

# ILULA ORPHAN PROGRAM

Dear IOP friends,

November is the start of the rain season. The area around IOP is changing and everything becomes green. But not only the surrounding is changing. The girls, the Center, the staff-members and the volunteers as well. We are glad to share our changes with you. Thank you for reading - enjoy!



**Witness**

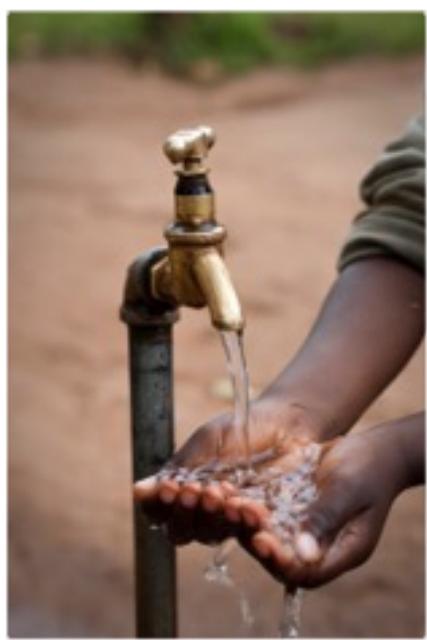
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## THE NEW WATER-PURIFICATION MACHINE

Including comments from Managing Director: Edson Msigwa

In the beginning of November Dr. Aliza Kahn and her family arrived at Ilula with a very important Mission. She came here to install the two new water-purification machines which were sponsored by IOP Luxembourg.



Myriado Cleantech produces and sells solar powered water treatment plants since 2011. Myriado is committed to providing drinking water solutions. The company passionately believes that the access to clean water is a basic human right. Although this principle has been endorsed by the UN, there are still 842 000 people dying every year of water-borne disease and contribute substantially to other diseases. (WHO 2014)

The machines are light weight construction for ease of deployment in remote areas and low energy consumption allowing them to be run on renewable energy, mostly solar energy. Provided you have a source of raw-water, be it fresh water, sea water or brackish water,

Myriado has the products to transform it into drinking water in accordance to the WHO standard. It has an filtration system which is customised due to an analysis of the raw-water. The filtration system can filter heavy metals, petroleum based hydrocarbons, agro-chemical and others. After the filtration, the water is exposed to a UVC light source which inactivates pathogens. In this treatment there are no toxic chemicals involved which may cause a hazard to the environment. The machine can purify 300 Litres of Water a day and will be used by a great amount of people.

**„PROVIDING SAFE  
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Myriado Cleantech**

One machine found their place at the Orphanage, the other one is located at the Lord's Hill Secondary School. Despite installing the machines Dr. Kahn conducted a training for a handful of staff-members on how to handle the machines, how to diagnose different problems and furthermore how to repair them.



Erick with the new machine

The question is now, why does the Center needs a water-purification machine? Edson has been so nice taking the time explaining to me how the water situation in Ilula currently is. The water in Ilula comes directly from the source which is the river. The catching area has not been treated anyhow and is unfiltered. The water is contaminated due to the high agricultural activities throughout the surrounding area, making the water unsuitable for drinking. The water-purification machine is one way to solve water-borne diseases in the community, especially the Orphan Center and the Lord's Hill Secondary School.

Of course one can boil the water to kill bacteria, but heavy metals cannot be removed through boiling. Edson believes that this machine is the best solution and will decrease the amount of water borne diseases.

Another benefit the machine provides is the decrease of using bottled water and with that the high amount of costs. Everyone is aware of



Water bottles at the Center

the fact that plastic bottles will never biodegrade. A plastic bag is floating in the ocean for 10 to 20 years before it is triturated. For styrofoam it takes about 50 years and a PET Bootle takes about 450 years. Those are statistics and assumptions from the Newspaper „Die Zeit“.

Plastic bottles don't only have a huge impact on the environment, but also on the human body. Plastic bottles contain Bisphenol A (BPA), a chemical used to make the plastic hard and clear. BPA has been proven to be hazardous to human health. It has been strongly linked to a host of health problems including certain types of cancer, neurological difficulties, early puberty in girls, reduced fertility in women, premature labour, and defects in newborn babies- to name a few examples.

Edson is very thankful, that the community can make a step to a new standard of drinking water and at the same time, reduce environmental pollution. He is deeply grateful for the support IOP Luxembourg has given the Center in a time in which it was very needed. Of course the problem will not be solved a hundred percent because there are other buildings which need the same service, for example the new Sollerud Kindergarten.

