

ILULA ORPHAN PROGRAM (IOP)



NEWSLETTER – July 2015

Dear friends,

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

Enjoy reading!



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BIRTHDAY PARTY AND FUND RAISING

On 3rd of July, there was a birthday party for staff and IOP girl who had had their birthday in June. All staff members, volunteers and of course IOP girls were invited and celebrated together. The special guests (the birthday kids) were sitting at a special table that was extra nicely decorated and facing the other guests.

During the evening there were a few speeches, some songs from the girls and the staff, and also a traditional Norwegian song, performed by guests from Norway.



In this special evening, we were also welcoming **Kjetil Stoerkson**, who had arrived a couple of days earlier, back to IOP. Kjetil was one of the toastmasters of the evening, and using his always developing skills in Swahili language, he succeeded to bring laughter to the audience several times.

Since it was a birthday party, the kitchen had, except from all of the delicious food, also prepared a birthday cake. The birthday cake was used as a way of raising funds. Everyone was welcome to buy a piece of cake for one person, or for several, and decide on the price themselves.

The fund raised funds in this evening was Tsh 212,600 for the cake. **Haldis and Ivar Ostby** from Norway gave a big gift of 1,000,000 Tsh, via IOP Norway. The total sum raised in this evening was 1,212,600 Tsh.

The money will be used for IOP girls' special trip. The destination is not yet decided, but one suggestion is to take the smaller girls to a zoo in Iringa town, and the big girls to either Ruaha National Park or to visit the parliament in Dodoma. **Ajolon Mgeveke** is the chairperson of the fundraising committee and explains that very few people in Tanzania get a chance to see the parliament or the African animals because they think it is not possible. To go to the parliament, a national park or the zoo would be a great learning experience for the girls, as well as a time to enjoy.

MARKET AT IOP

On 4th of July there was a big market on the grounds of the IOP center (Orphans Center). Some staff and volunteers had been working for days with sorting the sacks of clothes, shoes, bedding materials and blankets etc, which had originally been donated and shipped from the United States.

In the morning of the big day, staff and volunteers worked hard to get everything ready, while a big group of people from the villages around had already gathered outside the gates, waiting for the market to open. They were all there early, and when the gates opened they ran inside, determined to find the nicest catches before anyone else did.

The business went well, and during the whole day there were people visiting and finding things they liked.

The market was very nicely organized by **Liston Kibassa**, the shop manager at IOP. Liston gave instructions to all staff about prices on everything, and how to write down what the costumers wanted to buy, so that they could pay for all they wanted at once, on their way out.



Volunteers were helping all they could, but the market was made possible by the big number of staff that came and worked voluntarily that whole day. After closing the market in the evening, the amount obtained became a great economical contribution to the IOP. ♦

EXAMINANTION HALL

IOP is constantly expanding and working for improvement. One of the big projects right now is the construction of the buildings for the Lords Hills High School. The first phase of the construction of the class room buildings is ccompleted and the classes are already in use, but there is also an ongoing construction of an examination hall.

The hall is very important, because it is the requirement by The Ministry for Education and Vocational Training in Tanzania that national examinations must be conducted in examination halls, instead of being conducted in regular classrooms.

Since the national examinations will be held in November, it is urgent for the hall to be, not necessarily finished, but usable, by that time.

The budget for finishing the hall to the point of being usable is 336,000,000 Tsh in total (about 176,843USD). Since the construction started in January 2015, all of the foundation, the underground beams, and the columns are completed. This has costed 133,000,000 Tsh (About 70,000USD), which is all the money IOP has had for this purpose. The lack of funding has caused the work on the construction to stop for now

The money which IOP is still in need of, to get the multipurpose hall ready for being used in November, is an additional of 203,000,000 Tsh (106,843USD). IOP is stuck and the time to use the hall is at our fingertips. No enough funds! IOP is requesting for good will and assistance from our IOP friends inside and outside Tanzania so that our school can have the hall in use as per requirements.

This budget has been broken down into pieces, so that it is possible for anyone who would like to help or sponsor IOP with the cost for one or several special needs, for example cement or windows or doors or so.

We want to thank our friends and supporters for always helping us in times of need. Also, we thank Knowit Company and Engebraten High School in Norway for donating the start up funds for the construction of this hall. God bless you

Pamojatunaweza! Together we can do it!



EXCHANGE PROGRAM AT KIDS CORNER

On July 15th was a very special day at the IOP Pre-school. It was a day for saying “kwa heri” (goodbye), and a day for saying “karibu” (welcome).

During this past year, since September 2014, there have been two guests at the pre-school. Their names are Pelle and Harry, and they are two staffed animals from Norway. In September 2014 they arrived at the pre-school, and at the same time two other staffed animals, Simba and Tembo, waved goodbye to the children at the pre-school to go on an adventure to Sollerud Kindergarten Norway.

The exchange program with Simba, Tembo, Pelle and Harry is part of a bigger project, collaboration between Sollerud Barnahage (Kindergarten) in Norway and Kids Corner (the IOP pre-school) in Ilula. Kim Ueland pre-school teacher at Sollerud Barnahage, is the person who came up with the idea for the collaboration, and he has been working hard to make it happen.

