



# MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

**We hope your 2015 has been as extraordinary as ours, and we pray blessings over you for 2016!**

We've had our busiest year yet at SWTz, and it has been filled with surprises, joy, some heartache here and there, and lots of good news and events to inspire us and keep us going! **Thank you** for YOUR part in all this, from supporting us; giving to our building programmes; bringing teams over to do community projects; volunteering with us; selling goods or fundraising on our behalf; simply being there for us!

## Community Projects:

Since we last wrote, we've been very busy with Nord Anglia Community Service expeditions, working with the most vulnerable families in our community, and in the past 2 months have helped 15 families by building goat sheds (and installing female goats); installing solar systems and building fuel-efficient stoves - dirty work (pic right) as you can see!! Oh, and demolished an unusable teachers' house at Kitefu Primary School (pulling a wall down, below); started building work on another half-built house at the school (and installed playground equipment), and built half the wall around SWTz's additional plot of land!



Our staff have done a fantastic job helping the NA students, and feeding them - sometimes cooking for over 100 students, staff, and children! And a big shout out to Sarah Maria who has worked so hard to make these projects work!



## Residential and Home Support Children:

Most of our children have gone home to spend Christmas with extended family by now.

We have ended 2015 with everyone healthy, and some really great school reports (not only on academic progress but also general behaviour), and some great testimonies.



One story - we have a 5 yr old in our residential centre - Mwajuma who, orphaned, was living in vulnerable circumstances with her teenage sister who is struggling herself to take care of her own very young baby. Mwajuma is deaf, and we have struggled to communicate with her, as we and she try to learn sign language together.

We are blessed to be able to afford health insurance for our children, so took Mwajuma for hearing tests at a good hospital. A couple of weeks ago, Mwajuma (on the left, with Sayruni) had a test with some sample hearing aids...she was able to hear for the first time in her life!!! The hearing aids were not her size, so the doctor removed them... Mwajuma cried and became angry, of course, and it is difficult to explain to her that she needs to have aids fitted to her exact size, and she WILL get them...she wants to be able to hear NOW!! She has been measured for the right size aids, which are being supplied from the USA by another NGO. They should arrive around March 2016 and this is will change her life dramatically!!

If she had stayed in the small village where she was living, far from the main road, she may never have had the opportunity to hear.



It's not always about the big things, like Kanuti going off to university, or David getting great results in his Primary School leaving exams. It's also about the other aspects of our children's lives...Mwajuma hearing; Iddy working hard to change his attitude; Ally realising that certain behaviour brings negative consequences; Vincent using his birthday money to buy a goat as an investment! These results excite us - our children are going to be able to function better in society, regardless of academic ability.

**SWTz Nursery:**

We have had a great year at the nursery school, and have continued to undertake social work in our local community through the school working with 47 students - this aspect of the work is one of the most needed programmes in our community.

Notably, Frida (right) and Kaposhi (from our residential centre) graduated. And Kaposhi, along with SWTz nursery student, Agripina, hope to receive scholarships to private primary school!! Great effort by our teachers, Eliza, Rose, and Neema, and our cook Happy, to prepare them for primary school!



We look forward to welcoming more new students in 2016!

**Finally:**

There was that trike... :)

