

Charity Begins at Work

Village Africa is a charity working in Tanzania, East Africa, started in May 2006 by British woman Caroline Johnston and Father Stanislaus Baruti, a Tanzanian priest.

The charity aims to alleviate poverty and works to promote health and education in the area.

Initially funded through a generous gift from the late Mrs Rhoda Lawley, the project is now funded by donations from individuals and companies.

Locally, the charity is known by the Kisambaa name "*Vyaadahikana*", which means "it is possible".

The CTRL Maintenance Contract is helping to make another possibility a reality.

Staff across Carillion Rail, Network Rail and High Speed 1 undertook to provide support to the Village Africa project to build a road from the village Yamba providing critical vehicle access. Villagers of Yamba and Milingano have spent five months turning the bush into a 3km road which will improve the route for medicine, supplies, volunteers and visitors to the project.

During Sustainability Week the Contract collected surplus PPE (boots, hard hats, gloves, safety glasses and goggles), safety equipment and hand-tools to equip the charity for their building work. Supply Chain partner Parker-Merchanting has also donated a number of brand new hand-tools to add to the collection.

This collection of items will be packed by the Contract Stores for shipment to Village Africa.

Caroline Johnston, Director, Village Africa said:

'Village Africa is absolutely delighted with this gifts of tools, PPE and safety equipment. The village is keen to help itself and these tools will enable the villagers to work more efficiently and as safely as possible. The equipment will be used by the African building team and hundreds of African volunteers as they work alongside overseas volunteers on building and road digging projects. Add these gifts to the hard work and the thirst for progress already shown by the villagers and development is a certainty! A big thank you to everyone for their kindness and encouragement.'

For more information about Village Africa and the ways you can help, please visit the website at <http://villageafrica.org.uk/>

For more information on Carillion's achievements during Sustainability Week 2008 and ideas for your contract, visit the Sustainability Centre: http://intranets/group-information/sustainability_centre/case_studies/case_records_2008.asp