**Thank you very much!**

## SUFH GROUP

The Sunnmøre Folkehøgskule, short SUFH, is part of the 77 boarding folk high schools in Norway. The term „folk high school“ is a literal translation of the Norwegian word folkehøgskole. It is however not a „high school“ in the sense of upper secondary school institutions designed to prepare students for college through exams.

Folk high schools are separate from the rest of Norway's educational system. Everyone can attend, even though most of them are young adults between 18 and 25. It offers a variety of non-traditional and non-academic subjects, as well as academic subjects. The idea of folk high schools is learning for life, an opportunity to grow both individually, socially and academically in small learning communities. The folk high schools do not grant degrees or conduct exams. By taking away the pressure of grades and exams, you learn to motivate yourself and choose the topics you are interested in.

It is supposed to be a year with learning through motivation, challenging yourself in different ways, cooperating with different persons, getting new friends, learning a new language and particularly learning more about yourself.



The SUFH Group with the IOP Girls

Every year a group of students with their teachers are taking the time to visit their Tanzanian partner to broaden their horizon. They started visiting IOP already in 2006. The Sunnmøre Folkehøgskule is owned by the Norwegian YMCA /YWCA due to that they are a very important partner for the IOP Family. This year 15 Students and 2 Teachers visited IOP for 5 days before they went of to Ruaha and Zanzibar.

After a long time of waiting and a lot of preparations the SUFH - Group finally arrived. All the girls, staff members and volunteers were eagerly waiting for them at the gate. When their bus arrived we welcomed them with music and dancing. The girls sang a Norwegian song and met their personal SUFH buddies.



Playing games with the SUFH Group at the football court

Later that afternoon IOP prepared some games for SUFH and the girls. We started with a game to get to know each others name very quickly. We played a rally race in which the members of a team alternately replace each other, but with a Tanzanian touch to it: they had to carry filled Waterbuckets on their heads, while running. Also they had to race against each other while having potatoes on their spoons or while jumping in big sacks. The game session was finished up with rope pulling which helps strengthening the group cohesion.

In the evening we had a welcome party for SUFH. Unfortunately it was also a goodbye party for three Volunteers, so we celebrated the coming and going of a lot of people.

The program for the SUFH - Group was packed with a lot of different activities. The visited Foster Families, the Masai Village and of course the surrounding Area of IOP including the preschool and the high school. Oystein Vegge one of the Teachers had been so nice to share his experiences with me to write them down in the newsletter.

Ostein was very impressed by the warm welcoming and the open hearted people. He was surprised that the IOP is so much bigger than he expected and that there are so many different project going on. He was glad to see that everyone is full of zest for action and that the students are taking part in it. It is good opportunity for them to get away from the European lifestyle and get to know a different perspective about Tanzania, as it is transferred in Europe. These memories they'll take home and tell it to their friends and families to create a new, more open-minded and realistic perspective. This part is very important for the SUFH - Group because they want to involve more students in this project. The goal is to collect 50.000 Euros. Every year they donate the money for another good cause. Last year it was the SUFH House, this year it is the young women empowerment Center. Right now they're discussing the plans for next year, but it is not settled yet.

Unfortunately there always come a time to say goodbye. After five wonderful days we had a big goodbye party. At the party there was a lot of music and dancing performed by the staff members, girls and the SUFH group. Lynchristine ended the party with a nice ritual. She handed out candles to everyone and while singing a song all the candles got lightened one by one. Although we had to say goodbye, we had a lot of fun and we want to thank the SUFH group for visiting us.



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## LEGO PARTY

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Ann Charlotte and Maja Sofie

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In November Ann Charlotte Gaardsvig Vilstrup arrived at the Ilula Orphan Program. She is the lovely mother of Maja Sofie Gaardsvig, who has been volunteering for IOP since August. Ann Charlotte and her daughter are from a very small town in Denmark called Billund. Billund is famous for his amusement park called ,LEGO Land'.

LEGO was founded in 1932 by Ole Kirk Christiansen. In the first half of 2015 the LEGO Group became the wold's largest toy company. The LEGO Group built four amusement parks around the world, known as ,LEGO Land'. Each park featured large-scale Lego models of famous landmarks and miniature Lego models of famous cities. The first Legoland park was built in Lego's home town of Billund.

