

GG BERICHT



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Rodrick Zalimba, Executive Director of Prison Fellowship Malawi

"HELP FORMER PRISONERS REBUILD
THEIR LIVES"

FROM MASTER MILO TO WELDER
KAYIRE EMMA

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WAS EVERYTHING BETTER IN THE OLD DAYS? NOT ALWAYS



Ask one of our sewing machine repair experts and they'll tell you without a doubt: "Those old Singers or Adlers? They never break." Solid construction, simple parts, easy to fix – perfect for use in our partner countries. Today's machines are a different story: complex materials, tricky to dismantle, and repairs that take hours – if they're possible at all.

Over the past century, we've gone from building things to last, to building things to throw away. Products are often designed with a short lifespan in mind. Good for sales, bad for the planet. That's exactly the trend Gered Gereedschap has been fighting for over 40 years.

What began as an idealistic mission – giving old tools a second life – has grown into a movement. Reuse, repair, circular economy: these ideas are no longer fringe, they're mainstream. And with new EU "Right to Repair" legislation, our vision is backed by law.

In our workshops, volunteers restore tools every day – from brand new to almost antique. In Groningen, for instance, a 3D printer now produces parts you can't find anywhere else, breathing life back into even the most stubborn tools.

So, were the old days better? Sometimes. But today we have more possibilities, more awareness, and more technology than ever before. If we use them for sustainability, craftsmanship, and fairness, the future will outshine the past.

Arjan van Dijk
Chairman, Gered Gereedschap

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TWO CONTAINERS OF TOOLS HEADED TO UGANDA AND GHANA

Great news! Over the past few months, we've shipped two full containers of tools and machinery to Uganda and Ghana.

In Uganda, this shipment will support seven partner organisations, including Johnes Technical Vocational Institute and Kitgum Technical Institute. With these resources, young people can train in welding, sewing, carpentry, and auto mechanics – using quality equipment, receiving proper guidance, and gaining real, hands-on experience.

In Ghana, the impact is just as tangible. More than 200 sewing machines, along with complete toolkits for woodworking, electrical work, plumbing, and auto mechanics, are going to seven local organisations that help young people learn a trade and build their own future.

These partners have deep roots in their communities. They know what works, what's needed, and what helps young people move forward. Together, we're opening doors to practical education, creating better employment opportunities, and making economic independence a realistic goal.

Thanks to the dedication, support, and teamwork of so many, we're building a future where craftsmanship truly changes lives.

A TOOLBOX FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES – FROM MASTER MILO TO UGANDAN WELDER KAYIRE EMMA



When Master Milo visited the Gered Gereedschap workshop in Nijkerk last year, he rolled up his sleeves to help refurbish a full set of metalworking tools. HBM Machines added even more – including specialist tools and welding equipment. That crate

of gear has now arrived at its destination, finding a new home with Ugandan welder Kayire Emma.

Emma lives and works in Kisinda. With the help of a scholarship from Gered Gereedschap, he completed technical training over the past few years. Now, with this professional-grade set from Master Milo, he's more prepared than ever to stand on his own two feet.

Every day, Emma walks eight kilometres to his workshop. He works tirelessly, determined not only to grow his own business but also to train others in his craft. This donated toolbox is more than just equipment

– it's a launchpad for his independence and a brighter future.

A short film captures the moment he received it. Watch the video:

www.geredgereedschap.nl/emma



TUNING UP FOR A CLEANER CITY



In Kampala, Uganda's bustling capital, traffic is a daily spectacle of cars, trucks, and motorbikes weaving through packed streets. These vehicles keep the economy moving – but they also fill the air with harmful pollution. The main culprits? Ageing vehicles and poor maintenance.

Wanyama Autosafety Initiatives (WAI) is tackling the problem head-on. "We train mechanics in sustainable vehicle maintenance," explains project leader Michael Wanyama. "That means tuning engines, installing particulate filters, and identifying emission problems. Many mechanics

have little or no knowledge of emission systems – we're here to change that."

