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## ILULA ORPHAN PROGRAM

*Dear friends and family, you are welcome to read the news that happened at IOP Tanzania on the March newsletter. There are few articles regarding some community activities and events that have great impacts to the individuals within a community. Welcome*

### Articles:

- IOP For 20 Years
- Single Young Mothers
- International Women's Day
- Pastor Seminar

## IOP FOR 20 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

*“I just wanted to sponsor few children”*

**I**t is twenty years since IOP started serving the community in Tanzania in 1998. The IOP community has brought major impacts to the community. Children who had thought of no education got education through sponsorship, girls with no homes found a place at the IOP Center, children without parents got Foster Parents to care for them and the commitment to support has been an important pillar to the development of IOP.

On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018, IOP invites all volunteers, friends and committee members to come and celebrate with the children. The day which reflects the support that IOP and all friends put towards supporting the poor families to see the bright future.

The 20 years' anniversary will give an opportunity for the committees outside Tanzania and IOP Tanzania to reflect on the role that volunteers played for the past 20 years, challenges and achievements and put the ways forward towards upholding the main goals of supporting the orphans and the most vulnerable children. Vulnerability grows as the population grows. The needs are ever-increasing. The resources put together, will serve the lives of poor children.

It is a year for IOP and volunteers from IOP in the USA, Norway, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Denmark and Sweden.

There will be different programs before and during the last week before 18<sup>th</sup> November. There will be games, sports, success stories,



“I just wanted to sponsor few children”...

“We worked together all of us, we are equal... We have accomplished to lift people to see the future for themselves, to lift women up and help young people see that they have the future... We have never been a handout organization...”

Says Berit Skaare, the founder of IOP. She is very proud that more than 2,000 children were sponsored by IOP

testimonies, sale of t-shirts, documentaries and so many activities. We invite all volunteers, sponsors, supporters, donors and Government Stakeholders to support the event by sponsoring or donating to children in need of sponsorship, for a program, for IOP or for a certain staff.

Yes! The nearest IOP Office/contacts below will guide you on how to help and support for the event. You are welcome to buy a t-shirt for yourself, friend, students or family member. We have a limited number of t-shirts special for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. God bless you

## Single Young Mothers – Business Planning

The YWCA project for empowering women includes the Single Young Mothers program. In this program mothers under the age of 20 are given the chance to learn language and life skills, and help to start a business. Most of them are the girls who became mothers while in school and that the Policy does not allow them to go back to the public school. However, they are allowed to join different formal systems like private schools and colleges. The private schools/colleges require financial well-being of that family. Therefore, few of them afford to go back to school. Another difficulty of getting a child in early age is the social aspect. Some of the young mothers are no longer accepted in their family's home. The only option for them is to raise the children alone with self-support, and little to no education. Therefore no job expectation. Those are the reasons why the Young Mothers program exists.

The program builds up the participants' confidence as they learn to believe in themselves, be responsible, moral and be ambassadors to the community that they have the responsibility to educate their daughters and sons about the acceptable social behaviors.

The young mothers learn different things that will stabilize their future and be free



from social disconnection. To manifest this, the program offers a wide range of course including computer skills, making business plan and English lessons. The program offers vocational training in tailoring/sewing. In the IOP sewing workshop, they learn how to make dresses, shirts, trousers and repairing clothes.

Some of the 2016 young mothers' class members have been given to start a pig business and have been given education on how to raise them. Most important is to know how to convert that into a profitable business. To help them, they had a session once per week to establish a business plan. They have to write down their ideas for different businesses they want to run and do a basic market research. Things like hygiene and book-keeping are important part of the learning. IOP/Ilula YWCA hope that the well-trained young mothers will keep working hard and if they do so, the results will be positive and help them to raise their confidence and standard of life for themselves and their child. There are many single young mothers who really cry for a help. We thank different stakeholders-organization and individuals-who have continually helped the program for the consecutive three years. You are making an impact. We welcome all interested organizations and individuals to be part of



this life-changing program.

## International Women's Day

**O**n the 8<sup>th</sup> of March was the International Women's Day. For that occasion the Single Young Mothers and a Scout Group attended a conference dedicated to women and women's rights in Kilolo.

The event was opened by a march, starting near the Kilolo district office where all the different parties attending the conference were holding up banners, representing their group. The people were dancing and the day started off with a happy vibe and good weather.

The event was attended by different organizations including Ilula YWCA, USAID supported organizations and others. They presented what they were working to elevate women's place in society and education. The different projects range from education about contraceptive methods or HIV-education to agricultural projects.

Members of Parliament, Security Forces and important public figures of the Iringa region attended the conference to show their support for women.

It was an important day that put the women into reflection on different empowerment initiatives and aspects. Different speeches were given with the main focus on violence against women, women's position in the society and their role as the backbone of the

society. Not only does educating women means that their children will have a better chance for education, it is also a way for getting women the independence they deserve.

At the end of the whole event, there was an important home visit to the family that lives in difficult condition. The grandfather, barely able to move is very old and the grandmother is the one taking care of the children. The three children with disabilities, and are not even capable helping themselves to move from one point to another without a help. It is the grandmother that carries them wherever they have the need to go. The important thing to keep in mind is that the children are grown adults. The aim of the visit was to support for the family in form of prayer and donations of maize, beans, mattresses, and money to repair the bathroom facilities of the family. It was an emotional moment for the family and the over 100 visitors.

After the visit, and a long, eventful day, the Young Mothers, Scouts and volunteers returned to Ilula. It is an important global movement and a call for all women activists, to see that women are *highly supported* to reach their full range of freedom. Families with strong mothers/women have shown admirable development.



## Pastors Seminar

This year again, IOP was the host of a pastor seminar over 10 days. 18 pastors attended this year, coming from different regions of Tanzania and the U.S.A. The training was held at IOP for the 9<sup>th</sup> year. It was an experience that new pastors acquired. The trainers were Dr. Stephen DuCett, Rev. John Windell and Rev. Michael Den Dunlap

The main subjects the pastors learned about were homiletics, the application of the general principles of rhetoric to the specific art of public preaching, the different religions for example Islam and how to live together in harmony with other religions, the history of the Methodist Church and its founder John Wesley and specific parts of the bible. During the study of those specific books in the bible, they looked at key passages in the bible and studied and interpreted them together.

The participants were kept very busy. The classes' everyday usually began at nine in

the morning and ended at six in the evening. The years before, the classes ended at four in the afternoon, but this year, from four to six, the participants had a discussion everyday about the subjects they talked about in the different classes.

The pastors attending had a good time. The seminar is a three years program. The pastors have something to work on for the next year. Then their work and experiences in their lives that resulted from the lessons in the seminar is going to be evaluated together and then they get new subjects to think about and to work on in their lives.

Pastors were able to buy books and further training to expand their influence by giving them the resources to support the pastors.

We thank those who have continued to support the mission.



## KEY CONTACT INFORMATION/EVENTS

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

IOP Tanzania	Edson: <a href="mailto:edson.msigwa@ioptanzania.org">edson.msigwa@ioptanzania.org</a>
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The March 2018 edition of the IOP newsletter was written by Lallemand Francois.