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Ilula Orphan Program (IOP)

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*Dear IOP family welcome to read the IOP **NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2018***

Articles:

- Market
- Official opening
- 5km Min Marathon
- Avocado project
- Library program with children from different schools
- Goodbye party

## MARKET

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the youth group from the Netherlands organized a market at the IOP Center. The preparation for the market started one day before the date of the market where by each





member of the group had to take his/her suitcase fundraised for IOP ready for sorting out the clothes. There was a lot of good clothing and shoes for adult, children and baby clothing that were sold at lower prices. On the market day the group had to arrange the clothes, suitcases

and shoes in the hall, corridor and at the yard together pricing them. There were coupons to sign at each table, for salary deductions. The staff gathered at the gate around 04:00pm when Berit gave them the instruction about the market in relation to mode of payments and other things. The weather was good, and the staff found a lot of good things for themselves and their families. IOP give thanks to the Dutch youth group! Every year they collect stuff for the Dutch Market, which for IOP can be turned into money for the Library.



### OFFICIAL OPENING3<sup>RD</sup> OF AUGUST

There is dire need of new accommodation for orphans at IOP Center...A few years ago, IOP decided to widen its business plan by diversifying its sources of income. Among different projects

that the NGO tried to accomplish, the construction of 8 cabins for volunteers and guests became one of the priorities.



After years of discussions and meetings with several of official instances, the construction of the first cabin finally started the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August 2018.

Below follows a part of the official opening speech held by IOP Tanzania's Managing Director Mr. Edson Msigwa:

*"(...) As the need of accommodation for more girls, as well as boys, is increasing, the construction of these guest houses will enable us to welcome more orphans and vulnerable children at the orphanage. This first house, funded by team Ueland, Norway, is 1 out of 8 houses of this design. These small houses will be called "cabins".*

*The IOP committee to initiate this idea was IOP Germany and Germany was ready to fundraise for a guest house. However, interest and needs changed with the time, and they decided instead to build a house to support the young, single mothers. IOP Germany is now fundraising for constructing a "Home for young, single mother".*



Eigersund Cabin on progress

*We have reached out to the 8 IOP committees in order to ask all of them to fundraise for 1 cabin each.*

*These cabins will take time to raise, but eventually we hope to succeed. In*

*fact, as said earlier, the main goal is to accommodate more orphans at the main center by offering volunteers and guests to stay at the cabins. The cabins may be used as guest houses when volunteers are not there. The funds so obtained will go to support the orphan Center.*



Eigersund cabin after completion

*We have experienced a number of visitors coming here for various purposes: For monitoring the different projects, official guests for different occasions, ambassadors, business delegates, representatives of foreign Governments, and others, who have expressed a need for a better accommodation. Some of this category of guests have decided not to stay “as back-packers” at the Center, but have instead gone for better accommodation in Iringa-town. We therefore hope that the construction of these cabins will fulfill more than one need. For Volunteers the cabins will serve the same purpose as a room at the Center.*



*Most of them will have the same interior as Center, and, as before, offer all meals and activities at the Center with the orphans.*

*Last but not least I want to thank team Ueland for the great support and the trust they showed towards this big project.”*

### 5 KM MINI MARATHON



The 9<sup>th</sup> mini-marathon organized by IOP took place on August 4 2018.

Different groups from different ages (pre-school, primary school, secondary and high school but also older and walking groups) run to fundraise money for IOP's Library, Holland House of Books.

Since Holland House of Books does not generate any income and can therefore not be seen as a business (unlike IOP's shop for example) it is mainly thanks to the support of IOP-Netherlands (towards whom we are truly thankful) that we can run the Library today.



The original idea of the Mini Marathon (MM) was not at all to generate money, but more a way of getting people together. This is why the first “marathon” organized in 2010 was just for volunteers, girls and staff. It is only after that first trial that the idea of involving sponsors came up; realizing that the MM could be a fundraiser for

the Library.

The runners started at IOP's Library "Holland House of Book" and went through the community in order to bring IOP closer to Ilula's community.



Through our NGO's motto "*A new standard of living for the Tanzanian community*", we think that it is of a great importance to be visible inside of the community where we are implementing our work. That's why IOP is trying to get more and more people from the community involved, be it through the churches, the hospital or the local schools.

The main challenge today is getting people to participate, and explaining to them that they have to pay in order to participate. Generally speaking, people think that if an NGO organizes something, they will gain something in return! However, here this is not the case; it is quite the opposite.