With support from Gered Gereedschap, WAI has set an ambitious goal: to train 10,000 mechanics in the coming years. "They've supplied us with essential tools and machinery," says Wanyama. "We use them in our community workshops and also distribute them to mechanic groups across the city. Without these tools, you can't turn theory into practice."

Already, 500 mechanics have completed training in sustainable maintenance, using

the donated tools as their foundation. The results go beyond technical skills.

By teaching mechanics to prevent harmful emissions, WAI is cutting air pollution at its source – and inspiring pride in the process.

"We see mechanics becoming proud of their role in creating a cleaner environment," Wanyama says.

"They're not just improving their trade – they're becoming environmental champions."



EVERYONE DESERVES A SECOND CHANCE. HELP FORMER PRISONERS IN MALAWI REBUILD THEIR LIVES

"Thanks to our vocational training programmes, they can start their own businesses, provide for their families, and contribute to their communities." – Rodrick Zalimba, Executive Director, Prison Fellowship Malawi

In Balaka, Malawi, former prisoners are working hard to rebuild their lives. After release, many face enormous challenges. Without skills, employment, or community support, starting over can seem nearly impossible. Fortunately, Prison Fellowship Malawi (PFM) offers them the opportunity for a better future.

Vocational training as a path to recovery

"We believe in the power of second chances," says Rodrick Zalimba. "Vocational training is not just about learning new skills – it gives people the chance to rebuild their lives, restore their dignity, and contribute to society."

At PFM's Half-Way House workshop in Balaka, former prisoners train in carpentry,

metalworking, and electrical installation. They work in a safe, structured environment equipped with the tools and machines they need to put their new skills into practice. Alongside this technical training, they receive psychological support to prepare for life beyond prison.

The programme urgently needs additional tools and machinery. "These tools are essential for our participants," explains Zalimba. "Without the right equipment, they cannot turn their skills into a profession. With them, they can finally make their dreams a reality."

Why this support matters

Reintegrating former prisoners is one of Malawi's biggest challenges. Many have no education, no work experience, and no

network. They face stigma, poverty, and unemployment – all of which increase the risk of reoffending. Providing vocational training gives them a real chance at employment or even starting their own business.

Join us

With your help, Gered Gereedschap can provide the tools and machinery former prisoners in Malawi need to learn a trade



Rodrick Zalimba

MALAWI

Capital: **Lilongwe**
 Official languages: **English, Nyanja**
 Government: **Republic**
 Religions: **Christianity 75%,
 Islam 13%**
 Area: **118.484 km² (20% water)**
 Population: **21,2 million**



and build independent lives. "It's not just a donation – it's an investment in a future where they can run their own business, care for their families, and contribute to their communities," says Rodrick. "Will you help?"



WILL YOU HELP?

We need € 4,961 to support Prison Fellowship Malawi. Every contribution, large or small, makes a real difference.

Donate now:

- Bank transfer: NL34 TRIO 021 21 12 430 (in the name of Gered Gereedschap)
- Online via iDEAL: www.geredgereedschap.nl/doneer
- Scan the QR code below to go directly to our donation page. Thank you for your support!



GIVE YOUR IDEALS A LASTING LEGACY



More and more people in the Netherlands are choosing to include a charity in their will. Are you considering leaving part of your estate to Gered Gereedschap? That's a wonderful thought. By supporting a cause you believe in – alongside your loved ones – you can ensure your values live on. Together with Gered Gereedschap, you can make a lasting, positive difference in the lives of disadvantaged young people in developing countries.

Every contribution, whether large or small, in the form of money or materials, is deeply valued. You can be confident that Gered Gereedschap will use your legacy effectively, with integrity, and fully in line with your wishes. There's also a financial advantage: as a registered charity with ANBI status, Gered Gereedschap is exempt from inheritance tax. This means 100% of your gift goes directly to the purpose you care about.