Ann Charlotte decided to collect Lego for the Girls at the Center. She arrived with a Suitcase full of Lego, at a rough estimate of 10.000 DKK or 3.000.000 TSH. It was all given as charity and most of the Lego she got is not available in shops. It took Ann Charlotte about a month to collect it. She collected via Facebook, where her Friends and Family could donate spare Lego and also Majas aunt is working for Lego and she helped collecting as well.

On Sunday the 15th they arranged a huge Lego party for the Girls. The girls got small packages with different figures to build. For the smaller girls Ann Charlotte provided Duplo, these blocks are bigger than Lego and more suitable for smaller children. At the beginning the girls needed some guidance on how to put together the different pieces of the figure. A lot of Volunteers went in circles to help the girls. But after a short amount of time, and that is the amazing thing with children, they already managed to build it by themselves. This is called 'structured block play' and holds a lot of advantages for children.

Structured block play with Lego is what happens when a child tries to recreate a construction by consulting a model or a blueprint. The Children must analyse what they see, perceive the parts that make up the whole, and figure out how the parts relate to each other. To be successful the children need to think quantitatively and be able to rotate geometric shapes in the mind's eye.

So letting children play with Lego is an effective way to boost spatial skills, mathematics ability and helps child's brain process and assimilate information from their environment and how they can manipulate and comprehend it. Learning how each piece fits together and seeing what they can make is a valuable challenge to the mind.



Maja and Happy

Quickly our girls connected that the Manuel shows the different steps on how to build the final piece. With time the volunteers only needed to step in when the girls had questions, instead of showing them the whole procedure. What a lovely event!



Thank you so much for donating!!

## THANKSGIVING



In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863 that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

The story says that in September 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth, England, carrying religious separatists seeking a new world promise of prosperity and land ownership. The Mayflower crossed Massachusetts Bay, where the Pilgrims began to work of establishing a village at Plymouth. Throughout that first brutal winter, most of the colonists remained on board of the ship where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and outbreaks of contagious diseases. The native people taught the Pilgrims how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees, catch fish in the rivers and avoid poisonous plants. After the first corn harvest proved successful a celebratory feast was organised and they invited a group of the Native American allies.

What should be considered is that some people take issue with how the Thanksgiving story is presented to the public and especially to children. Leaving out the fact, that the relations between the Pilgrims and the Wampnoag people had a long bloody history of conflict that resulted in the deaths of millions. All over America the 'National Day of Mourning' is held to honour Native Ancestors and to educate about the struggles of the Native American people to survive today.

Leaving the story behind there is one very important thing that makes Thanksgiving a very special holiday: being thankful. This is why we celebrate Thanksgiving in Ilula as well, to remind us what we are thankful for. The Staff- Members took their time to write reasons what they are thankful for on a paper. We later hung them up at the entrance area of the Center.

And of course a big party which was a combined Birthday-Thanksgiving Party was held in the hall of the Center. The Birthday Children told us what they are thankful for and we had a great Dinner together. And of course delicious cake.

The children had the time to be creative and drew some turkey hands, which is a tradition from America. In addition Kim, a volunteer from the Netherlands explained the girls the story of Thanksgiving and why this Day is important all over the world.

Please take the time and think about what you are thankful for?



## PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

The 27th of November was the day of the preschool graduation. The day started at the kids corner. To represent the children who graduated the teachers took the time to make graduation hats like the ones you get when you finish high school and college. At the kids corner the teachers took the effort to let the children present to the parents what kind of Montessori Material they use and what they have learned.

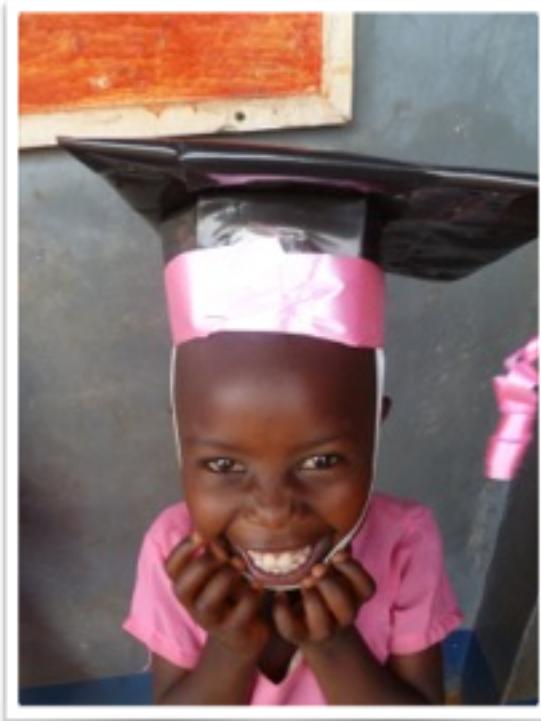
After the presentation everyone went in the graduation hall where the party took place. As usual the hall was beautifully decorated in matching colour to the uniforms of the children. Adam hosted the Party and Deo was responsible for the music.



