



SWTZ - January 2014

Happy New Year!

I trust you have had a wonderful Christmas, and are enjoying the thrill of being at the beginning of a new year...actually almost one

twelfth of the way through already!!!

Here at SWTz we had a busy and fun Christmas. Many of our children went home to their families for the long summer school holidays. For those that remained at the centre, we were given a wonderful pool party at The Arusha Hotel. Our staff invited our children without families to their homes for Christmas week too, so that they could experience a proper Tanzanian family Christmas. We still had work going on at the centre (for example, renovating the main kitchen...) and it was very strange (and quiet shhhh) to be there with no children.



Now everyone is back and we are back into the swing of things, the new school year has started, and we continue to enjoy the hot summer weather (as we read about freezing temperature and flooding in other parts of the world).

On behalf of our children we want to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who sent cards and gifts to our children - it is so exciting for them to receive something in the post, and all our children were extra blessed over Christmas. Sadly not ALL post arrives over here, but we are seeing 95% of letters arrive at their destination here.

Some highlights from the past couple of months:

- Kanuti had a school trip to Rwanda and spoke in front of 600 students on the subject of leadership!
- Anderson has been repatriated with his grandmother after being in SWTz's residential program for almost 4 years!
- All our children received excellent end of year school reports in December!
- Elibariki graduated from secondary school after taking his O levels - he is waiting for his results before applying for A level colleges!
- Our gardener Michael passed his driving test, and we hope that once he's had some practice, he can start taking over some of the driving tasks from Wendy!
- 5 of our staff attended the first part of a course to teach them how to run a children's centre more effectively!
- We renovated the kitchen; took out all the wooden tables and cupboards and replaced them with metal shelving, cement structures; and tiled the walls and floor. Looks so much better and far more hygienic!
- Beatrice, our first micro-finance recipient made a recovery from serious illness and is back on track running her business and loving life again!

During 2013, the Social Welfare Department carried out investigations of all children's centres in our closest big town. Many centres were closed as they did not reach government standards (children were placed in alternative accommodation). This year the same process will be repeated in Arusha and the surrounding area (just this morning we had a visit from a local government officer who was very impressed with our premises and the care given). This is a much needed exercise and we welcome this more professional approach to child care in Tanzania.

So, during 2014 we will be continuing the work of putting processes and procedures into place, and continuing training of our staff and helping them become more autonomous and responsible for the daily running of the centre.

You know we never ask directly for help, but recently we have had quite a few enquiries from people asking how they can help this year, and what projects we have going on, so here we go...

We have a couple of capital projects we want to complete on the compound:

- Eventual replacement of our current solar system which is made up of a lot of different panels, some quite old now, and doesn't run as efficiently as it should (\$10,000 / £6,250 - we can offset around \$3000 of this by selling our existing systems)
- Purchase of that elusive vehicle. Our existing truck is quite big and beefy for a new learner, and we are thinking of something easier for Michael to drive yet still able to complete the tasks of carrying loads (\$15,000 / £9,375 - we can offset around \$4,500 / £2,800 by selling our existing truck, though selling it may cause Wendy to cry...)

We also have a couple of needs for our day to day running costs which come from the monthly regular support:

- We desperately need to pay our staff more - they are wonderful people who work hard and help our children in so many ways. They haven't had a pay rise for 2 years but meanwhile the cost of living has risen sharply. We need an additional \$180 / £115 a month to cover this.
- We need to recruit/train a manager. New laws will require that all children's homes have qualified Tanzanian managers, and in order for our work to be sustainable we need to think ahead and start the process of recruiting/training now. We have some ideas on how to achieve this, but it requires financing. Initially, we will need an additional \$250 / £155 a month to cover this.

It's January, everyone is tired from the end of the year excesses, and this is a terrible time to ask for help...and we very much appreciate everything our donors already do for the work here, but perhaps you know someone else who might like to be involved in some way?

Meanwhile...enjoy some recent pictures:



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

P.S. remember to tell your friends to look us up on www.swtz.org and www.facebook.com/SWTzkids