



T.A.S.C. MADAGASCAR

Tossing a Starfish Charity No 1130610

I was walking along the beach one day. I saw a man bending over picking up starfish and he was throwing them back into the sea. I asked him,

"Why are you throwing those starfish back into the sea?" He replied, "The tide is going out, the sun is hot, and if I don't, they will die here."

I asked him why he was doing this; the few he threw back wouldn't make any difference. The man paused with a starfish in his hand. He looked at it, and then he tossed the starfish out to sea and said,

"I have made a difference to that one"

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Above The old Nohona Primary School.

Below right shows one of the 3 bridges being rebuilt.



Above The new Nohona Primary School 2020

NOHONA OUTCAST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Over the past 2 years, despite numerous logistical problems TASC have in co-operation with Foyer Tanjomoha managed to complete a new primary school at Nohona in SE Madagascar.

The old school was totally dilapidated and with no transport to and from the village, building a school was a daunting prospect. Nohona is in a very isolated region and the village has been outcast by other parts of society for centuries. TASC have been supporting the village for 20 years and their last major great need was for a new school. The works were impossible without first repairing the existing road and building 3 new bridges for access.

Getting materials to and from Nohona even with the new bridges has been a very slow process, but with the guidance from Pere Emeric and his volunteer engineer Gwen they have managed to complete the school to a high standard, as can be seen from above.

TASC would like to thank you all for your continued support without your generous donations our work would not be possible.

TASC would like to wish our supporters a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.





GROWING VANILLA AT TANJOMOHA

TASC and Tanjomoha are looking to the future and are trying to establish another cash crop that will, like the trees project help to make Tanjomoha self-sufficient in the coming years.

TASC have been supporting Pere Emeric and the Tanjomoha mission for over 20 years with a view to helping to create independent local income streams, whilst also looking to assist in the education of the local populations.

Whilst growing vanilla in Madagascar comes with an element of risk, Tanjomoha and TASC believe that with the appropriate security measures in place, the potential rewards make it worthwhile.

We look forward to being able to see the fruits of all their hard work very soon.

Left shows the irrigation system installed at Tanjomoha for the new vanilla plants. Below shows the new well being installed at Antsaharoa Health Centre.

Coronavirus in Madagascar

The 7th poorest country in the world with a population of 26 million people, Madagascar faces a catastrophic set of threats from the pandemic. Madagascar has an extremely limited capacity to combat transmission of the disease because of low levels of access to running water, their hygiene and sanitation is often basic, and effective social distancing and or self-isolation is an unrealistic possibility as most people live in one or two room houses with multiple generations sharing the property.

The majority of the population live hand-to-mouth so need to go out to earn enough money to feed their family. Working from home is not possible; no adaptable livelihoods, no electricity, no internet, limited and expensive telephone connectivity. They have no savings, no social security, and often are with debt – meaning that confinement is not something they can afford to do.

TASC have sent funds to Feedback Madagascar to install a new well at the Antsaharoa Health centre on the outskirts of Fianarantsoa. It is hoped that we are able to send further monies in the New Year to help other locations with clean water so people can wash their hands as well as have access to clean drinking water.





Above left shows Noro when we first met her in 2014.
Above right shows Noro with her grandmother in the new house.

NORO R.I.P.

TASC first met Noro in an isolated village of halfway houses we were restoring for homeless families and we were just about to leave when we noticed this hunched up body sitting in the dirt looking at a comic book. Noro was 15 years old and had severe physical and learning disabilities and was living in a broken-down house with her elderly grandmother.

TASC decided to try to help, so over the last six years with support from Feedback Madagascar, family, friends and the great skills of a physiotherapist, over a six-month period staying at Tanjomoha, Noro physically started to improve with her mobility. TASC paid for a new wheelchair and Noro attended regular lessons during her time at Tanjomoha.

TASC in the meantime persuaded the nuns at St Joseph’s school for children with learning difficulties to allow us to build a new house for Noro and her grannie close to the gate of their school. Since then Noro thrived learning to sit upright, she was able to speak a few words, read a little.

Noro had the most infectious smile, she was the inspiration for TASC to help the school with a new large community hall, a kitchen, new carpentry shop and a new toilet block, as well as installing a new well for clean water.

We looked forward to seeing her each year and marvelled at her courage and warmth. Sadly, she passed away in September of this year but she will stay with us always as an inspiration in courage and love.



SCHOOL DESKS

Taunton School selected TASC Madagascar as one of its school charities for 2018-2021. TASC Trustees Dr Chris Swinburn and Dr Jim O’Brien visited the school recently and spoke to some of the pupils about the work of TASC Madagascar. We look forward to working with the school over the coming years. Thank you again for your support.

TASC Madagascar is now registered with Amazon Smile
It’s a program that donates 0.5% of eligible purchases to a charity of your choice at no extra cost to you.
Please consider choosing TASC Madagascar as your charity.

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The Treasurer TASC Madagascar
34 Harrow Down
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Tel. 01962 622350 Email: bruceellis705@gmail.com

If you are a UK taxpayer, under the Government's Gift Aid scheme TASC Madagascar can reclaim the tax you have already paid on your gift. This means that your donation can be increased in value at no extra cost to you.

Contact: The Treasurer Mr Bruce Ellis, on the details above for more information.

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