There are several ways to include Gered Gereedschap in your will – for example, by naming us as an heir or leaving a specific bequest. If you would like to discuss this personally or have any questions, please contact Mr. Pablo van Klinken at pr@geredgereedschap.nl.

By including Gered Gereedschap in your will, you give your ideals a lasting legacy – one that can benefit future generations and help shape a better future for young craftspeople in developing countries.

TAILORING AS A CHANCE: HOW YOUNG PEOPLE IN TANZANIA ARE BUILDING NEW LIVES

The story of YAAPA – Youth Against AIDS and Poverty Association



In Buronge, Tanzania, YAAPA – the Youth Against AIDS and Poverty Association – is making a difference. What began with a few old sewing machines and a dream of helping young women escape poverty has grown into a place where young people learn to support themselves, start small businesses, and gain confidence. The support of Gered Gereedschap has been invaluable in this journey.

Sewing machines that make an impact

"The sewing machines we received from Gered Gereedschap were a turning point," says coordinator Rebeca Thobias. "We were able to move our tailoring programme from Kibirizi to Buronge, a location more accessible to our target group. Even more importantly, we were able to double the number of participants."

Where previously thirty young women were trained each year, the number is now sixty. From the first group of graduates, no fewer than 25 young women decided to join forces in small businesses – community based enterprises (CBEs). In groups of five, they run their own workshops. Five of them have even returned to YAAPA as volunteers to train new students. The programme is growing organically, driven by the community itself.

Reaching the unseen

YAAPA focuses on girls and women who are often invisible: young mothers, girls living with HIV, women struggling with alcohol addiction, and survivors of sexual violence. "We want them not just to

survive, but to thrive," says Rebeca. While the sewing machines are not always ideal for large-scale production, their value is tremendous – they keep the girls engaged, teach them practical skills, and strengthen their self-esteem.

Amina's story

One of the young women who has been able to rebuild her life thanks to YAAPA is Amina Rajabu. "I grew up as an only child without a father," she says. "My mother died in 2018. Since then, I lived on the streets. Later, I worked as a domestic helper, but I was dismissed without explanation when I asked for my wages. It wasn't until 2023 that I found a place at YAAPA."

At YAAPA, Amina found not only a trade but also something she had been missing for a long time: a sense of family and support. She completed her training and now works with four other young women in a small tailoring workshop. Their income is modest but enough to cover basic needs. Amina's dream? To own her own sewing machine. "So I no longer have to depend on anyone. I want a future for myself and my family," she says with determination.

Learning, doing, growing

YAAPA has changed not only Amina's life but also the lives of dozens of young women. The skills they acquire are immediately put to use in their villages. The rise in CBEs is proof to the organisation that its approach works. "Our students are not only trained – they have become role models for other young women in the community," says Rebeca. "And that effect is contagious – in the best possible way."



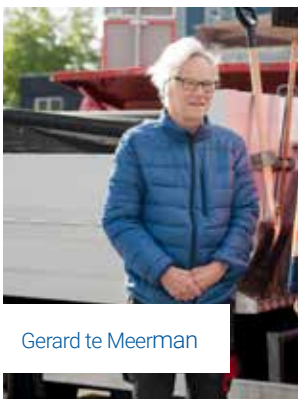


“GRONINGEN WORKSHOP CELEBRATES 40 YEARS – AND WE’RE PROUD OF IT!”

Gerard te Meerman, chair of GG Groningen

In 2025, the Groningen workshop will celebrate its 40th anniversary – a real milestone. What began in the Helpman neighbourhood has grown into a well-organised facility in Vinkhuizen, where tools and sewing machines are refurbished every day and prepared for shipment.