Wanting it to make this day somehow attractive for the people of the community, rewards are given to the 3 best runners in each category. Finally the MM-Raffle winners were drawn as the audience witnessed! If not present they were called there and then. All prizes are now picked up! Thank you to all who bought raffle tickets!

Finally, this year's MM had the record participants: 389 people with a number on the back, ran or walked the community – cheered by the public along the route!

**THANK YOU to the MM committee, chaired by Jeremiah Kiswaga.**

## AVOCADO PROJECT

IOP in the past five years or so, acquired a land over 200 acres in Isagwa, a village located 40 kilometers from Ilula. The land is very fertile and close to two permanent rivers. The decision to acquire it based on IOPs long term hope of

better self-sustainability through local sources in the future. Plans so far are to plant 20,000 grafting avocado trees, which will start producing fruits in three years.



Production of avocado seedlings has started at IOP center garden where we have so far germinated 12,000 avocado seedlings. One acre requires 100 avocado trees. We expect to start grafting the available avocado trees in October 2018.

### ***Economic benefits of the project***



Tanzanian Government's long term economic policies is to strengthen the country's economic backbone from primitive agriculture to a more industrial production:

An avocado project will therefore not only create employment to youth, locals, and professionals in agriculture, but also produce financial strengthening to IOP through sales to local consumers and industries. One avocado fruit is sold at retail price for tsh 500/= (app. USD 0.23). IOP therefore in five years from January 2019, shall hopefully be able to earn good income per year. Apart from being a nutritional food, the fruit has proven best in variety of cosmetics and other health products. The variety that IOP will plant is the avocados which can last long after picking.

The farm shall also be a demonstration to many local natives, changing their long term inherited peasantry methods into viable agriculture for industrial use. Isagwa and all nearby villagers have for years accustomed themselves into producing maize, a crop which is mainly for subsistence and not economically viable due to climatic and geographical allocation.

## **IOP's strength in making the project viable and its challenges**

As mentioned above, the project has started by planting avocado seedlings at the Center garden. Through volunteers, we have been able to collect sand and mix it with manure; cut plastic cans and polythene saw avocado seeds, and irrigate them. They have germinated nicely now.

IOP also collected funds from within to buy avocado pits, pay a specialist in seedbeds preparation and transportation of sand and manure. To enhance project viability, IOP also is on the verge of hiring a professional specialist in forestation from a university in Moshi, actually an IOP student.

However, there are always challenges to overcome. The financial challenge is one, as all the work needs capital. Activities such as clearing land, digging holes and putting manure for planting ready seedlings planting the avocado seeds ....all workers need to be paid.



*Some of youth group volunteers working in the garden*



## LIBRARY PROGRAM WITH CHILDREN FROM DIFFERENT SCHOOLS



In August the volunteers from Italy arranged and hosted a library programs for the children from different schools. The program aimed at teaching the children on how to use the library and encouraging the habit of reading books! Many children from nearby primary schools like Masukanzi and Ikuvala and children around Ilula

Township attended the program.

Many volunteers from IOP helped during the sessions. Children played different games by using various games instruments found in the Library. Marta Olivero, a volunteer from Italy, read to the children in English, while Adam Mtilizi translated to Swahili. The children then had a painting program with Ingrid Ericksen from Norway, painting anything they liked. Before leaving they all got popcorn and a box of juice, before the leader prayed for closing. Children appreciated, and left very happy, having learned how to use the library and made friends from other schools.



## GOODBYE PARTY FOR YOUTH GROUP.

As we usually say here at IOP ***“it is not goodbye, but see you soon”***. On the 07<sup>th</sup> of August we had a goodbye party for the Dutch youth group as they were



supposed to leave the next morning. We started with singing the two national Anthems. The Center girls sang goodbye songs and gave out goodbye words to the group leaving. We had the local dance from the staff together with speech from the staff and the IOP managing director. The leaders of the

group also gave the speech where they thanked IOP for hospitality, love and kindness. The group said it was a very nice experience where they learned a lot from IOP and the community around. The party was finished up by having the camp fire outside the gate, where we danced and sang while walking around the fire, having some candies and cookies.



*We thank you all who have contributed the articles for this newsletter and we welcome the articles for September newsletter that must be received by 13<sup>th</sup>, of September 2018.*

## Contact information

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

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