

## ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR...

*How are you? Life is full of ups and downs and we hope right now you are thriving. After some tough times during the worst of the Covid years we feel we are finally truly back on track. We have finally learnt to make tough decisions when change is required. Before, we would try and muddle through situations, sometimes taking months or even years to make the necessary changes. We are learning to be more responsive and not reactive to issues and needs. We are now better positioned to provide long term solutions to help people, and make a real difference to their lives, as opposed to short term relief. Wherever you are in the forever changing cycle of life, we hope you are doing well. Never stop learning!!*

As for what has been happening the past year - we recently finished our expedition season partnering with Nord Anglia Education, which runs from October to April. We're all ready for a rest, but it has been one of the best seasons ever, with wonderful feedback. And, of course, most importantly, we have been able to impact hundreds of Tanzanian students and families over the past 7 months.

Our other programs have also been going well, and growing. Let's take a look at what has been happening programme by programme:

### **Nord Anglia Education Expeditions**



Since October 2024, we have worked with 600 students, teachers, and leaders from 25 schools from Asia, the Middle East, Europe, the UK, and North, Central, and South America, spread over 12 expeditions.



So many stories to tell from the past few months, but in short, the impact both in Tanzania, and on the international students has been extraordinary this season. An extract from an email we received from a parent: "He came back speaking so highly of your organisation and of the work you're doing. He was deeply affected by some



of the stories he had heard from your staff about the sorts of challenges many Tanzanian children are facing." The students we work with are the leaders of industry and governments in the future. The opportunity to impact them in this way is huge, and can affect the future of the planet...



We have had two main programmes - a **service project**, building 4 classrooms (left), 80 desks, and a 15 stall girls toilet block at Ngongongare Primary School (a government run day school); and a **community project** working with 65 families, building goat sheds, installing solar systems, building a smokeless stove, and



providing a female milking goat.

Ngongongare Primary School desperately needed more classroom space, and the head mistress and staff have been thrilled with the new facilities and toilets. Clean toilets can improve students' health considerably, and the new classrooms look fabulous and will provide a great learning environment.

We have also been able to finish the last part of the Kiwawa Secondary School project, which we started building in 2019. It was a large empty field back then. Since then, we have built 6 classrooms (with 2 more added by the Tanzanian government), a laboratory block with 2 laboratories (one half built by the government); a toilet block; large administration block; and finally, we have just finished the two last buildings - a kitchen and HUGE dining hall with 3 adjoining storerooms. Kiwawa Secondary opened in January 2021. The dining hall was the last building we had committed to, and it will be used for years to come not only for lunches, but also for graduations, meetings, and so much more.



The 65 families we have worked with on the service project have been so thankful for the help they have received. One couple were in their late 90s, still as spry and healthy as youngsters couldn't have been more joyful to receive a milking goat. They lived in a tiny two room house which was falling down and dangerous - thanks to the generosity of the NAE



students, we were able to repair it so they have a stronger house, with level floors and a waterproof roof.



We were also able to finish off a half-built house for another couple. They were living in a small wooden house with damp mud floors due to underground springs, which was having a devastating effect on their health.

The goat shed community project has been running for over 10 years now, and we are hearing great testimonies from the families who have looked after their goats and bred successfully. From paying for their children's school fees to renovating their homes, to buying a cow to increase their income.



In addition, thanks to the generosity of NAE students we are providing sanitary protection to students at Ngongongare Secondary for 12 months; have provided food for

lunches at schools; given out huge amounts of stationery and school bags; bought toner cartridges for a school; provided sports equipment and team clothing; and done so much more...



### Childcare Programme

James (*below l*), Ally, and Zainab (*r*) got great O level results at the end of 2024. They had a long break before A level/college starts, so they undertook work experience on the NAE expeditions to earn some pocket money and get experience







at working with international students. They all excelled - Zainab ran one of the goat shed project components herself and also helped at the nursery, and Ally was a master at picking up building skills and being able to teach students. James is always a dependable hard worker. Ally and Zainab have now started A level studies and James will attend college to study tourism.

Frida also took and passed Form 2 national exams in late 2024. She spent a few weeks working at our nursery school, while waiting for results, and did a great job assisting teachers.

Veronica (*right with Baraka and Ayubu*), Dorcas, and Baraka are all in their final year of primary school and getting good marks. They have national exams in November.

Sarah takes her O levels in October, and Asha, Benjamin and Saruni will take their Form 2 exams in November. David, Arnold, and Mahija all finish university/college later this year.

They, plus Ayubu, Dorin, Mwajuma, and Jovin, Neema, and Doris, are all doing well. Everyone is visited regularly at school and home by our social worker Edita (who at one school received an award for being the best parent!).

We were thrilled to attend Zainab and James' graduation in October. Both won multiple awards for academics and behaviour, and Zainab bravely sang a solo in front of the school and special guests.

Mahija is on the final field trip for her tourism course, after which she graduates. David and Arnold are completing their final university exams in Dar es Salaam.

And...Mariam has finally left Seeway, after coming to us as a 4 yr old in 2008. She completed a tailoring course, and her lovely sponsors bought her a sewing machine (*she's making hats for our nursery graduation in the pic*). She has gone to live with her aunt, and is working with a neighbouring tailor. We wish her all the best for her future!



We are so thankful to our amazing sponsors who enable these precious children and young adults to receive a good education, health care, and the psychosocial support they need.

### **Nursery School and Special Needs Programme**

Our nursery and special needs program continues to thrive. Our new head teacher, Veneranda, is doing a fantastic job communicating with parents and staff morale has never been higher. Everyone is truly working as a team and it is always a delight to spend time there.



We are so proud of all our students, many of whom are overcoming major challenges in their lives. Our parents are seeing great progress in their children. One parent of a student in the special needs programme commented he did not realise his son was





capable of so much. Another parent had removed their child from the special needs programme as they did not want to invest (the small amount of donation we require) in their child.

Their doctor told them they need to bring their child back to us as he was making so much progress under our care...and he did return!



In the past year we have invested in more technology, so our teachers have access to online teachings to supplement their book-based curriculum. It is making a difference.

We have also had visits from different specialists to give training to our special needs teachers in different physiotherapy and chiropractic techniques.

### Mtoto Awe Salama (MAS): Child Rights Programme



There has been good progress on this programme, with some positive sessions at Ngongongare Primary where we have a group of mentors we meet with regularly to discuss various issues and interventions. The students take part in discussions and debate, and over the past few months we have seen them

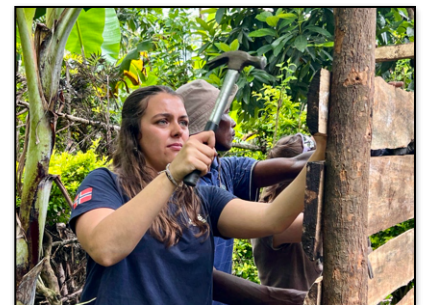
become bolder, understand more, and take action.

After discussions with teachers and students at the neighbouring Ngongongare Secondary school, we are expanding this programme and developing materials to focus on young teenage girls. The need is huge. The number of teenage girls dropping out of secondary school due to poverty and teenage pregnancy in this area is alarming.



### What Other News?

- There is always so much news, but this is becoming long, so we will end by again saying a huge thank you to staff, supporters, volunteers (*Martha right!*), and partner organisations....together we are literally changing the lives of thousands of children, teenagers, and adults in northern Tanzania, and we are so grateful to every one of you ❤️



*We are so thankful to each one of you for being part of making a difference in Tanzania!!*