

ILULA ORPHAN PROGRAM (IOP)



NEWSLETTER – December 2014

Dear friends,

We would love to share with you the new events of which IOP Tanzania has been involved with over the month of December.

Enjoy reading!

World AIDS day

On the 1st of December IOP joined people all over the world in raising awareness about HIV/Aids.



The IOP-scouts contributed with several songs on the World Aids Day.

The IOP-girls sang their hearts out on an annual World Aids Day event in Kitowo village-Kilolo District. They also danced and performed a role play. Several organizations joined in, and the building was packed with people. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness about HIV/Aids and support those living with it, but also to remember those who have died from it.

-In IOP we deal with the impact of HIV/Aids every day in our work for orphans and most vulnerable children, Robert Mbungu, economic strengthening officer of IOP, says.

There are still many people suffering from HIV/Aids in Tanzania, and Iringa region has the highest HIV-rate in the whole country. Still, there are some highlights:

- The last few years have showed some improvement in this area, though Iringa is still on top of the list, Berit Skaare says. However, we are happy to have come to a point where we believe that most, if not all, people are informed about how HIV spreads. Through the last 5 years when IOP has been active in educating, counselling and testing, we have served about 70,000 people. We are happy to understand that stigma is not a problem as it was ten years ago, and that more and more people accept to test in order to know their status. People living with HIV are everywhere and in all walks of life. Several of our good employees are positive, as well as several of the girls at the Orphan Center. Of course the intense international education about HIV has brought great results.



The play was performed by Jane and Penina from IOP with the help of Goodluck from masukanzi Village.

Party of gratefulness

The CFC-participants threw a party for the IOP-girls to say thank you – and goodbye.



-The girls always sing and say thank you to the people leaving, but it should really be the other way around, Sofie Østenbøvik Olsen says.

So before leaving, she and the other Communication for Change (CFC) - participants decided to throw the girls a big thank you- and goodbye party.

They made cake and prepared party games, and were rewarded with the thrilling laughter and excitement of the girls.

- The people here at IOP have become my second family, Sofie says with a smile.



Solveig and Sofie went back to Norway on the 13th of December, where they will be joined by their Tanzanian team-mates, Tamari and Mwanaiba, in January.

The most wonderful time of the year

The cows were in the stable, the presents under the tree and anticipation was in the air.

The donkey broke down under the weight of Mary and Jesus when they entered the hall. Other than that, the Christmas play that the girls and the volunteers had prepared for Christmas was a success. However, this was not the only reason for excitement. With the reflection of the Christmas-lights in their eyes, the girls were constantly glancing towards the pile of presents under the tree.

But before they could receive their presents, there was singing to be done and questions to be answered. People hummed along to the songs as best they could, and the questions about Christmas were answered with great eagerness by the children. A Santa called Ajalon was leading the show, and for each correct answer he gave them a lolly. The children love lollies. Consequently, the poor Santa was almost pushed to the ground by all the little ones who wanted to answer his questions.



All the children wanted to answer Santa's questions.

The Christmas party was also one of welcomes and goodbyes. One volunteer, Kristine from Norway, who was going home the day after, said her goodbyes, and new guests were warmly welcomed by the staff and the girls. The guests were Ingunn Blauenfeldt Christiansen, the leader of IOPNorway, and her family who were visiting Ilula for the first time.

In the end, the girls got their presents and the Santa and all the others got their Christmas dinner. They ate pilau, pork and Norwegian sauerkraut (surkaal), and all were merry and bright. When their little bodies grew heavy, the girls went to bed, and the guests disappeared into the hot Ilula-night.



All the youngest girls had a role in the Christmas play.

