

Wow, it's been a busy year already. Most of January was very quiet at SWTz with just 12 residential children and everyone back at school Monday-Friday, but February is already busier as we have just taken in 3 new children, 8 yr old Riziki, 6 yr old Fred, and 4 yr old Neema. In addition, we have taken on 2 more home support children: twin boys Nickson and Dickson, 6 yrs old.

Riziki, Fred and Neema are all from different families. Riziki's fathers' whereabouts are unknown and her mother is too sick to care for her. Fred and Neema are orphans living with their grandparents. All three are from the same area, high up on a plateau near Mt. Meru. They came to us through another NGO working with the elderly, and the process for their admission was completed through Social Welfare. Our SWTz children and staff have taken really good care of our new arrivals and have made them feel very much at home. Fred will take a while to feel at home, but Neema and Riziki are loving it!

Nickson and Dickson are from our nearby village but don't live close enough to attend the SWTz nursery. Their father is dead and their mother doesn't make enough money to support them. Their home support will cover nursery school fees, and monthly food.

All five children need sponsors. If you know anyone who would like to sponsor a child for either their basic needs, or for their education, please let us know (more information can be found on our website at www.swtz.org, or email us at info@swtz.org).

January has been very busy for Rebecca and Wendy, so we thought we'd let you know about some of the other things we have been doing. As part of our Rotary Club's Christmas giving, we arranged a party for children attending our local HIV clinic. We served lunch to well over 200 children and parents, and gave out gift boxes. It was wonderful to see the smiles, and the food was very much appreciated - some children came back for 3 helpings!!

Then later in the month, Rebecca delivered a month's supply of porridge mix to a primary school out in Masaai territory, and also attended a clinic for mothers and babies. We weighed the babies and those needing vaccinations received them. This is a monthly programme set up by a Swedish friend of ours who is away for a few months - we volunteered to help in her absence...

It was fascinating. There were several new born babies brought to the clinic by their grandmothers, as Masaai tradition dictates that new mothers stay in their home for between 3-6 months after delivery before venturing out into public again. When asked the date of birth and the name of their new grandchildren, most grannies didn't know, even though their grandchild was born within the last 4 weeks or so!

Each mother and baby was told to come to the clinic with a piece of cloth or something similar with which to make a sling to hang the baby from the scales. So, we are out in the middle of nowhere, in an area where there's almost no water, and not a lot of anything else, and one mum arrives with a swimsuit to "hang" her baby in... Only in Africa!

We trust your January has been as diverse and fulfilling as ours!



Fred and Neema with their grandparents; Riziki with her mother and grandmother



Nickson (blue) and Dickson (red) with their mother in their home, and looking rather mischievous! Fred loves his new hat



Usa River Rotary Club giving out pilau, rosella juice, and gifts to 200+ HIV+ children and parents



Wendy giving out gifts - this boy was so happy to find these balls in his gift box! A happy mother with her child!



Masaai mothers start arriving for the monthly baby clinic; weighing a baby using a swimsuit...it works!

Thank You for helping to make a difference in Tanzania!!!!