The final months of 2019 have been full of a mixture of hard work and celebration for the children and staff at help2kids. The children have all completed their end of year exams, some have been attending additional classes to prepare them for the move to Secondary School in January and many have already started their holidays.

We have also had the pleasure of welcoming back Kurt and Marianne who have been working with the children to bake cookies, gingerbread and cakes which they will sell at a local market to raise additional funds.

As we reflect on another successful year at help2kids we are again reminded of how lucky we are to have such a fantastic ever growing group of partners, donors, volunteers and supporters without whom much of what we do would not be possible and certainly would not have as big a benefit to the children and the local community that we are here to help. And as we look forward to a new year we are encouraged to know that they, and no doubt many new supporters, will continue to help us to ensure that we can continue to positively steer the children that we assist to a brighter and better future.

Tanzanian Field Manager’s Report
Greetings and Happy Holidays from Tanzania

Well how did that happen – another year gone and for me it seems like only yesterday I arrived to take over the role of Field Manager! And yet there is, as always, much to be done as we prepare for our annual management meeting to discuss the challenges we faced in 2019, our achievements and goals, budgets and priorities for 2020.

We have nearly finished construction of the building work at Kunduchi and are busy getting everything ready and registering children for our new Day Care Centre which will open at the Children’s Home Campus in January. With our partners at HoPAC the decoration of the Campus is now under way and everyone is excited to see the end result.

We are all eagerly looking to 2020 and another busy and successful year for help2kids.

Asante Sana and Happy Holidays to all in our extended family.

Tim Spooner
Field Manager, Tanzania
In this quarter our kids have been enjoying the weekend rest following intensive study and exams for year-end. They’ve enjoyed weekly movie nights, beach trips and football coaching. We are delighted to have been joined each weekend by two new volunteers, Ellie a PE teacher at Braeburn and her partner Michael who is a football coach. The Children are enjoying the expert football coaching and looking forward to new sports activities for next year including softball.

On the more serious side, all the Children’s Home staff had fire safety training from Knight Support who have also kindly provided a fire procedure and manual for the Campus.

We are all really looking forward to celebrating Xmas and New Year – we hope you all have a great time with your friends and family over the festive period.

To find out more about the Children’s Home, click here.

As usual, the last quarter flies by with our ESP students studying hard for the end of year exams including National Exams. This year we have over 20 students finishing Form 4 and with it the end of their Basic level Secondary School education. Depending on their results, which are not due out until February/March next year, they will get a Certificate or a Diploma. For the best performing students there may also be an offer to join Advanced Secondary School, which would be the next step towards University. For everyone at help2kids there is nothing more rewarding than seeing our students getting their diploma but on the other hand it is tinged with a little sadness as we will have to say goodbye to many of them.

To find out more about the Education Sponsorship Programme, click here.

Thank you for sponsoring our children!

SPONSOR A STUDENT
This year has seen many positive changes to both the Kunduchi Day Care Centre and English Corner with new and improved curriculums, which will be implemented for the new school year. We are also midway through the full set of renovation and building works for the kitchen, office, dining room, classroom extension and new roof. A huge thank you to Paul Burggraf, Bischlebener SV and everyone who raised all the funds for the work.

To find out more about the Kunduchi Day Care Centre Programme, click here.

During the last two months we have been busy getting everything ready for our new nursery, the Campus Day Care Centre, to open in January 2020. It will be headed up by a qualified teacher who previously taught Standard I at Bajeviro and was Head of English Medium, Chichi. Special thanks to our returning volunteer Monica and her daughter Sandra for donating the tables and chairs for the Nursery and for HoPAC for donating the portable Blackboard. We’ll be sure to keep you posted throughout next year on how the school is progressing.

To find out more about the Health Project, click here.

We are delighted to welcome Martin Kury to Team Africa as ESP Manager. This is a newly created position as we look to grow the ESP program significantly over the next 2-3 years. As a past volunteer and previous Primary School Manager for help2kids Martin has hit the ground running and we look forward to seeing him grow and enhance the program with us.

Aishati Nzomukunda has joined Team Africa as Head Teacher of our new nursery (Campus Day Care Centre). She brings with her an infectious love for children and a passion for improving the education of children, particularly those from poor backgrounds. We know she will build a great nursery that help2kids can be proud of.
Our newest partnership is gradually growing, and no doubt will be one from which we see many new initiatives and enhancements in 2020. We are delighted that we have managed to get some many elements up and running so quickly including the set-up of the Health Project, which has already seen many of the children benefitting from treatment and being able to focus on their studies.

We have also managed to get the Education Sponsorship Programme (ESP) up and running. The top 10 students have been selected, passed their Standard VII National Exams with flying colours and already have sponsors confirmed. The generosity and enthusiasm of our ESP sponsors never ceases to amaze us.

To find out more about Pwani primary School, click here.

The volunteer program has been evolving with changes to the way volunteers are integrated into the projects. At Kunduchi Day Care Centre the volunteers are now teaching small groups of children once the lesson for the session has been explained by the class teacher. At the New Children’s Home Campus, we have now created earlier homework groups for the younger children and introduced a timetable of activities that follow study.

Cultural exchange is a natural product of the projects and this has been extended this year with several trips throughout the year including to Bahari Zoo, Mbudya Island and getting involved with National Clean-up day at Kunduchi both in July and September.