Gerard te Meerman has been involved with Gered Gereedschap for six and a half years, serving as chair for the past six months. “At Gered Gereedschap Groningen, we work for a world where everyone has a fair chance to stand on their own. How do we do that? Simply and effectively: we give old tools and sewing machines a second life and send them – on request – to projects in developing countries. Good tools are often unaffordable there, yet they are the key to learning a trade, earning an income, and building a future.” One example is the donation of welding machines to a school in Uganda, enabling local craftspeople to develop their skills and build independent livelihoods.



Gerard te Meerman

A recent partnership with the Municipality of Groningen now allows tools to be recovered from the waste stream at local recycling stations. This has brought in a significant amount of additional usable material and supports the municipality’s ambition to become a zero-waste city.

Since 2023, the team has been

working from their welcoming workshop at Travertijnstraat 6 (building B) in the Vinkhuizen district of Groningen. “We rent through CAREX, which manages vacant properties until they are repurposed or demolished. That means we have to move every few years, which takes considerable time and effort. We hope to find a more permanent location before the end of 2027.”

Our view on volunteering

“Our strength? Volunteers. A dedicated team that processes project requests, refurbishes tools, and represents us at neighbourhood and Christmas markets with a stand.” The team consists of 35 volunteers, including two women. Not all have a technical background – though most do. Thanks to their commitment, the workshop is open five days a week from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., which is exceptional within the Gered Gereedschap network. With generous support from the Municipality of Groningen, church organisations, and individual donors, the budget is balanced.

Te Meerman adds: “For us, volunteering is more than ‘something extra’. It’s a conscious choice to contribute to a world where we look out for each other – both near and far. We believe volunteering is just as valuable as paid work. It requires commitment, responsibility, and teamwork. Having a set time each week with friendly colleagues is good for mental health. Everyone brings their own talents and contributes in their own way. Whether you join out of social engagement, for personal growth, or simply because you enjoy working with your hands – everyone is welcome. What unites us? We all share the same mission: to give people worldwide the tools to shape their own future.”

ANNUAL REPORT 2024: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Want to know what we've achieved for craftspeople in Africa over the past year? Read our annual report, including financial statements, to see how we've spent our funds and which goals we've reached. These are results we're proud of.

You can find the annual report at:

www.geredgereedschap.nl/annual-report



COLOPHON

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OUR PARTNERS

Gered Gereedschap receives support in the form of expertise, manpower, and resources from, among others, the following companies and organisations:



TAKING ACTION FOR GERED GEREEDSCHAP

Goos van Vliet - PKN Gouda

Goos van Vliet is a vibrant man in his seventies, active in many areas. He serves as deacon for the World Diaconate of the Pauluskerk in Gouda, which, together with six other churches, forms part of the 9,000-member Gouda branch of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands (PKN).



Goos explains: "Through the World Diaconate, we support projects worldwide. In addition to collections for emergency relief, there's always one major project. For 2024 and 2025, that project is Gered Gereedschap – a wonderful organisation doing strong, long-term work both here in the Netherlands and in Africa. That's when you really see impact. We also wanted a partner that supports sustainability and social cooperation. Gered Gereedschap fits perfectly – with the bonus that, in some cases, the work is done in partnership with Christian institutions in Africa."

"All seven deacons bring forward a project or partnership, and together we decide on one. I've known Gered Gereedschap for many years through other networks, which is why I proposed it. The fact that logistics partner De Baanderij is also based in Gouda and well known in our region helped in making the final decision."

Today, Goos, his fellow deacons, and many volunteers and local entrepreneurs are in action for Gered Gereedschap. A successful olie-bollen fundraiser, tom-pouce sales on King's Day, and special church collections have created a strong sense of community – and raised an impressive amount so far. And they're not finished yet.

Goos actively promotes the cause and shares updates through the church app. "That's what really keeps our project in the spotlight. It's a fantastic initiative with a powerful outcome: tools, training, and, if needed, a microloan – the full package to help people take a step towards independence. And yes, we even have a temporary tool drop-off point in our church. It's going even better than we hoped."