

ILULA ORPHAN PROGRAM



Dear friends and family, you are welcome to read the news that happened at IOP Tanzania on the January 2018

Articles:

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SUNFLOWER MONTESSORI PRIMARY SCHOOL OPENING

In addition to the Lord's Hill High School, the Sollerud Kindergarten and the Kids Corner, IOP Tanzania can now proudly announce that children from the ages 7 to 13 can get their education at the Sunflower Montessori Primary School.

In the new School, the Montessori way of teaching is applied. The **Montessori Method of education**, developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, is a child-centered educational approach based on scientific observations of children from birth to adulthood. Dr. Montessori's Method has been used for over 100 years in many parts of the world.



The School has been founded throughout seven years by the selling of thousands of cookies, baked by the children of the Montessori schools of Luxemburg. Also the *Alizeti* band, which means Sunflower in Swahili, of which Helen Clarke, the president of IOP Luxemburg, is a member of, donated the revenue from their concerts. In the process of collecting money, the project will be finished by the significant co-funding by the Luxembourg government with the co-operation of Christian Society International (CSI). Without the generosity of the Luxemburgish people, the

project would not be at the stage it is now. Special thanks to IOP Luxembourg, CSI and Luxembourg Government.

Also special thanks to Nienhaus, the company that manufactured and donated some of the Montessori materials that are used in the new Sunflower Primary School.

On the 16th of January, IOP had an opening party. The Luxemburgish IOP delegation was here to attend this joyful event. There was singing, and dancing to celebrate the opening of the school. The school uniforms that are unique to Sunflower had been revealed. Under the school motto “The



child is both a hope and a promise for mankind kind”, a quote by Maria Montessori, the delegation from Luxemburg cut the cake for the opening of Sunflower. Then they were shown around in the school and the children took their seats for the first time.

Up to now, the school counts three buildings but six others are in planning and construction. When all the buildings are finished, teachers will be able to welcome up five hundred sixty children in the establishment.

VOLUNTEER PAGE

Francis Lallemand

After a 10 hour drive from Dar es Salam to Ilula, crossing a lot of small villages with small clay houses and grass huts, the arrival at the bricks-built IOP-center, with its gate and big garden in front of it, came as a pleasant surprise. We expected something different, maybe an old building, not as good in shape, but we were happy to find a clean and idyllic place.



Figure 1: Francis Lallemand from Luxembourg

We experienced the same sense of surprise when we found out that the food menu for volunteers changes on daily basis and the ingredients for the delicious meals, that provide us with enough energy for the day, are fresh and come from IOP's garden behind the center and from IOP's livestock.

The toilets, consisting of nothing more than a nice hole in the floor, were probably the hardest thing for us to adapt to, coming from countries where the toilets are somewhat different. But after a week of determination and adjusting our comfort zone, we overcame this challenge pretty quickly.

What really helps to adapt to the new environment and circumstances are the extraordinary welcoming feelings the staff presents towards us. Meeting us with an honest and happy smile, asking about our well-being, always eager to help where they can and open for discussions and adjustments, their attitude helps a lot to feel integrated into the IOP-family right from the start.

The first thing we got to enjoy as volunteers was the tour with the responsible for the volunteer program, Enicka Sanga. She showed us around the center, the gardens and schools of IOP and we were amazed by all the work of everyone involved, which turns the center and everything IOP has a hand in, into a lively place, filled with happiness and joy. Asante sana, Enicka!

A special touch was in one of the evenings a few days after our arrivals. The girls, that also had gotten back to the center, after a two weeks' vacation at their relatives to start the new school year, performed dances and songs for us to welcome us in a special way. It was so beautiful and absolutely adorable, that our hearts were weeping. Thank you all so much!

My new Norwegian friends, Eileen, Renate, Vegard and Armeen, who came to Ilula to learn different things as an important part of their bachelor degrees at university, are happy to find a lot of chances to see and understand how the people of the Iringa region, in which Ilula is situated, deal with people with disabilities and what infrastructures and institutions there are to help those people. Talking to officials, assisting in different schools and institutions will give them insight knowledge that will help them have an important experiences for their later occupations.

The nature and landscape in which Ilula is situated is absolutely astonishing. Embedded into mountains, the green plains, brown fields used for agriculture together with the high diversity of trees, colorful plants and animals, construct a view that is hard to describe and impossible to capture, even with the best camera.

