

ROBERTSON OUTDOOR BURSARY (R.O.B)



ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Registered Charity Number 1156739

1. INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

The trustees present their annual report for the charity for the year ended 31 December 2017.

In our fourth year of operations R.O.B. has continued to fundraise, grow partnerships, and increase the number of people we are supporting to obtain educational qualifications in Tanzania.

This year's highlights include delivering the first year of our *'Becoming Even Better'* programme to 15 employees from the African Walking Company, and a charity fundraising climb where all the climbers summited.

We continue to collaborate with our corporate sponsors, partners, and volunteers to improve our ways of working that harness their expertise, and resources as we develop and grow.

Since the inception of our foundation we have now helped 70 people working in the outdoor industry in Tanzania gain qualifications that will help them improve their careers, and through this the lives of themselves, and their families.

Our journey continues and we are learning and developing our operations to obtain the maximum benefit from every penny people like you donate to us.

We thank all who are walking this journey with us.

Yvonne Robertson
Founding Trustee

'As long as there is a purpose there is no failure'
Swahili proverb

2. ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2017 has been an exceptional year for us marked by two major events: our return to Tanzania to deliver our guide development programme, '*Becoming Even Better*' and a fundraising climb of Kilimanjaro in the autumn.

We were also delighted to welcome our first Tanzanian guide to the team, Justin Thomas (JT), who was one of our first awardees from 2013, and who is now a chief guide working on Kilimanjaro. JT has volunteered to work with R.O.B. to support us to build our relationships in Tanzania, help us agree this year's awards, lead awardee selection, and obtain regular feedback and progress reports from all R.O.B. beneficiaries. It's great to have him on board.

2.1 Key Milestones

This period of operation was marked by the following key milestones:

- **March:**
Awards to four employees of the African Walking Company to fund their place on the '*Wilderness First Response (Recertification)*' course
- **May:**
Four awardees successfully complete '*Wilderness First Response (Recertification)*' course
- **September:**
'*Paella Party*' fundraising event at UCPA, Argentière, France
- **October:**
Delivery of our '*Becoming Even Better*' programme to 15 African Walking Company employees
- **November:**
The 12 members of the '*Red Hot Kili Steppers*' all successfully summited, and safely returned home from Kilimanjaro, they collectively raised over £6000 for our charity
Justin Thomas offers his services as a volunteer for the charity
- **December:**
Fundraising event with tombola at the '*Namaste*' après bar, Argentière.

2.2 Kit Collections.

We were able to distribute a further kit collection to porters and guides in October. This also included a donation of female hygiene products for our lady porters, and guides from 'The Olde Pharmacy' in London, and some sun cream and lip protection from 'Boots the Chemist'.

2.3 Fund Raising

This year we have held three main fundraising events:

The highlight was the climb of Kilimanjaro in October. The 12 '*Red Hot Kili Steppers*' were supported by a team of guides, and porters drawn from our previous and current awardees. Despite challenging weather conditions the

whole group successfully summited in November. Their fundraising efforts raised a fantastic team total of over £6000.

Two other fund-raising evenings were also held by local businesses in Argentière, France.

We also continue to receive regular income from the '*Friends of R.O.B.*' though increasing their numbers remains a key priority for 2018.

3. AWARDS & AWARDEES

2017 Awards

3.1 Wilderness First Response Course (Recertification)

In light of the continued success, and usefulness of the Wilderness First Response Course, we agreed to sponsor four of our previous awardees to recertify their qualification (this is a two-year requirement).

3.2 'Becoming Even Better'

On 23 October, we welcomed a group of 15 porters, assistants and guides to the '*Becoming Even Better*' programme designed by R.O.B. over the last year in collaboration with Tanzanian employers, international mountain guides and national leadership trainers. The programme was aimed to advance guiding skills, and knowledge needed when supporting clients attempting to climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

Delivered on site in Arusha, Tanzania, the programme brought together both theoretical and practical elements of advanced mountain safety, communication, leadership, client management and team building. After two days in the classroom the group moved into the field for a simulated exercise where they could put into practice what they had learnt. The feedback from the students and their employers was extremely positive, and we have been asked to repeat the programme in 2018.

4. CORPORATE AND OTHER PARTNERS

In this fourth year of operations our relationship with the African Walking Company is now well established and was further strengthened by our visit to deliver our training programme. We continue to work well together identifying the best use of our funds.

