

Seeway Tanzania - September 2012

This past month has been a time for celebrating!

Mwajuma and Riziki graduated from primary school and have 3 months off. Mwajuma is going to tuition daily for maths and English, and Riziki is on "work experience" in SWTz Nursery School.

Riziki's school had a big graduation ceremony and Riziki received many awards for her discipline and good attitude at school. She also gave a speech as out-going head girl. Well done Riziki!

Kanuti finally succeeded in obtaining a visa to visit the UK. He will be travelling there in November for a 3-week visit and is so excited - when he received his visa in Dar es Salaam he phoned us and said he was laughing so much he was almost crying! Rebecca will accompany him on the journey over and is looking forward to seeing the expressions on Kanuti's face as he experiences new things (he has never flown before so the journey itself will be a huge adventure!).

Fatuma and Mahija went home for the day to visit their grandmother. It was wonderful to see how excited their family was to see them, and observe the changes they saw in the girls - mainly how tall they are now!!

We tried to find Mariam's family, and managed to find the neighbor who rescued her several years ago from a situation that would have ultimately ended in her death. We are still searching for an aunt but people move a lot here and can "disappear"... Mariam is desperate to be reunited with family, and is one of only 2 children in our care who literally have no family to visit during school holidays. Her heart aches.

Apart from painting the floor (we are waiting for the special paint to arrive), the office-expansion is finished and we are loving the extra space, light and air (no more African summer afternoons in a boiling "shed"!).

We were very sad to say "Bye" to Piers who has been with us for the past 4 months and made a huge dent in Wendy's list of maintenance projects as well as overseeing our office expansion. Thanks Piers!! But we now have a new volunteer from Germany, Sarah, with us for 6 months interning as our social worker and she has made a huge impression already.

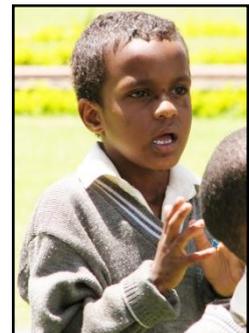
We received Frida Zakayo Macha into our residential care. Aged four and a half, her mother died a year ago, and she then lived with an aunt who is struggling. She is a very funny girl, and has us laughing every day. She wouldn't talk when we first met her, and was very afraid of adults (suggesting she has been abused). She is less fearful now and is communicating more.

Birthdays in September: Careen (15), Arnold (12), Vincent (10)



Mariam outside her grandmother's house, and with the neighbor who rescued her...

Mahija & Fatuma and grandmother, aunt, cousins



Riziki receiving awards and making a speech at school...

Arnold's and James' classes danced at the celebrations...



Loving the expanded office...the windows give a great view over the compound...



Elibariki is busy studying and going to Scouts meetings these days



Sarah helps Neema with her reading skills



Frida and Fred try pastrami for the first time (a gift from our butcher!) - it went really well with the chapati and beans we were having for lunch that day...

Focus on...Food

We are often asked about the menu at the children's house. We eat a typical Tanzanian diet, making sure we use quality ingredients, and lots of fresh veggies and fruit and we use bacteria-free fluoride-free water for cooking and drinking!

Here are some typical foods we eat:

Breakfast: Bread & jam; or mandazi (African doughnuts); or boiled sweet potatoes; served with lashings of hot sweet milky tea.

Lunch or dinner: Chapati and beans; pork/chicken stew and ugali (maize flour cooked into a thick paste and eaten with one's hands); beef pilau; rice and chiroko (mung beans cooked into a delicious stew); mkande (stew of kidney beans and maize beans which Mariam is eating in the picture below).

We always have fresh veg & fruit too (we live in a country where pineapples, papayas, watermelon & mangoes are cheap and plentiful).



David at school with his best buddy



Fatuma learnt to bake cakes with Wendy during her school holidays!

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