



**Newsletter September 2018**

**We would love to share all the events IOP Tanzania has been involved with during the month of September!!!**

**Articles:**

- ✓ **New kitchen and paving official opening**
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## **NEW KITCHEN AND PAVING OFFICIAL OPENING**



Team Ueland has been among the great supporters of IOP through sponsoring various projects. In 2017 the team supported IOP with paving the Center yard! Before pavement the Center yard changed into a seasonal mud hole. Housekeeping insisted on staff having a pair of inside shoes by the entrance door! It was also difficult for staff and girls to enter their rooms due to the mud outside. The weeds also used to grow and consumed more time in weeding. After three months of fixing the yard, all the challenges were gone. The Center looks very nice, and the yard now is more useful than before: Center girls play rope and ball at the smooth yard, home work are done outside at the fixed round tables, meetings are outside, parties as well, and sometimes even morning devotion is outside. The team has continued with renovating the fire-wood kitchen where they changed the smoky and

poorly ventilated kitchen into the modern one. Now kitchen has all the standard kitchen equipment's like freezers, dish washer, double baking oven, stainless steel working tables and many others.



In August 03<sup>rd</sup>, the new kitchen and paving were officially opened. A group of 19 people from Team Ueland were here at IOP to witness the good work they have raised money for in Norway. Speech from various people were provided where by team Ueland explained its desire to help the cooks work in a smokeless environment, and that the girls do not need to do dishes until late night. At the same time the IOP managing director made it very clear how grateful IOP is through the accomplishment of the new kitchen and paving project. The girls and IOP staff sang songs and danced traditional dance.



It was the same day where by team Ueland had to say goodbye as the time of their stay was almost to an end. Mr. Osmund on behalf of the group shared with us its future plans, of which construction of the new cabin for volunteers was the next project.

IOP family is thanking to Team Ueland for the great support to IOP and meeting the requirement of the IOPs strategic plan.



## SCOUT MEETING IN ZIMBABWE

The Girl Guide and Scout secretary, Doreen Nimrod, went to Harare, Zimbabwe, from 30<sup>th</sup> of August to 6<sup>th</sup> of September to attend the Africa Scout Youth Forum and International Leadership Training. Scouts from 23 African countries, including Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Botswana sent one representative each. Doreen was appointed by the Tanzania Scouts Association Leaders to go to Zimbabwe. Important topics such as leadership style, project planning, collaborative leadership, partnership and sustainable development goals were discussed during the event. They also talked about mind education, migration, scouts vision and values, and got a bigger insight in the other attendees' cultures.



Doreen Nimrod (IOP Girl Guide and Scout Secretary) with other scout members from various countries

## FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR AVOCADO PROJECT

The new month started with a big fundraising event for the Avocado Farm on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. It was a very popular event with over one hundred participants, including men, women, girls, boys and two babies. The volunteers and Berit prepared many days in advance; making doilies, table name cards, seating chart and food. The event began in the backyard. People were escorted to their tables, while



relaxing music was played in the background. When most people had come, they were served a light soup made of potatoes and chicken. The main course was served as a buffet, so people were able to choose amongst a variety of food prepared by the chefs. The buffet included vegetables, rice, fried potatoes, boneless chicken, tomato salad, sauce and delicious vegetable spring rolls. The food was accompanied by homemade fresh juice, so tasty that almost everyone wanted to refill. Volunteers served the food and drinks, so cooks could sit down and enjoy!



After the dinner the IOP managing director thanked people for helping prepare for the event, and most importantly, talked about the importance of fundraising for the avocado trees, which are important because they can generate more income to the organization, making it more self-reliant in the future.

Soon thereafter people could buy lottery tickets to support the avocado project. There were many great prizes, including a TV, blankets, electric iron, bed sheets, watch, and more. Tickets were sold until none left, and all could open at the same time, to see if they had won or not. Thanks to all for supporting an important project. At the end of the evening people went inside to see the surreal comedy “Mrs. Doubtfire”, while munching on some popcorn.

It seemed like a lot of people had a great time at the event, getting to know new people, eating good food, watching a funny movie and experiencing the thrill of the lottery. We were able to raise Tsh 1, 3 mill for the avocado field, making us one step closer to harvesting avocados. All in all, we must conclude that the event was a success. Thank you to all, not least the kitchen.



## WELCOMING NEW CFC PARTICIPANTS AND GOODBYE ARIANNA ROCCA

Friday the 14th of September was a special day. We celebrated the arrival of the CFCs, and Arianna's incredible work during her stay. The CFC received a warm welcome with welcome songs and greeting hugs, and they gave a special



dancing performance in return. The CFCs Gyda Elisa Saeter and Lovisa Linnea Maria Petersson from Norway were definitely shocked by how well they were greeted, while Sajida Ilomo, Belina Mhanga and Ezra Mdeka from Tanzania already knew how welcoming the girls and staff are.

Arianna and the CFCs stay barely overlapped since Arianna left on Saturday morning. She handed out some plastic balls from IOP Italy before she left, a gift the girls definitely appreciated, wearing the uninflated balls as hats and running crazily around with them once they were inflated. Arianna definitely made an impact on the girls during her stay, because of her sweet personality, but also because of her passion for sport. She spread the joy of dancing and gymnastics to the kids and young mothers throughout her stay, it was mesmerizing to see how engaged even the smallest kids were in some of her lessons. When it was time to give the official goodbye hugs Esther Meshack really did not want to let her go, and kept hanging around her neck. The welcome and goodbye party was a party filled with greetings and goodbye speeches, but also food and (too) loud music. People danced and ran around in the yard even after the sun set and a beautiful sky filled with stars appeared.



