



## Seeway Tanzania - December 2012

It has been a couple of months since we wrote a newsletter - as ever, we have been busy, busy, busy!

As it is now the end of 2012, we will look back at some highlights from the past year...

### Highlights of 2012:

- We took on 5 new residential children during the year: Fred, Neema, Riziki #2, Frida, and Asha. Our residential centre is FULL!
- Our nursery school grew to 34 students by the end of the year (we have capacity for 40). Our teachers want to start a "baby class" for 2.5-3.5yr olds in January 2013, and we are interviewing potential teachers as I write.
- Mwajuma and Riziki completed primary school! Riziki has a place for boarding at a very good private secondary school, Mwajuma has a place at a government secondary school and is also sitting entrance exams for private schools.
- Neema, James, Ally, and Zainabu graduated from nursery school and will have places at a good private primary school.
- Johnson "graduated" from SWTz, having spent a year getting used to living alone and being responsible for himself. We wish him every success for his future.
- Kanuti had a life-changing trip to the UK which saw him visit Manchester, Exeter, Okehampton, St. Ives, Bristol, and London! Since returning to Tanzania he has been busy with school, but says he is really missing British food!
- Our chicken project grew in terms of numbers of chickens (we now have 300), and the reputation of the quality of our eggs grew too - we now supply a supermarket amongst our other customers and cannot keep up with demand!
- We started a few small micro-finance projects in our community with single mothers who came to us with business ideas and wanted small loans. We currently have 4 women with loans ranging from £30 to £200.
- We had amazing volunteers all year long who worked tirelessly with our children, and fixing our compound.
- We just heard that our centre has been awarded an operating licence (ALL centres are supposed to have a licence, but in reality it can be a long hard process and only 7% of the many centres in Arusha actually have one...).
- We have had many visitors this past year, and with no exception they have been so enthusiastic and complimentary about SWTz. From one visitor: "We think what you guys are doing is God's work and a blessing to that village. We feel that your place is one of the most organized if not well run orphanages...". Makes us smile as sometimes what we are doing seems so tiny, and such hard work, but we see the results in the happy faces of our children, how well they are doing at school, and simply the abundant joy and peace that oozes from our beautiful compound.
- To summarise: 2012 was a wonderfully peaceful year during which we consolidated things and saw our staff rise up to sieze new challenges and take on new responsibilities. We saw our staff, children and leadership cement relationships to truly create the SWTz family. We watched as many other centres and charities in Tanzania struggled due to the ongoing economic crises in the world, and helped where we could. We were so thankful that we were blessed, financially, health-wise, and in every other aspect of our lives here.

### Of course it wasn't ALL just great news...some lowlights:

- 2 sets of siblings with us lost family members (mother, grandmother) this year, and one girl found out that her mother had also been dead for years but her family had kept this secret from her...
- We are seeing emotional issues, resulting from pre-SWTz situations, abuse and neglect, affecting some of our children as they grow older and start to think about their lives. Nothing unmanageable, but requiring a lot more wisdom on our parts to know how best to help each child come to terms with their particular situation.
- We do still have a few home-support children who aren't sponsored but who rely on our support each month (we supply food and assist with school fees).
- Wendy and Rebecca's Tanzanian residence permits ran out in August - we put in our applications to renew immediately, but have yet to receive new ones. A disgruntled ex-staff member didn't help the process by complaining to immigration about us, requiring an investigation, but even immigration see our centre is a great place, and we are "old-hats" at dealing with these sorts of issues now, and know one day we will get that phone call to say our visas are ready!

**We do know we have the best family, friends and sponsors in the world,  
and we see daily how it all works together to make SWTz what it is.**

**We have been blessed in 2012!**

A selection of pictures from the past 3 months... Christmas Day at SWTz; Kanuti in the UK; pool party at The Arusha Hotel, and some random photos of our children and staff...oh and our latest chicks...



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