Tanzania Field Manager’s Report

Hello from Tanzania!

This Fall we saw the kids begin final testing and we were proud to watch several of our older kids graduate! The Children’s Home received Nuru and Evaristo back into the Home and the staff couldn’t be more proud of their achievements.

We also had a very successful time at the Goat Races! The Goat Races are an annual fundraising event that spotlights NGO’s working in Tanzania. This year we managed to receive a $6,000.00 grant which we will use to supplement our Health Program’s first aid supplies, a much needed investment!

At Bajeviro, the teachers have begun teacher workshops. These exercises are hosted outside the normal school hours and give our staff a chance to sharpen their skills which ultimately help our kids become better students.

The holiday season is coming and our children, staff, and students, have begun preparing for the season! We are hoping to purchase several gifts for our Children at the Children’s Home and supply them with a grand and excellent Christmas meal.

From all of the people at help2kids, we wish you and your families and wonderful and Merry Christmas!

Justine LeDonne

help2kids Tanzania

Graduations and Preparing for the holidays

help2kids Children’s Home

The children at the Childrens Home have had a busy fall and now are eagerly awaiting the holiday season, where there are sure to be games, gifts, and good food!

In October of this year, we had two important graduation ceremonies for three of our children: Nuru, Evaristo, and Tausi. Nuru and Evaristo had been attending an intense, study focused boarding school to finish their Primary School education. The two were missed during the year, even though the staff and children frequently visited them. The entire team was excited for their return and to attend their Primary School education graduation!

Tausi also graduated from Form 4 at St. Gasper’s Secondary School - a huge milestone for our oldest child! Tausi worked incredibly hard through-out the year to pass her exams and we couldn’t be more proud!

Now that the children are home and testing is finished, the Children’s Home is bustling with holiday cheer and happily anticipating the holidays! It’s been a hard year, and we are hoping to receive donations for gifts, including school supplies, and food to give our Mamas and children a holiday they deserve!
There has been a great deal of excitement since the last newsletter regarding Bajeviro. For starters we have begun workshop training for all of our staff at the school. These workshops are hosted by outside professional teachers in varying fields of expertise and give our staff the opportunity to learn new ideas and teaching methods which they can bring back to improve our performance.

We have also had our Standard 7 graduation ceremony for our students. We wish all of our them good luck in Secondary School and will continue our commitment to excellence for the incoming class. We were lucky enough to be given a whole goat as a donation and put it to good use during the celebration to feed all of the kids and their families.

This year marked our first ever help2kids Charity Football Tournament. We cooperated with several other schools in Mbezi Beach area to put on a tournament that involved three other Primary schools within the area. help2kids provided food and transportation for all the children and was prepared to administer first aid if needed, thanks to our wonderful coordination with the Health Project. The competition was fierce with local Mbezi Beach Primary putting up a great fight but in the end it was the Bajeviro Rainbows who came out on top! The winning team was awarded new water bottles as a prize.

However just as important as the tournament were the bonds created between participating schools. It is our hope that we can continue to foster these good relations to create more opportunities for collaboration and growth. Word of our tournament has spread and we have already been challenged to two more matches (both of which we won). We hope to continue to use Football as a way to interact with other schools and the community in general for the benefit of everyone involved.

EDUCATION
DONATION
Donate a Meal, Feed a Child and Keep our Food Program Alive

Our funding for the food program has come to an end after two successful years providing food for all 300 children at Bajeviro Primary School. The food provided by the program helped our students grow into strong and healthy scholars. If you would like to donate to this initiative in the future, contact our Education Program Manager, Martin Kuery, at martin.kuery@help2kids.org.

THEBAJEVIRO RAINBOWS
It has been a busy couple of months for our Health Project here in Dar es Salaam. In addition to their normal activities such as providing medical supplies to our partner organisations, our Health team has been organizing events and talks to promote healthy living among our children. Beginning in September our Health team managed to partner with the One Sight Organization to provide eye checkups and prescription glasses to for the entire help2kids organization for FREE! In total the Health Team coordinated with 4 separate projects to bring nearly 300 children and a dozen staff members to the event. For many of these kids it was their first time getting a check up and for some it was an opportunity to catch problems before they grew to permanently damage their vision. One student was found to be suffering from cataracts but because of this program we were able to identify the problem and scheduled her for surgery to correct it. This was a tremendous benefit for all of our children as it will help them both physically and academically.