A key milestone this year was establishing a relationship with Ulrika Asp, UGIAM qualified high mountain guide, who worked with us to develop and deliver our '*Becoming Even Better*' programme. We were also very happy to welcome Genis Zapater-Baruges, an aspirant Spanish mountain guide and mountain athlete who volunteered to help us with the delivery of the '*Becoming Even Better*' program and joined the 'Red Hot Kili Steppers' offering support and encouragement during their ascent.

We were also delighted to welcome the support of UCPA (Argentière, France) for their help in hosting one of our fundraising events.

We have continued to maintain and build on our relationships established with our corporate partners:

- 8th Day Adventure (UK)
- Namaste Sport (Argentière France)
- You Inspire (UK)
- Colorado Mountain Club, United States of America
- Alex Lamunge (Tanzania)

This year we were delighted to welcome the following new partners:

- UCPA Argentière (France)
- Ulrika Asp UGIAM high mountain guide
- The Olde Pharmacy, Battersea, London
- Genis Zapater-Baruges (aspirant guide and mountain athlete)

5. FINANCES

During the year we received total fundraising contributions and donations, including gift aid, of £6572.

We awarded grants totaling £1855 and delivered the '*Becoming Even Better*' programme to 15 employees of the African Walking Company in Tanzania at a total cost of £4383.

We pledge that the money donated to us will be spent on our educational awards and any administrative expenses are kept to an absolute minimum. Of our total costs, £6238 was spent on grants and providing internal training. We spent £186 on Virgin Money collection fees and £269 on the organisation and funding for the sponsored climb of Kilimanjaro.

6. LOOKING FORWARD

The key lessons learned for us this year were better understanding of the training needs of porters and guides, and how to help them to have successful careers. The addition of JT to the team for 2018 will help us to continue to target our awards where they are most needed, and to understand where best we can be of help, and spend the money that our donors have so generously given where it will impact the most.

We will continue our focus on supporting women and giving them opportunities to develop their skills and careers.

Thanks to our fundraising success in 2017 we are already able to commit to offer another 15 - 20 places on the '*Becoming Even Better*' programme in 2018.

We will need to maintain our focus on fundraising to allow our work to continue, and continue to strengthen our relationships in Tanzania to ensure that we spend the money, which our donors have so generously given, wisely and effectively.

In the year ahead we will:

- Seek to exceed last year's fundraising total
- Produce a leaflet for JT to share with clients of AWC climbing Kilimanjaro, aiming to raise awareness of our charity, and to attempt to increase the number of regular donors via the '*Friends of R.O.B.*' scheme
- Support and advise Ulrika Asp to organise another climb of Kilimanjaro for a minimum of ten people.
- Identify and build new partnerships within Tanzania
- Review and improve the success and effectiveness of the training we offer
- Introduce two new awards:
 - Chakula Kitama (delicious food) - Mountain Cook Training
 - Chief Guides Award (to be chosen by chief guides working within the African Walking Company)
- Sponsor a further 15 - 20 places on the '*Becoming Even Better*' programme
- Continue to develop our website and further streamline our administrative processes and grow our social networking presence

We are looking forward to a successful fifth year for our charity.

www.robertsonoutdoorbursary.org

7. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

ROBERTSON OUTDOOR BURSARY

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year to 31st December 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
Incoming Resources		
Fundraising by Red Hot Killi Steppers (sponsored Kilimanjaro climb)		
Donations received	5,718	
Gift aid on fundraising donations	802	
Virgin Money Giving fees	-198	
Team tee-shirts	-172	
Bank charges and currency exchange fees	-97	
	6,053	0
Other donations received including gift aid	399	401
Other fundraising	120	496
Virgin Money Giving fees	-14	-29
	6,558	868
Resources Expended		
Internal training management course at Kilimanjaro provided at a cost of £292 per head	-4,383	0
Grants made for charitable purposes	-1,855	-3,915
Other costs	0	-85
	£320	-£3,132

ROBERTSON OUTDOOR BURSARY

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2017

	2017	2016
	£	£
Assets		
Cash at Bank	3,591	2,643
Debtors	402	482
Less: Creditors	-548	0
Total Assets	£3,445	£3,125
Represented by:		
Accumulated Funds:		
Balance brought Forward	3,125	6,257
Net Income/Deficit for the Year	320	-3,132
Accumulated Funds carried forward	£3,445	£3,125

The Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet were approved by the trustees on 22 May 2018

Yvonne Robertson
Founding Trustee

Steve Smith
Treasurer & Trustee

Sally Batley
Trustee