The aim of the project is to raise money for building the new pre-school at IOP-owned ground. But apart from this, it is also a way for the children in Ilula and the children in Sollerud, Norway, to learn about the world outside. Kim explains:

“The children in Sollerud live in an extremely privileged community. This is a way for them to learn about the world outside of where they live, and also an opportunity for them to help other children that don’t have as much. At the pre-school in Norway we have ‘Tanzania Day’ once every month. The slogan for the whole project is ‘We learn from each other’.”

Teachers and the children at Sollerud kindergarten have done a lot of fundraising for the IOP pre-school through things like selling coffee every Wednesday, writing a newspaper every month and finding sponsors in local companies.

Mickness Ngwaya, who is the head teacher at Kids Corner, made the following comment on the big day, after the stuffed animals had been exchanged back:

“This exchange program is an important project because it helps us a lot with fundraising for building the new IOP Pre School, Solellud Kindegarten Tanzania. Pelle and Harry have been involved in everything that we have been doing, so not only the children, but also the staff, will miss them very much!” ◊



Sponsor Program Interviews

Sponsor Program being one of the many programs at IOP and the first project to start as a core of IOP, it was started in 1998 with sponsoring 5 students, but up to date the program is sponsoring more than 1562 students. It has made an amazing transformation to the low-income families in Ilula.

Every year or after every two years, IOP organizes one big gathering for new applicants and their guardians. This is a big arrangement for IOP, because all new applicants for sponsorship of the year, and their guardians, are getting interviewed at the same day, and in the same building.

This year the big day was arranged on the 18th of July. On that Saturday morning, 136 children and youth were invited for the interview with their guardians who could make a total of 272 people including students and guardians. In that day, 104 children showed up and were gathered outside of the IOP center with their guardians ready for interview. Volunteers and staff gathered to help in doing some activities. The number of Most Vulnerable Children/orphans is increasing every day, thus why IOP is there to help those who do not make a day to school due to lack of important school needs. The needy are enabled to go to school. It is a call for global action to ensure that children get access to education. Those children who were interviewed need sponsors and we continue to invite all people around the globe and the Affiliated Committees outside Tanzania to help sponsoring one child or more and transform the entire Community.



IOP staff conducting an interview to students seeking sponsorship

Hiking at Selebu Mountain

Very early, one Sunday morning in July, a big group of people, including staff, volunteers and some of the older IOP girls, left the IOP center to go for an adventure and challenge their leg muscles. After 40 minutes by car and an hour by foot (including balancing exercises on stones and sticks over water and mud), the group was at the bottom of the mountain, ready to start climbing.

The hike up the mountain was challenging. The group had to crawl through some parts where the vegetation was very thick, and to climb some parts which were very steep, holding onto branches, or even the grass.

Part of the group decided to stop after part of the climb, to rest and enjoy the already beautiful view, while the rest of the group kept on reaching for the top.



Seleman Mhanga, staff member at IOP, was one of the people that reached the top (as high up as it was possible to get):

“The most interesting thing that I noticed during the hike was the water in the mountain. It was very different from down on the ground. I could drink it straight from my hands and it was cold, as if it came from the fridge. The hike was difficult sometimes, but I was more than happy at the top of the mountain. I could see houses, and even villages that I recognized.” ♦



VOLUNTEERS PAGE

We are happy to welcome some new volunteers this month. Here a few of them will introduce themselves.

Kjetil Andreas Stoerkson (Back to IOP for the third time)

“Finally I had the opportunity to go back to Tanzania, as I did not get a job for this summer. There is always a treasure in the dark! And this trip has turned into becoming yet another treasure for me. I was greeted as a lost brother returning from a long journey, and I've been treated like a family member ever since. Although the days have varied a lot, I have mostly worked at the hall they are building for the high school; hopefully it will be finished before exams. Playing and singing with the girls has been the highlight of my trip, and there are lots of opportunities for that! After 3 years it's really fun to come back and see them again, and also see a lot of new girls. Also it is great fun to get to know volunteers from all over the globe, and hang out with them. I didn't realize how much I have missed IOP, until I set my feet here again. Everything is so special and different from what I'm used to. Tomorrow already I am returning to Norway, time is flying too fast here. I am more inspired than I've been in a long time to seize the challenges of life with African joy and love for the people around me! I can't wait to get back here yet again, thanks a lot IOP. I will miss you all.”



Laurens Vernyns



“My name is Laurens, I am 22 years old and I come from Belgium. I am currently studying social work. I stayed at IOP for three weeks. For me volunteering is a different way of travelling. You get the unique opportunity to learn a lot about the people you work with and the country you volunteer in. This was certainly the case during my short stay at IOP. I had a great many experiences (for example, lessons on how to castrate a goat, climbing the highest mountain in the Mazombe Division and maybe Iringa, learning how to thresh corn, etcetera) and got to know many wonderful people, namely the girls, the staff and the other volunteers.

If you have the chance I would certainly encourage you to come experience the same!”

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 the **IOP CENTER** they would be very useful for our girls!

They will sure be of great use including clothing and decorations!

We see nothing of no use to us. Every piece of cloth you find to be useless, find its usefulness in IOP!

IOP still has projects in need of great support. Any cent coming leads to completing the entire goal. Some of these projects are: **IOP has some projects that need fundraising and financial support to be in use and service!**

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Funds to complete examination **hall and girls' hostel at the Lord's Hill Secondary 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 Edson (edmsigwa@yahoo.com).

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