The Health team has also been making the rounds to different projects to give educating health talks. These topics have ranged from good sanitary practices, to nutrition, to sexual education. At one of our partner orphanages, Watoto Wetu, they organized a talk about common infections such as UTIs, worms and skin infections and had a trained professional from our partner hospital, AAR, there to provide information and answer questions. At Bajeviro Imerine, our Health Program Coordinator, held a talk for the female students about sexual health. In a country where a quarter of all teenage girls are having early pregnancies, these talks have been vital.

This fall we have been hard at work preparing all of our children for final testing. Students in Forms 1, 2, and 3 received special after school tutoring at their respective Secondary Schools in order to increase their Mathematics and Science performance. The ESP program has also been focused on finding additional sponsors for our incoming Standard 7 top 10 students from Bajeviro. We’ve been lucky enough to find 6 sponsors so far! Because of donors we will be able to make sure our students are able to continue past Primary School and all the support they might need to succeed. We are proud of our students and wish them the best of luck moving forward!
Continued growth at Kunduchi

Thanks to the help of our amazing volunteers, their fundraising efforts, and amateur construction skills, the Kunduchi Day Care Center has seen incredible improvements since the end of the Summer. We were able to improve a number of KDCC facilities, including the bathrooms, both classrooms, and kitchen space.

First we were able to upgrade the toilets, a much needed improvement since their damage earlier in the year. All repairs have now been made, much to the happiness of both students and staff! Second we redid the Care Center floor, which had become cracked and posed a fall hazard danger to our children.

Lastly, we increased the facilities by adding space to cook for our children. We now have created a designated area for our cook to make the children’s daily meal, sometimes their only meal, for the noon time break.

None of this would have been possible without the help of our volunteers and commitment of the local community who have proved essential in making the dream that is Kunduchi into a reality.

Volunteers not only bring new energy to the KDCC but also bring new knowledge. Thanks to that we were able to improve our in-class teaching methods that extremely benefits the children’s learning process and improved our local staff skills and competences. Asante sana!

As we are coming to the end of the first year of KDCC, we are preparing several children to move onto Primary School and have started arranging everything for the coming new year. The Kunduchi Day Care Center has been working closely with the Bajeviro Manager and staff in order to coordinator for several student transitions. We have allotted at least five spots for children from the KDCC to enter Bajeviro next year for their first Primary School experiences. The KDCC also has been working with the Health team in establishing better health care at the Daycare Center as well. The staff is excited for 2017, it will be a year full of good news and very interesting challenges.

If you would like to help us further improve Kunduchi please consider donating at https://www.help2kids.org/en/donate/
Malawi Field Manager's Report

Greetings from Malawi!

The last few months have been an exciting time at help2kids Malawi, as we bid farewell to our Field Manager, Matthias Boyen and offer a warm welcome to Kate Mensinger who will be filling his position.

Although he was only with us a short time Matthias initiated several exciting new projects in Malawi. Kate has been the Volunteer Coordinator there for the past 5 months and has proven to be an exceptionally bright and talented employee. She is excited for the chance to have an increasingly leading role in help2kids Malawi.

We thank Matthias for his great work done in Malawi and give a big and great welcome to Kate. Big changes and plans are certainly guaranteed with the new staff, full of fresh and eager energy!

Stay tuned for updates on all the exciting changes that will be happening here in Malawi!

Happy Holidays from Malawi!

help2kids MALAWI

New Creative Center in Lifuwu

At the creative center, children up to young adults are encouraged to express themselves through art and sport. Activities range from simple drawing and painting to sports not commonly practiced in Malawi, in order to level the playing field and create an environment where everyone can come together to learn something new. In the future we expect to enjoy acrobatics, football, talent shows, and many other activities. This is our most flexible program, because it allows volunteers to contribute absolutely anything they are passionate about.

Village Outreach:

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, help2kids provides transportation to Lifuwu Health Center staff to some of the villages in their encashment area that are far out of their reach. At each village, mothers and their children under the age of 5 participate in an Under 5 Clinic, which involves taking the measurements of each child, providing them with immunizations, and providing messages on positive health through the Lifuwu Drama Group and Health Center staff. Volunteers assist in taking measurements and recording data, as well as interacting with the community members.
Continued Growth at Chisomo

Chisomo Nursery School is a volunteer funded nursery school that we are very proud of here in Lifuwu Village. The newly constructed building is home to a large number of nursery school aged children who interact with our volunteers on a daily basis. At the moment, we are in the middle of constructing a new changing room connected to the main school building. Our goal in this endeavor is to improve sanitary conditions by separating the small children from the larger group of children when they need to be changed.