Standing up, singing with the staff and stepping outside to



Figure 2: Vegard Grorud, Armeen Kazemi- Norway

Figure 3: Eileen Joran, Renate Hansen- Norway

see how beautiful the world can be, mixed with the knowledge about the eagerness of the people of Ilula, and especially the IOP-center, to build a better world for themselves and generations to come, convinces you that here at IOP, every day is going to be a good day.

COMING BACK TO THE CENTER

As mentioned in the first article, the volunteers were not the only people, arriving at the center in January. The girls, living at the center through the year, went back home to their families.

At the beginning of the last week of December they were picked up by their relatives from the Center. The girls were very happy to go home with their relatives again after six months. At their home, they spend quality time with them.

The girls helped in the household and were rewarded with little treats. Also the families talked about the well-being of the girls, how they were feeling and how the finished school year went. The families consulted and motivated the girls on subjects they have problems with and the girls could tell them how they felt about their progress in school.

During two weeks, the girls stayed with their families and over that time, they started missing their friends. So it was no surprise that coming back to the center was a happy moment as they were able to play, talk and sing together again. On the other hand, coming back also meant that the school year started again, something that is maybe not the best feeling in the world, but definitely something that you can complain about to your friends and motivate each other for a successful year.



JANUARY BIRTHDAY PARTY

The custom here at IOP is that at each month, the third weekend, a big party is being thrown for everyone that is born in that month. So every month the staff, the volunteers and the girls can look forward to celebrate their birthday or someone else's.

The preparations are being made by the girls. First there is a meeting with the big girls, those that are 13 years or older, which is called family birthday. In that meeting the different tasks of the girls are being discussed and what events are going to be held at the birthday.

There are different committees for the diverse aspects of the party. The food committee is responsible for choosing and preparing the food for the party and consists of the big girls. The decoration committee is in charge of transforming the center into a festive place for a cheerful atmosphere. In this committee work the big girls and the middle ones. This is all supervised and helped by Jovitha, the nanny of the girls. The party has a structured time table so everyone and everything can be included and planned for a perfect evening. The party starts at 5:00 p.m. and ends by 6:30 p.m. First there is a welcoming for everyone who is at the party to celebrate. Then the birthday candidates get to enjoy the birthday song, sung by everyone else, and tell the birthday crowd what age they have reached. Following this, the girls have a few games, after which comes the cake time. The birthday cake gets cut and everyone gets to enjoy a piece. After eating, the ones who are being celebrated say a word of thanks to everyone who prepared the birthday party and came to the event.

At last, dinner is being served and everyone eats, after which the party is at its end. Adding another special touch to the celebrations was the fact that this was the first event being held on the newly paved court in front of the center. This and all the efforts of everyone involved turned the afternoon into a joyful time for all participants. Everybody had fun and enjoyed a relaxed, close time together.



ILULA YWCA YOUTH

Ilula YWCA Youth group is a group of young girls and boys ranging from 18 to 25 years old.

The aim of YWCA youth program is to contribute to the development of young people in achieving physical, mental and spiritual needs and to be responsible citizens in their society. They contribute to the education of young people through a value system based on the YWCA trainings.

The group has 18(10 Boys and 8 Girls) members. They usually meet on Friday, for planning the activities for the coming week. They visited 12 schools; 4 secondary school and 8 primary school. The aim of visiting the schools was to create awareness on Scouting and YWCA.

Figure 1 shows Ilula YWCA Youth in their planning meeting



The secondary schools visited were The Lord's Hill, Kiheka, Nyalumbu and Mazombe. The programs covered were YWCA program and activities, drug abuse, scouts history, scout and promise and laws!



The photo shows Ilula YWCA youth with Kiheka Secondary student during the Alcohol abuse session.

The YWCA Youths visited Mwaya, Tumaini, Masukanzi, Ilula, Isolliwaya, Ikuvala and Mtua Primary School. During their visit, the school children were sensitized on environmental issues, scout history, scout laws, scout promises and patrol system making.



The photo shows Ilula Youth with the primary student during the session

KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

IOP has over 90 students in the waiting list for **sponsorship**. Sponsoring one boy or girl will completely transform his/her future. Wishing to sponsor one? Contact IOP in your nearest reach!

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

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The January 2018 edition of the IOP newsletter was written by Lallemand Francois