MINI-MINIMARATHON

On Saturday 20th, December it was the happiest day where the IOP staff, girls of the Center, volunteers and kids from IOP Kids Corner –pre-school together with their parents gathered together in front of the library (**Holland House of Books**). The staff, girls and volunteers had to race, run, walk, or crawl about 6km to and from. Everybody was happy to run as we all have an idea and interested with collecting the money for our library through getting sponsors. We had three groups on that day of which the first one was the group of youth who were running so fast. The first person was **Mr. Slobodani Mtavililwa (47 years young)** who used 23minutes to finish



Staff, Volunteers and the Kids from the Kid's Corner listening Instruction before starts the Marathon the race. The second group used more than 40minutes to finish race. The last group was the group of old aged people like **Edward Kayega (87 yrs)** who were walking. They walked while singing the very nice song taught by **Ingunn Blauenfeldt** (Norwegian). It was very nice to seeing the kids from pre-school running; they were running at the IOP playground. All the kids were very happy at the time were running and they made their parents and guardian very happy. **Lars Ivar Ingunn's** husband gave the presents to the first person to finish the race, the first in group



Slobodan receiving his award

Kayega dancing after receiving his gift

Kids from Kid's Corner receiving Christmas gift

two and to Edward Kayega from the third group. At last all the kids were given the Christmas presents prepared by Dvergsnes Primary School in Norway. The committee members succeeded to collect the total sum of **Tsh 1,788,200/=** the Library, but many sponsor sheets are not yet collected.

OPENING OF THE LIBRARY (HOLLAND HOUSE OF BOOKS)



Finally the Holland House of Books is in use. The library was opened the same day soon after min-marathon. All people were happy with the great event. The donor of funds for the “Holland House of Books” is IOP-Netherlands. Unfortunately, no representative was able to be present, so IOP-Norway’s leader substituted. Ingunn Blauenfeldt was the guest of honor. Berit started to give the history

of the library and main reason for building the library. The library is built through the good work of IOP Netherlands. They have been working with donors in the Netherlands who has trusted IOP’s work and decided to help those who are in need in Tanzania. Berit explained that the library will be used by the younger kids, youth and the adult people. After history Ingunn was welcomed where she gave out a speech with appreciation of what IOP-NL is doing in their country up to the success that has been reached. She cut down the decorated ribbon at the library main door where all of us were very happy. Few staff, kids and parents started to visit



Ingunn cutting the ribbon on Official inauguration day of the Library



inside. Finally, the one special room to be opened was The Children’s Room which is a very nice one, full of teaching materials and books. Finally we all visited the children’s room.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

*On 23rd, of December around 04:00 to 06:30 pm Berit and Ingunn were inviting the IOP staff to the hall where all the tables were full of Christmas gifts. Every staff had to find on the table the tag with his or her name written on a very nice card next to a gift bag. Each staff took his/her gifts together with big smiles showing happiness. Staff members were very happy with the gifts and went to share (including 1 kg of meat and a shop voucher for \$1.50) with their families and other dependants. It was a new thing to the new employees who were heard speaking that “IOP is taking a good care of the employees it is only few institutions, NGOs etc giving gifts to the employees. We are going to enjoy with our families” **Thank you to all who contributed in sending us the Christmas presents. May our Almighty God bless you now and always.***



INITIATIVES

... And now we need YOUR HELP!

Do you have some **OLD PIECES OF FABRIC**
and you don't know what to do with them?
HERE at **IOP CENTER** they would be very useful for our girls!

Indeed they could be used as covers for our old chairs!

We eagerly await your reply!

IOP still has some projects that we need fundraising for. Some of these projects are:

- ✓ Annual running expenses \$ 25,000 for the IOP Center (Orphanage)!
- ✓ Finishing the new welding house \$9,800
- ✓ Annual running expenses of the IOP pre- school "Kids' Corner" \$10,500.

We have a good number of students waiting for Sponsorship so they can go to school
If you would like more information about projects and/or sponsoring please contact:

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*****GOD BLESS YOU - MUNGU AKUBARIKI**

*If you have any questions concerning new projects, please send an email to our IOP managing director
Berit (beritiop@hotmail.com). Prepared by Kristine and Enicka*