

ROBERTSON OUTDOOR BURSARY (R.O.B)



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Registered Charity Number 1156739

1. INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

The trustees present their annual report for the charity for the year ended 31 December 2018.

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

The highlight of this year's activity was the building of two significant new partnerships. These have enabled us to establish a guide training scholarship programme with the College of African Wildlife Management and introduce a clothing recycling project with the Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project in Tanzania and the Lake District National Park in the United Kingdom.

We were also delighted to continue to award education grants. The successful delivery of the second year of our *'Becoming Even Better'* programme to 22 employees from the African Walking Company was a significant achievement.

Fundraising to support our educational bursaries remained our key focus and growing the number of regular donors has been critical to our work this year. Since our foundation we have helped almost 100 people working in the outdoor industry in Tanzania gain qualifications that will help them improve their careers, and through this their own lives and their families' lives.

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.

Our journey continues and we are ever grateful to all our supporters and awardees for helping us to improve and increase our understanding of how to be our very best at Transforming Lives in Tanzania.

We thank all who are walking this journey with us.

Yvonne Robertson
Chair and founder of Robertson Outdoor Bursary

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

2. ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2018 has been an exceptional year for us in the progress made and marked by three major events:

- 1) Our return to Tanzania to deliver the second year of our mountain crew development programme, *'Becoming Even Better'*.
- 2) The establishment of Guide Training Scholarship programme with the College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM) and African Walking Company (AWC).
- 3) The introduction of a clothing recycling project between the Lake District National Park (LDNP) in the United Kingdom and the Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project (KPAP) in Tanzania.

2.1 Key Milestones

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

- **February**
Apéro fundraising event at Namaste Sports Argentièrre, Chamonix
- **March:**
Awards to 2 male employees of the African Walking Company to fund their places on the *'Wilderness First Response'* course and 1 female to fund her *'Mountain Chef'* training
- **May:**
Three awardees successfully complete their ROB funded training
- **September:**
Establishment of a partnership with the Lake District National Park to recycle staff used clothing.
Production of a new promotional leaflet
- **October:**
Anniversary Apéro awareness raising event at Refuge Loriaz, Chamonix.
Delivery of our *'Becoming Even Better'* programme to 22 African Walking Company employees.
Transport of 80kg of technical clothing from LDNP to KPAP.
Agreement with CAWM to establish a guide license scholarship scheme
- **November:**
Campaign to increase number of regular donors
Website redesign commenced
- **December:**
Fundraising event with tombola at the *'Namaste'* après bar, Argentièrre.

2.2 Kit Collections

We were delighted to establish a partnership with the Lake District National Park to recycle their staff uniforms to Tanzania. We launched this initiative by distributing 80kg of their used uniforms in October between the Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project and the mountain support crew employed by African Walking Company.

2.3 Fund Raising

This year's main fundraising efforts were split between increasing our income through our 'Friends of ROB monthly donors' scheme and by 2 smaller fundraising events at Namaste Sport in Argentiere, France.

3. AWARDS & AWARDEES

2018 Awards

3.1 Wilderness First Response Course

In light of the continued success, and usefulness of the Wilderness First Response Course, we agreed to sponsor 2 new awardees to complete this programme

3.2 Mountain Chef Training

We funded one further female porter to complete this training becoming our second fully qualified female mountain chef.

3.3 'Becoming Even Better'

On 27 October, we welcomed a group of 22 porters, assistants and guides to the '*Becoming Even Better*' programme designed and run by ROB.

A key addition to the delivery of the programme was the involvement of four staff from African Walking Company and training them to be the future trainers.

4. CORPORATE AND OTHER PARTNERS

In this fifth year of operations our strong relationship with the African Walking Company proved to be instrumental in brokering and establishing our new partnerships with the Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project and the College of African Wildlife Management.

We are particularly grateful to Namaste Sport in Argentiere for their ongoing support by hosting bi-annual fundraising events.

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

- Lake District National Park
- College of African Wildlife Management
- Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project

5. FINANCES

We started the year with a healthy balance of £3445 thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Red Hot Kili Steppers in 2017. During the year we received total fundraising contributions and donations, including gift aid, of £2046.

We awarded training grants totalling £1222 and delivered the '*Becoming Even Better*' programme to 22 employees of the African Walking Company in Tanzania at a total cost of £2057.

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, £3257 was spent on funding education awards, £57 on Virgin Money collection fees and £120 on the printing of leaflets.

6. LOOKING FORWARD

This year emphasised the importance of maintaining and building partnerships both in the UK and Tanzania. 2019 already promises to be an exciting year and we are excited to see how these new partnerships with the African College of Wildlife Management; the Lake District National Park and the Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project will help us transform even more lives in Tanzania.

We will continue our focus on supporting women and other disadvantaged mountain crew by giving them opportunities to develop their skills and careers.

Fundraising as always remains our key priority as it is only with the continued generous support of our donors and corporate partners that our work can continue. A focus for 2019 will be growing our social media presence to extend our reach to more potential donors. We also welcome the support of the Kendal Mountain Festival and the opportunity to fundraise amongst their 22,000+ mountain enthusiasts in November.

In the year ahead:

- Recruit 8 awardees to receive our guide training scholarships
- Launch our redesigned website
- Launch our presence on Facebook and Instagram
- Establish new partnerships to aid with the transport of technical clothing
- Explore new corporate partnerships that will facilitate further fundraising opportunities including the fundraising opportunity at the Kendal Mountain Festival
- Explore and apply for potential grant awards to fund our work

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

7. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year to 31st December 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
Incoming Resources		
Fundraising by Red Hot Killi Steppers (sponsored Kilimanjaro climb)	0	6,053
Donations received including gift aid	2,046	399
Other fundraising	0	120
Virgin Money Giving fees	-57	-14
Total Funds Raised	1,989	6,558
Resources Expended		
Becoming Even Better' training course at Kilimanjaro provided at a cost of £135 (2017 £292) per head	-2,704	-4,383
Grants paid for training	-1,222	-1,855
Cost of Printing Leaflets	-120	0
Net Deficit/Income for the Year	-£2,057	£320

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
Assets		
Cash at Bank	1,210	3,591
Debtors	178	402
Less: Creditors	0	-548
Total Assets	£1,388	£3,445
Represented by:		
Accumulated Funds:		
Balance brought Forward	3,445	3,125
Net Deficit/Income for the Year	-2,057	320
Accumulated Funds carried forward	£1,388	£3,445

The Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet were approved by the trustees on 27.04.2019

Yvonne Robertson

Chair &
Founder Trustee

Steve Smith

Treasurer & Trustee

Sally Batley

Trustee