks and teachers, tools are needed for the practical lessons. Those can be supplied by Tools To Work. The tools are donated to and refurbished at the workshop of Tools To Work.

REUSE OFFERS PEOPLE OPPORTUNITIES

In the spacious workshop of Tools To Work more than 100 volunteers a week refurbish used goods. Sewing- and knitting machines, computers, hand- and electrical tools and bicycles. Tools which can be used to earn a living. The refurbished tools get a second life in Africa.



Chances

Our workshop offers a safe surrounding to a diversity of people. Retired people who like to share their professional knowledge and job seekers, working as volunteer. People with a distance to the labour market are helped back to a paid job by guiding and counselling them. For all the people Tools To Work is supplies a meaningful day activity.

Re-use and Recycling

We are strict about the quality of the goods send off. We have to see to it that the goods have a long life and that there are no spare parts needed which one cannot easily get. Everything entering the workshop is scrutinised and if necessary gets new parts. If rejected we make it ready for recycling.



VOLUNTEERS

For years I worked as a professional diver for the maintenance of ships. Ships sometimes up to 60 meters wide. Great job.

Lex is speaking, volunteer at Tools To Work.

“We had been to a family celebration in Limburg, my girlfriend and I, and drove back home. Once at home we took another nightcap and then we went to sleep. At night I woke up and found myself next to the bed on the floor. I could no longer move or even talk. Fortunately my girlfriend woke up and called 112. I turned out to have a cerebral infarction. “

That happened to Lex two years ago. After a long rehabilitation, he can fully function again, but he lost his job. Via Opmaat Brabant (reintegration and guidance of people with a work disability) he came in contact with Tools To Work.

“I work two days in the workplace. Started with the taking of goods in the warehouse, I now work in the tool department. That’s more exciting to me. When I start in the morning I pick up a lot of rust and at the end of the morning I have a neat piece of working tools in my hands. That gives satisfaction. And the fact that “my” tools end up with someone in Africa who can earn a living with that gives it an extra value. “

Lex does even more volunteer work. He works every week with a boat builder in Breda and stands behind the bar at the annual Breda Barst festival. “I don’t have a mandatory obligation to apply but would still like to have a paid job again. That is why I recently obtained my KAM coordinator degree (quality, working conditions and environment), which will increase my chances on the labor market even more.

You start with a rusty thing and at the end of the day you have a spotless tool.



*I calm down working
with precise mechanics*



Gabriëlle Carla has been working as a volunteer at Tools To Work for almost 22 years.

“Via a learning/ working program from the municipality of Breda I ended up at the workshop in Teteringen. I participated in all departments because it seems interesting to see which work suits me best. I started in the computer department and learned a lot of new things. This was followed by the sewing machine department, the bicycle department and the tool department. With the latter I really gained a lot of knowledge about different tools and how you use them. Very valuable.

Nevertheless, she eventually returned to the sewing machine department where she specialized in the repair of lock machines. “Checking and repairing these machines is a precision job due to the many small mechanical parts. That makes me calm.”

“In 2005 a volunteer worked in the department with a professional background as a repairer of industrial sewing machines. He taught me the tricks of the trade. The following year we followed a course with a number of people in Amsterdam and obtained official certificates as a Sewing Machine Technician.”

In addition to volunteering for Tools To Work, Carla worked a number of half-days a week at the Association of Catechists in Breda and the Zuiderhout Living / Care Complex in Teteringen. Later that became a paid job as a caretaker. “The technical experience I had at Tools To Work came in handy for me.”

In 2014 she came home with a burn-out. That ultimately took two years. “In the meantime, I kept my CV up to date and continued to do volunteer work at Tools To Work. And that’s how COA found me on LinkedIn. They asked me to come and work at the reception of asylum seekers in Tilburg. I did that for three years. Then the center was closed. COA always depends on the government’s policy on whether more or fewer centers are populated. I was recently asked again, but I don’t work anywhere for a few months. That costs me too much energy. If you have just built something up, it stops again.”

“I would love to work again as a caretaker or concierge. In anticipation of that new job, I will continue working at Tools To Work because I support their great work with my commitment.”



BIKES FOR SOUTH-AFRIKA

BEN-bikes asked Tools To Work for help. In the beginning of 2019 we were able to send a container full of revised bikes to them. BEN (Bicycling Empowerment Network) is a community based social organisation.

A bike is of great value in rural areas, where there is few public transport. With a bike one can easily go to school, work and health posts. Professionals reach faster the places they have to go to. But bikes need maintenance and repairs.

