

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

4x4 teams rally for African charities

Ilkeston, Derbyshire (February 2012)

Six 4x4 vehicles are taking on a 2000 mile trip across Africa to help support HIV/AIDS charities in the inaugural Trans Africa Challenge. Organised by CVS, long time supporters of two Midlands based charities supporting communities in Africa, Trans Africa Challenge 2012 will raise money for Temwa in Malawi and Top Banana in Botswana who both work with adults and children whose lives have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

Made up of participants from Close Brothers Commercial Division, Charnwood Fencing, CVS, and an all female team called The Girls, the four teams will depart from South Africa on March 8th 2012, and travel through Botswana, Zambia and Malawi, where they will have to tackle extreme terrain, unpredictable local roads, and the searing heat, all whilst avoiding some of the more dangerous wildlife.

During the challenge, the group will stay within the local community and contribute to many projects from gardening to teaching. Having negotiated the only dirt road to Usisya in Malawi, which in the rainy season is often impassable, even to a 4x4, (the teams will be travelling at the end of the rainy season!) the rally will culminate in the donation of the vehicles to support the charities.

Martin Collins, MD of CVS says: "The Trans Africa Challenge will provide mobility for the charities' most remote communities whose only access route is a road that through the rainy season is often impassable.

We have previously provided Top Banana and Temwa with vehicles to help support their activities, and our involvement over the past six years has helped deliver the educational message of the charities in local dialects and provide training in the remotest regions of Botswana and Malawi.

Whilst the Trans Africa Challenge is a once in a lifetime trip for many, this is also a chance to make a difference to people's lives. Thanks to the generosity of many people attending some fabulous gala charity dinners we are now able to donate six 4x4s to the charities. More importantly, we can show the benefits of every pound sponsored, and how it will help every child, mother and grandmother within these communities."

About Temwa, Top Banana and CVS

Over the last 6 years CVS has established close ties with two British based charities supporting communities in Africa. Temwa working in Malawi, and Top Banana working in Botswana both support adults and children who are affected by HIV/AIDS, and its far-reaching consequences.

- Previously CVS has provided the charities with vehicles to support their activities
- Funded and physically assisted in the building of a youth centre in Botswana
- Funded a school block, and helped to initiate and develop a number of community projects
- Recently sponsored the opening of a crèche in Botswana
- Sponsored the making of a HIV/AIDS awareness DVD for use in the Usisya region of Malawi