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*Hello family members, we would love sharing you the events that happened in the month of March 2020!*

## Article

1. Corona Virus(COVID -19)
2. Senior citizen Program
3. International Women's Day
4. Home Visiting (Single Young Mother's Families)
5. Volunteers and IOP Center Girls Dinner at Bite Café
6. Computer Training

### **CORONA VIRUS**

IOP Tanzania is very concerned over the global outbreak of the corona virus (COVID-19). Our prayers goes to all orphans, vulnerable children, sponsors, donors and the world at large.

While thinking and praying for everybody, we are very much concerned about Ilula and Tanzania as the number of cases confirmed and reported as of March 2020 are 20 people infected and 1 death case reported. As an organization, we have started taking measures to protect the Orphans, Most vulnerable children, elderly, neighbors and the community. Despite the fact that most of the families are economically poor we encourage them to wash their hands with water and soap, avoid hand shaking during greetings and if possible stay home to avoid any of the transmission. We are committed to support the community but the challenges are high.

At IOP center, all girls are well trained about the disease, we are adhering to a stay home campaign to all girls at the center, hand shaking is strictly avoided, IOP have ensured full supply of water and soap for girls to protect them from the virus. We are facing limited resources to reach out the other sponsored children to supply them with sanitizers.

IOP schools are closed for 30 days as per government instruction and all school teachers are at home for leave until further notice from the government. As it appears, it may take

months to reopen the closed schools. This makes IOP schools that employ over 50 employees to lose income from school fees as schools close. The lives of those staffs and families are already at jeopardy! Staffs have been encouraged to take their leave during this out break to avoid gathering. The tourism industry, one of the leading employment sectors in Tanzania is hit the most leaving thousands of people unemployed. At IOP shop and bite café there is a bucket of water and soap in the entrance for all the customers to wash their hands before receiving any services! Customers receives strict advice to maintain at least one distance from each other and one another. Thanks to the vast space at the new bite café. Washing hands is must at IOP! All these measures are taken to avoid getting and spreading the virus.

In Ilula, most of the shops, markets have a water bucket and soap outside for people to wash their hands. People are learning to avoid hand shaking however, the prone areas are still to the local alcohol clubs where-by despite the instruction given by government, the users are still gathering and sharing the bowl of local alcohol that is why as an organization we are much concerned about sponsored children who are at their homes at this moment. To rescue our sponsored children we call for whoever would like to join hands to buy sanitizers for them. Five dollars for each sponsored child will help to rescue 870 children in the program.

### SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAM

This is the club of elder citizens living in Masukanzi village. The club has 73 members. The members meet twice per month. They meet on the middle Saturday of the month to read and make stories and on the last Saturday of the month where they get a lesson as planned by the club committee members.



*Senior citizens holding supplied sanitizers.*

Due to eruption pandemic disease of **COVID-19** that is spreading all over the world, it was not possible for senior citizens to meet on March as per normal routine. However, the committee members decided to conduct a home visit to all club members to provide them education about the disease, symptom and how they can protect themselves. They elders were advised to avoid gatherings and greeting each other by shaking hands. It was highly insisted that they have to wash hands regularly with clean water and soap. In addition, during home visiting the senior citizens, members

handed over hand sanitizers and they were taught how to use and when to use them.



*Thanks to all who provide support for the senior citizens. The support is very significant to the elders and makes them feel loved, cared and protected.*



## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY;

Every 8 March each year, the world celebrates the International Women's Day to remind our societies on the role and positions of women in development. The commemoration goes in hand with identifying and addressing different socio-economic challenges facing women that hinder their active participation in the community. On this day, IOP/Ilula



YWCA participated in the event bringing about 48 participants from the program. The event brought together more than 300 participants, majority being women from all over Kilolo District to participate in the event. The Kilolo District Commissioner Miss. Asia Abdallah was the chief guest of the event.

IOP/Ilula YWCA's project manager of Community Empowerment Miss Lynnchristine Isote had a chance to explain to the participants on the activities of IOP/Ilula YWCA. Also, one beneficiary, Miss. Rahab Kimali, a Young Mother program beneficiary gave a very inspiring testimony as a woman who went through the challenge of adolescence pregnancy and grew up stronger than she used to be.

In addition, the young mothers displayed different products that they have learnt to produce that help them to earn income for the living and supporting their babies and family.



## SINGLE YOUNG MOTHERS HOME VISITING

One of the focus areas of Ilula YWCA is youth empowerment through sports, games. Empowering women has been the major concern for YWCA and has been of greater impact to the community.



Ilula YWCA in assistance of volunteers conducted a home visit for the young mothers group of 2020. This is a usual activity whereas YWCA staff visits the young mothers at their homes to have a chance to see how they are getting on with their families. In these visits, the growth and development of the young mother's child is monitored and advice is given. In the March's home visits, YWCA staff

together with volunteers visited the families of single young mothers group of 2020 where the volunteers had an opportunity to observe the different living conditions of the young mothers' families.

Discussions based on studying how the families think of their daughters being pregnant at their teen ages, the social challenges and the measures they have taken to prevent other siblings from facing the same problem. The volunteers gave some gifts to the young mothers and both parties were happy to get a chance of sharing their stories and experiences on adolescent pregnancies.



## SPECIAL DINNER WITH GIRLS AT THE BITE CAFÉ!



IOP volunteers organized a special dinner at bite café. IOP center girls including the girls who are in boarding school at Sunflower Primary and the Lords hill secondary schools were invited. All together, they had a very lovely dinner with something tasty to drink. The event began without electricity power, as there was power cut- off from the public supplier, instead candlelight were used to get light. To make the event funny and interesting, the girls were singing and playing

games while waiting for the food ordered to get ready. When the food was ready, all got a plate full of tasty food: chicken, fried potatoes with eggs, rice with tomato soup, watermelon and salad. The girls loved the food so much and thanked the chef and all who supported it. When the power came back, the girls watched Tanzanian safari television and they really liked watching the big television! Tonje Myklebust, one of the volunteers who organized this dinner for her goodbye party did not make it as she left earlier because she was advised to go home to avoid any risk of getting the corona virus. However, the event became a goodbye party for other three volunteers who had to leave a few days after to avoid the risk of getting the corona virus while in Tanzania. It was a special evening that the girls appreciated very much.



Volunteers and IOP center girls enjoying their dinner at IOP Bite café

#### COMPUTER TRAINING TO STAFF AND STUDENTS



IOP staff learning computer lesson at Holland House of Books

As part of staff development, IOP provides computer training to non-computer literacy staff to enhance their knowledge and skills to improve their daily working performance. In line with that, students from IOP schools continue benefiting from computer training conducted by a computer teacher at their schools and IOP Holland House of Books. The staff and students are getting training in different programs to make them competent

in computer use that will make them familiar with the growing technology. More important, schoolchildren are trained so that they become able to cope with the



growing technology that will help them to use it in their further studies after primary school. We thank all the supporters who made this possible for the staff and children to receive this important training.



## CONTACT INFORMATION

*If you would like more information about projects and/or sponsoring opportunities,*

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