To find out more about Volunteering with help2kids, click here.
It has been a busy and productive quarter for help2kids Malawi.

This quarter, we completed the construction of changing rooms in both Lifuwu Primary School and Kazembe Primary School. This would not have been possible without a grant from LEGO Foundation. With the changing rooms ready for use, we are hoping that absenteeism among girls will decline and that their school performance will improve.

The first term has been going well for our Education Sponsorship Program (ESP) students. They will be coming back to Lifuwu in a few weeks, after classes end on December 20th. We are still looking for sponsors and we hope you could take some time to check out our ESP page on our website and consider sponsoring a child in secondary school.

The help2kids Malawi team wishes you a wonderful December. Enjoy the holidays!

Zikomo!

Chindy
Malawi Field Manager

Tiyanjane and Chisomo Nursery Schools are getting ready for the end of term and the closing ceremony on December 19th. Thanks to our volunteers and guests who made donations, our top performers will receive school supplies from help2kids during the closing ceremony.

We have also repaired leaks at Tiyanjane Nursery School to make sure that students are able to concentrate in class and stay dry this rainy season.

WE HAVE A NEW LIBRARIAN!

Godfrey Pilirani, an ESP alumnus and our librarian at the community library in the past year, started going to university in November. We are extremely grateful for his contribution to help2kids and how well he has worked with children in the village who have developed a love for books.

In November, Vincent Elijah joined help2kids as our new librarian. He aspires to become a teacher, but due to financial hardship, he was not able to go to university. He is happy to join us in helping kids learn how to read.
help2kids with support from LEGO Foundation, constructed changing rooms in both Lifuwu and Kazembe Primary Schools. Primary school girls in both schools acknowledged that they miss classes when on their monthly periods, which negatively affects their school performance. Now that they have a clean, safe, and private space to wash and change their pads, they are encouraged to keep going to school even on days that they are menstruating. Each building has four changing rooms, two pit latrines, and a clothesline where they can dry their reusable pads.

We opened the changing rooms in Lifuwu Primary School on October 9th and in Kazembe Primary School on November 27th. Both opening ceremonies were attended by primary school girls who were excited and grateful for this project. Other attendees included the school committee, parents, and local chiefs.

Lifuwu and Kazembe Primary Schools are closing on December 20th for the holidays.

The Drama Club, with support from help2kids, organized netball and football matches between Lifuwu Primary School and Kazembe Primary School to gather people in the village and to spread the message about HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention on World AIDS Day (December 1st). The organizers also distributed contraceptives for free.

Villagers were out to support their favorite teams on Sunday afternoon. Kazembe Primary School beat Lifuwu Primary School in netball with a score of 10-4. On the other hand, Lifuwu Primary School triumphed over Kazembe Primary School in football, ending the match with 4-0. Winning teams received school supplies that they could use for the next term.
help2kids Malawi facilitated a number of activities for ESP students during the school break – word games, screening of ‘The Boy who Harnessed the Wind’, a field trip to Nkhotakota Wildlife Reserve and cookout by the beach, and a creative activity on their goals. ESP students have actively been attending computer classes as well. On September 16, secondary school classes resumed and they all went back to their regular academic routine.

People in the village recognize the value of having a good education, but their limited access to resources to keep their children in school has been a big barrier. Public primary school education is free, but not secondary school. Every year, students in their final year in primary school take a national exam to determine eligibility for secondary school. Among the passers, only a handful bright kids are selected to go to public boarding schools in the country. This year, 10 students from Lifuwu made it to boarding schools – nine in district schools and one at a national-level school. However, only two have found sponsors and we are actively seeking for sponsors for the eight children who have a bright future ahead of them.

There are still a number of children hoping to continue their education. Could you help them through the help2kids Education Sponsorship Program?

SPONSOR A STUDENT

**Cosmas** wants to become an international journalist covering different issues and events and traveling around the world. He loves reading English novels and finds listening to folk tales and history enjoyable. He also likes studying math.

His family gets through everyday from what his father earns from farming. He has two brothers and two sisters and hopes to help his family have a better life in the future. An education sponsorship would help him stay in school and make his dream of becoming a journalist a reality.

To find out more about how to sponsor Cosmas, please send us a message at sponsorships@help2kids.org.

**Eneless** is the fourth-born of five children and her parents are farmers in Lifuwu. Her favorite subject is English. During her free time, she enjoys studying the sciences and English grammar. Secondary school classes are taught in English and she is getting ready for that.

This friendly young lady wants to become a teacher. She is excited to go to secondary school and has been praying that her family finds financial resources to cover expenses.

To find out more about how to sponsor Eneless, please send us a message at sponsorships@help2kids.org.
help2kids thanks all our former, current and future volunteers for your hard work on our projects in Tanzania and Malawi. Your dedication changed our children’s lives for the better! We are thrilled to be able to bring you this newsletter with updates from all our projects. For more regular news, please check our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and website!

help2kids runs projects in Tanzania and Malawi that saves hundreds of children and their families, we can use all the help we can get. Please click the button above to go to the donation page, Every little bit helps! Donations are tax deductable in USA, Switzerland and Germany.

[Images of children and social media icons]

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