Left photo: IOP girls handing a thank you card to Ariana, Right photo: Ester Meshack giving goodbye hugs to Ariana

## VOLUNTEERS PAGE



Hello everyone! I am Mari Østby a twenty years old girl visiting from Norway. I arrived in Ilula the 04<sup>th</sup>, of September, and my stay here has been great so far. I am positively surprised by the standard of the Center and how warm and friendly everyone is. The children here are so cute, energetic and positive; they always bring a smile on my face. I am also very impressed by their knowledge and singing abilities, it is fascinating how easy they make it look when they play the drums and sing polyphonic. I am looking forward to my next three months in Ilula, and then studying medicine in Norway from January.

Hello everyone! I'm Myrthe and I'm twenty years old, and I come from the Netherlands. I arrived at IOP on the 4<sup>th</sup>, of September and I will leave on the 27<sup>th</sup>, of October. I have met good people here and everyone is very nice to me and very helpful. I am really looking forward to this great adventure and to get to know you all better. But for what I already have seen, should that be fine.



From left are Myrthe Hermes & Mari Ostby

## USAID BORESHA AFYA PROJECT -Success story

The USAID Boresha Afya is a five-year (1 October 2016-30 September 2021) supported program through USAID Deloitte Consulting limited in 42 councils in Tanzania and five districts councils in Iringa region. IOP implements this project in 24 wards of Kilolo District Council. *The purpose of the project is to increase access to high quality, comprehensive, and integrated health service; in communities we serve especially women and youth. The integrated services include; Family Planning, concerns about Tuberculosis (TB), mother to child health care, Malaria care and Nutrition.* IOP through community volunteers ensure that all people living with HIV/AIDS in Kilolo attend care and treatment

services and the whole communities are sensitized for HIV testing. Below is a success story herein achieved;

### **Babeli Kikoti, the charismatic PLHIV Peer Educator**



*Ibumu Village, Ibumu Ward, Iringa – Babeli Kikoti work on the wall of an incomplete building. Apart from being a Peer Educator and TB Community Health Worker, Babeli is also a mason.*

By working closely with persons living with HIV (PLHIV) as peer educators, IOP through USAID Boresha Afya project has been making positive strides in reaching the third 90 target, i.e. by 2020, 90% of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will achieve viral suppression. The Program, through partners Ilula Orphan Program (IOP) employs PLHIV peer educators as agents of change – to encourage PLHIV to take their medication, follow up on missed appointments and combat stigma amongst other important tasks.

For Babeli Kikoti (48) of Ibumu village in Iringa, the calling to become a peer educator is borne from a deep sense of empathy towards his fellow PLHIV. “I didn’t have anyone supporting me when I learned of my status. I don’t want others to go through this alone,” he shares.

His first wife, with whom he was blessed with two girls, had used medication in hiding until her death in 2008. It was only following her death and a long bout of illness that Babeli learned of his HIV status, some three years later. Prior to this, he had sought the help of traditional healers to no avail. “Initially, I was

diagnosed with Tuberculosis (TB). A few months later, I came to learn I was HIV positive. I was in total shock,” he reveals. This was at the Lyasa Image Dispensary in 2011.

Babeli began taking his medication immediately and the transformation has been noteworthy. “I was bedridden for a lengthy period, but I’m now strong,” he flexes his biceps. He smiles; and he has reasonS to. Today his viral load is undetectable. He is now married again, to a fellow PLHIV, Magdalena. Her viral load is also undetectable. Together they have a healthy boy, Ibrahim. Babeli is a mason in his village. He takes great pride in his testimony and uses it in most of his sessions in Ibumu village as a PLHIV peer educator. On the wall in his living room is a Care and Treatment Centre schedule of the Lyasa Image Dispensary in which he has sessions. He routinely attends nine times a month to support and encourage his peers. At present, he is in the process of forming an economic strengthening group for PLHIV. The purpose is to empower them. “HIV isn’t the end of our lives if we get help” he says.

His most endearing trait is that he has not succumbed to stigma. Although admitting, he was the target of many jokes and snide remarks early in his battle with HIV; he has always shown remarkable resilience and fortitude. “I wouldn’t be a peer educator if I let stigma sidetrack me. My testimony is what empowers my peers,” Babeli expounds.

Babeli also doubles as a TB community health worker and uses his experience to educate his immediate community on the symptoms of the disease and its treatment. It has only been a month since he started this new role but already, he has referred 9 clients for TB screening.

Thank you to Babeli Kikoti for great contribution to his community.



*Ibumu Village, Ibumu Ward, Iringa – Babeli Kikoti stands outside his house with his wife Magdalena Mbena and son (Ibrahim).*

## Contact information

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

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*Please submit articles for October newsletter to the volunteer's coordinator. We receive the articles from October 01<sup>st</sup>, to 10<sup>th</sup>, of October. Thank you for your cooperation*

Prepared by Mari Østby & Enicka Sanga