EDUCATION SPONSORSHIP

Donate a Meal, Feed a Child and Keep our Food Program Alive

We support 9 local young adults who are pursuing their education, but would be unable to meet the financial requirements of doing so without support. At the moment, all of our students are away at their perspective schools, so we are supporting them by providing textbooks, transportation, and other things that they need to get learning! When they come home at the end of term, we will continue to support them with tutoring sessions to supplement their education. If you are interested in helping us tackle poverty through education in Lifuwu village, contact the field manager @ help2kids.org for more information.

Tutoring Program

Volunteers lead classes in English language in the afternoons, which are attended by children of the age 15 and above, even including some adults from the community. In addition, volunteers can spend time at Kazembe Primary School teaching English language in the mornings. English is one of the National Languages of Malawi, and English proficiency is very important, especially for those who wish to pursue higher education. Volunteers are able to interact with their students, and design lesson plans based on the abilities of their class. We particularly love receiving volunteers with experience in education, but here it is possible for all to begin learning to teach a language.

Tiyanjane Nursery School:

On a daily basis, volunteers spend time at Tiyanjane assisting the school teachers with class, as well as leading activities and games with the children. A newly constructed wall separates Tiyanjane from the community, providing security for the children and the buildings. At the moment, we are constructing a borehole within the perimeter due to a very generous donation from two of our volunteers. The borehole will be assisting us as we provide meals to the children through our feeding program.
Malawi Maternity Program

help2kids supports a maternal feeding program at Lifuwu Health Center. We know the importance of nutrition to expectant mothers, and support those women who stay short-term at the health center with daily meals, which are designed to keep them full and nutritionally fulfilled. A garden at the health center helps to supply these women with local greens which are essential to the growth of their child. Our volunteers spend early evenings with the expectant mothers, sometimes just chatting and playing games, but sometimes teaching each other songs, and exchanging culture together.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM HELP2KIDS!

Christmas is fast approaching and help2kids would like to make sure that all of our projects are provided a little something extra this year. If you would like to help ensure an exciting holiday for our children, please consider donating at https://www.help2kids.org/en/donate/
help2kids STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

help2kid wants to thank all of our outgoing staff for their great work and welcomes the new staff.

Justine LeDonne has been the Field Manager for help2kids Tanzania for the past year. Prior to that she served as Children’s Home Coordinator. She will miss the wonderful Tanzanian staff and children she’s had the privileged to work with and hopes to see them again in the future. We thank her for her dedication to help2kids.

Chris Boecher was the Project Coordinator for help2kids Tanzania and is responsible for marketing and overall program assistance. During his time here he oversaw a variety of projects and worked alongside the rest of the help2kids staff to provide exceptional service both for our kids and our organization.

Matthias Boyen has been the Field Manager in Malawi for the past 4 months but is now moving on to another position in based in Malawi. Though his time with us was short, Matthias vigorously worked to improve the Malawi branch and helped institute several exciting changes there. Thank you and good luck!

Francisco de Alarcon Rubio was our Education Sponsorship Coordinator. Paco (as he preferred to be called) was an energetic member of our team who fought tirelessly so that our Bajeviro kids could have access to a continued education and a brighter future. We wish him the best in all future endeavors and will miss him on the ground.

Kate Mensinger has been our Volunteer Coordinator in Malawi but has been promoted to fill the Field Manager position just this month! She has studied Development at NYU and looks forward to applying what she has learned to continue improving help2kids Malawi!

Ambrose Ibihya will be our new Education Sponsorship Coordinator. He graduated from Iranga University and has degrees in both Community Development, Law and Teaching. Ambrose has worked at Bajeviro for the past 6 months as a teacher but has been promoted now head our ESP program. We are excited to have him on board!

Wisdom Munisi is a graduate of Dodoma University. She has been volunteering with help2kids for the past 3 months but has finally settled in as a permanent member of our Kunduchi staff. Karibu Wisdom, we are excited to have you!
help2kids thanks all of our former, current and future volunteers for your hard work on our projects in Tanzania and Malawi! Your dedication changes our children’s lives for the better. We are thrilled to be able to bring you this newsletter with updates from all of our projects. For more regular news, please check our Facebook, Twitter and YouTube pages and our website!

help2kids runs projects in Malawi and Tanzania that serve hundreds of children and their families. We can use all the help we can get! Please click on the button below to go to our donation page. Every little bit helps! Donations are tax deductible in the US, Switzerland and Germany.