The graduates prepared some goodbye songs and sketches. They introduced themselves in English, showed parts of the body with the English vocabulary and one girl showed her reading skills. Another pair of graduates named all the African countries while placing them in a puzzle of Africa. We are very proud of our preschool graduates and it is

amazing how much they've learned. Everyone got a certificate and you could see how proud the parents have been. It was clear to see, that the children very much liked being part of the Kids' Corner preschool and that school can be a lot of fun.

**We wish the graduates all the best in primary school!!**



## MONTHLY UPDATE ON THE EXAMINATION HALL



The hall was supposed to be finished in November to conduct the National Examinations. Unfortunately it was not finished in time. Representatives from the Kilolo district education office, security office and the Kilolo district police office came to inspect how IOP had complied to the established standards. It was obvious that the hall was not completed. Due to that we needed to get the officers allowance to conduct the National examinations in ordinary class rooms. They

inspected all classrooms but found none was acceptable to the given standards. There was no other way then to plead.

At the end they allowed the Examination to be conducted in the school mini library block, which was three meters square bigger than the class rooms. After a long struggle we managed to do the first National Examination safely. The Officers insisted that everyone is aware of the fact that this favour will never be given again.

It is IOP responsibility now to ensure that the hall is completed by September 2016 when they will come to conduct another inspection. With the availability of building materials for example roofing sheets and an ongoing construction work IOP could convince the Representatives that the standards will be fulfilled next year.

**Big thanks to IOP supporters who enabled IOP to save the day.**



The budget for finishing the hall to the point of being usable is 336,000,000 Tsh in total (about 176,843 USD). IOP still needs an additional **172,000,000 Tsh** (77.989,0 USD). IOP is requesting goodwill and assistance from our IOP friends inside and outside Tanzania, so that our school can use the hall as required by the government.

To this end we have broken down the budget into smaller fundable parts, so that it is possible for anyone to donate for a particular purpose - for example cement, windows, et cetera. We would like 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.

**UPDATE: HALDIS from Norway donated 44,300 NOK. The IOP Family says thank you for donating!!**



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## INITIATIVES

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1. **Do you have some OLD PIECES OF FABRIC that you don't know what to do with?** They would be very useful for our girls HERE at IOP CENTER! They could be used to create covers for our old chairs! Please send us your old pieces of fabric!
2. **IOP has some projects that need fundraising and financial support!**
  - Funds to complete the examination hall and the girls' dormitory at the Lord's Hill High School;
  - Annual running expenses of \$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.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

If you would like more information about projects and/or sponsoring opportunities,

please contact:

IOP Tanzania	Edson: <a href="mailto:edmsigwa@yahoo.com">edmsigwa@yahoo.com</a>
IOP Norway	Ingunn: <a href="mailto:iop.norge@gmail.com">iop.norge@gmail.com</a>
IOP Netherlands	Annelies: <a href="mailto:info@iopnederland.nl">info@iopnederland.nl</a>
IOP Luxembourg	Helen: <a href="mailto:helen.clarke@sunflower.lu">helen.clarke@sunflower.lu</a>
IOP USA	Stephanie or Ron: <a href="mailto:stephaniegraber07@hotmail.com">stephaniegraber07@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:porterronaldj@gmail.com">porterronaldj@gmail.com</a>
IOP Italy	Deborah and Massimo: <a href="mailto:iopitalia@gmail.com">iopitalia@gmail.com</a>
IOP Denmark	Lenne: <a href="mailto:iop.denmark@gmail.com">iop.denmark@gmail.com</a>
IOP Sweden	Annica: <a href="mailto:annicarenberg@hotmail.com">annicarenberg@hotmail.com</a>
IOP Germany	Irma and Jos: <a href="mailto:irma.jansen@ancor.de">irma.jansen@ancor.de</a>

If you have any questions concerning new projects, please send an email to our IOP  
Managing Director Edson: [edmsigwa@yahoo.com](mailto:edmsigwa@yahoo.com)

This Newsletter was written by Maximiliane Mitterhauser (Austria)