Ben organises bike workshops where it trains local people as bicycle mechanic. Starting his workshop the bicycle mechanic gets tools and second-hand bikes from Ben. There are already 22 workshops.

19 June 2019 the container with bikes arrived at BEN. It was received with great happiness. A second container with bikes will follow.

We could realise this project financially thanks to the organisation TOP-uitje - **Built a bike for Africa** - .



"The day your container arrived, was an exiting one. We are so happy with the bikes. They make such a difference for the people in the area's where they are sent to. We are overjoyed with the bikes. They are fantastic. Thank you so much for this enormous present"

Yvonne Tripod
Financial Manager Bicycling Empowerment Network



PRISONERS ARE PEOPLE TO

Tools To Work collaborates with Father Grol's Welfare Trust (FGWT). Since 1992 this trust cares for prisoners and ex-prisoners. There are vocational trainings in the prisons; once free it gives the prisoner the possibility to start a small scale business and earn a living. TTW helps with tools for the practical lessons and with courses in repair and maintenance of tools.

Ambitions

In the coming 2 years FGWT aims at helping 1800 ex-prisoners to become self-employed. Thanks to an extensive donation from AFAS we can help FGWT with it's ambitious plan.

The project

Prisoners in Kenya live in miserable conditions. A hard regime, unhygienic situations, and no FGWT perspective for the future. Men are sometimes imprisoned for years for small offenses, women sometimes only for stealing some food for their child. Once having a prison-stigma it is difficult to return to society.

Father Grol

Together with Tools To Work, FGWT offers prisoners a new future. During their detention, prisoners are given the opportunity to learn a profession with which they can build up an independent life after their release. These training courses consist of professional education in specific professional groups such as furniture maker, electrician, tailor and hairdresser.

Tools

Tools To Work delivers overhauled good tools to the foundation, which in turn selects people who, after their detention, seriously want to work as a professional. These former prisoners are guided to an independent profession in the "After Care" program and receive a tool set for starting in their field or a sewing-/knitting machine.

The Course

To guarantee training and know-how, Tools To Work has developed a course in the maintenance and repair of sewing and knitting machines. Selected former detainees are trained in the technical maintenance of the sewing and knitting machines via the SKIT courses (Sewing, Knitting Information Transfer). A new sector has started with this: "Technical maintenance"



OTHER NEWS

REUSE OFFERS OPPURTUNITIES

Your surplus tools give others a future. In our workshop we overhaul these goods with the help of volunteers and people who are at a distance from the labor market.

These goods then go to vocational schools in Africa. Young people can learn a trade with your tools and build an independent life.

Which goods are eligible for this?

- Hand and electric tools
- Sewing and knitting machines
- Bicycles
- Computers and laser printers

You can deliver your goods every working day between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or have them collected by us. Call for this: 076-581 02 02



ANBI STATUS

Tools To Work has the ANBI status. What does that actually mean? The tax authorities say: "An ANBI is a public benefit organization. An institution can only be an ANBI if it is at least 90% committed to the common good". And: "ANBI donors may deduct their donations from income or corporation tax." You can read more about ANBI, your donations and our obligations on the website of the tax authorities.



HELP US CONTINUE OUR WORK

With your donation we can continue our beautiful work. From offering work and guidance in our workplace to supporting vocational schools in Africa. Because we believe that every person should be given the opportunity to participate in society.

<https://www.toolstowork.nl/doneer/>

WE ARE HAPPY WITH YOUR SUPPORT

Tools To Work thanks everyone who supports our work. With knowledge, financial resources, time, support and trust. We could not do our inspiring work without you.



DONATION

From ROC Breda we received a series of toolboxes that the school had replaced. Very nice tool sets for starting entrepreneurs in Kenya, Uganda and Sierra Leone.



DEFENSE BICYCLES

We received mountain bikes used by defense through Mo-Tech Industries BV in Wijchen. The bicycles were overhauled in our workshop and provided with a luggage rack and headlight. At the end of September the bicycles were transported to Burkina Faso! Nice, sturdy bikes for the often unpaved roads.



CERTIFICAAT

In our workplace, volunteers work together with people who are at a distance from the labor market. We offer programs in which we guide people towards paid work. In this way we want to give as many people as possible the opportunity to participate in society.



UNIQUE COLLABORATION

Tools To Work works together with the TOP-outing event agency. With the game: **Build a bike for Africa**, companies can participate in this socially responsible event. Tools To Work provides the bikes, TOP outing game and companies a small contribution to send the bikes.

<https://www.bouweenfiets.nl/>

