

Ilula Orphan Program



Dear IOP friends and family

Time flies by, and we are already passed the second month of the year! We have welcomed back well-known faces, as well as getting to know new faces. In other words, February has been filled with both new and old IOP friends and family. There are no better times at the centre when it is filled with people! A lot of moments have been cherished, and we are happy to share them with our beloved readers – enjoy!

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SUFH-GROUP

Sunnmøre Folkehøgskule

After spending the whole past month of preparing for the SUFH-group, we finally got to welcome them.

SUFH is short for Sunnmøre Folkehøgskule and is a school in Norway owned by the Norwegian YMCA/YWCA who is an important partner for IOP. The school offers a variety of non-traditional and non-academic subjects, as well as academic subjects. For instance, the SUFH-group that is visiting us has the subject called Global Safari (worldwide traveling). They travel around the world to learn new cultures, reflect and discuss history and politics along with questions about global issues. In addition, they share their music, songs and dances with one another. After the week we hope they got to know our culture and history and share their knowledge with their friends and family! We certainly appreciated their songs, dances, performances and company.

They came the first day of February, and all the girls were dressed up with white dresses for the greeting. When they finally arrived they were greeted with songs, dance performances and speeches. The girls found their SUFH-buddy and showed them around the center.

The first day consisted of playing games with the girls and staff members, learning names and getting to know each other. Also, there was a big welcome party in the evening for both SUFH-group and Berit's arrival. We sang, danced and ate a lot of good food. Sadly it was also a farewell party for several volunteers. With a heavy heart we said goodbye.



The SUFH's program was packed with different activities. They visited Kids' Corner, Sollerud Kindergarten, Lord's Hill High School, the Masai tribe, Foster families and more. They were also lucky to meet Berit and get to know some of the girls' background and further history of IOP.

Sadly our friends had to leave us for other adventures in Tanzania, so we threw a big farewell party on Saturday. There were a lot of dancing from all the staff, girls and the SUFH –group. Although we had to say good-bye, we are glad we got to spend and have a lot of fun with the SUFH-group. Thank you for spreading happiness and joy for a whole week.

FUNDRAISING PARTY

Together with the good-bye party we also had a fundraising party. The fundraising is for a school bus for Sollerud Kindergarten. In addition, we were told there was going to be a big surprise at the event.

With Adam and Ajolon leading the fundraising, we all had a good laugh and a fun time. After the auction we managed to bring in 6,900,000 tsh (around 3,165 dollars)! There were a lot of contributions from our IOP friends and family from all over the world, SUFH-group and the volunteers, including our very own staff. We thank you all for contributing.



At the end Ajolon revealed his big surprise, and we got to be the first to see his new brand that was being launched. The brand is called Made Of Black – Black Lives Matters. We believe it will become a popular brand within a few years. Maybe even international. We have faith! During the fundraising Ajolon contributed with 100,000 tsh (around 46 dollars) for the bus, and every month brand will contribute with 10,000 tsh (around 5 dollars) every month to IOP.

The party ended with a school bus-shaped cake for everyone! As always we had a great time with a lot of dancing and singing.



NEW VOLUNTEERS



We are (from left to right) Jan, Helen, Olav and Lydia and come from Norway. We will stay at IOP for six weeks. It is not our first time being here, Jan and Helen have been here once before and Olav and Lydia are here for the sixth time. In our village in Norway we have a continuous fundraising project with a local secondary school and a shop. All money that we collect goes to IOP. So for us it is really nice to visit this place in order to motivate ourselves to continue work in Norway.

However, our main reason for being here is to contribute to the project and see the wonderful 36 girls laughing and playing, that's wonderful to see. Olav and Jan came here because Berit asked them to help with construction work. Lydia and Helen are helping in the kitchen, at the preschool and Helen even teaches English at the Lord's Hill High School.

Hello, we are Maria (from the left and will stay for one month) and Angelique (will stay for six weeks) from the Netherlands. We came together but with different goals.

I (Angelique) always had the dream to work as a volunteer in Africa. At this moment of my life I finally had the opportunity to follow my dream and that is why I am here now! At IOP I want to give love to the kids, help the elderly and work in the hospital.

I (Maria) took the opportunity to travel with Angelique because the trip seemed an interesting journey to me. In this journey I want to get to know myself better, face problems and cope with them. Furthermore I want to think about a project for the elderly and work on health and sports while being here.

NEW VOLUNTEERS



Hello, my name is Jessica, I am 25 years old and I will stay for two weeks at IOP this time. One year ago I was at the center for three months and I fell in love with the people here. I came back because I was missing the staff and all the girls! So I want to catch up with all my friends while being here. At the same time I am going to try to repair the playhouse, and I want to visit the new Sollerud Kindergarten.

Hi, we are Mayke (23), Cilia (25), Charlot (24) and Emma (23). We are all studying health therapy in the Netherlands and we are planning to finish the study this year. For our studies we have to do an internship and we chose to do our internship in the Ilula Hospital for five weeks. We chose to do an internship in Tanzania because we wanted to help the Tanzanian community and we really wanted to see how the hospital differs in a third world country as oppose to how it is like in Europe; a different environment, a different health care system. So for us it is a really good experience.

NEW VOLUNTEERS



My name is Emilie, I am 21 years old and from Norway. It's my fourth time here at IOP, and this time I'm staying until the end of June. IOP is my second home, so it was amazing to see everyone again. I will be working with the Young Mothers Empowerment Center, and Ilula Youth Empowerment Center. I will have English lessons with both groups and we will also work with different topics. I am really looking forward getting to know both groups, and of course to see what we can learn from each other. I will also have some program, but mostly spend time, with the girls here at the center, my sisters. I am so happy to be back.



”GIVE YOUR DROP”



Around two years ago, IOP Italy and Ikuvala Primary School started a cooperation to build a water tank, so that it could provide water for the school and the village.

IOP Italy have done an amazing fundraising through one gospel night, play in the theater, a jazz concert, a martial arts stage, a lottery, a benefit dinner, a second-hand book market and several other small initiatives during the past year.

IOP Italy wanted to build a water tank, because water is the most important thing that we need. In the world today more than 750 million people are without access to drinking water, thousands of children do not go to school because they have to fetch water, millions of women spend an average of 15 hours fetching water every week, and almost 10.000 people die of waterborne diseases every day, most of them are children.

On the 24th of February we finally had the official opening of the water tank, and we gave out soaps to all the students at the school. Everyone who have contributed to making this happen were in our hearts and thoughts! Thank you all so much for your effort and hard work, we appreciate it so much.

On the water tank it says: MAJI NI UHAI, MAJI NI AFYA, MAJI NI HAKI KWA WOTE. That means: Water is life, water is health, water is a right for all



OSMUND - GROUP



On Monday 29th of February another big group of 17 people from Norway arrived IOP. Osmund Ueland together with his son, Kim Ueland, have a close relationship with IOP, and in 2013 they came up with an idea of making a kindergarten in Tanzania. Kim works in Sollerud Kindergarten in Norway, and with the blessing from the headmaster there, Rune Jensen, in 2014 they started a partnership and the fundraising began. Sollerud Kindergarten in Norway also started a partnership with Y-Global, which made it possible for the building to be ready, only one year after the building started.

Osmund, Kim, Rune and a lot of family members are here now. They are all here for the official opening of Sollerud Kindergarten Tanzania and Young Mothers Empowerment Center. Everyone has contributed in some way to make the project happen. We are very grateful to have everyone here.

We had a big welcoming party in the evening, where the staff danced, the girls sang songs in Norwegian, and the guests sang for us too. The girls were given a bag of gifts each, and a generous donation of 15 000 Norwegian kroners (around 1 753 dollars) were given to the center, to be used for a field trip for the girls and staff.

We are looking forward to the days we will spend together, and of course to celebrate the big opening on the 3rd of March. Thank you so much for everything you have done so far, you are amazing.





EXAMINATION HALL

Monthly Update

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 with 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 classrooms. 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 classrooms. 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 on-going 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 110,000,000 Tsh (50.451,0 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 Engebråten High School in Norway for donating the start-up funds for the construction of this hall.

INITIATIVES

1. Do you have some OLD PIECES OF FABRIC that you do not 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 girl's 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.