



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM TANZANIA!

Wherever you are in the world, we hope you have had a great Christmas or New Year break - at least some time off from all the busyness in the world right now. We always close down for two or three weeks over the Christmas period. Children in the residential program go home to be with their families or close friends, and the nursery school closes for a month (it's the long summer holidays here). It's a great time for reflecting over the past 12 months and setting goals for the coming year.

2022 ended strong for us, and full of hope. A hope that has felt like it's been missing the past 2.5 years as we have struggled financially to make ends meet and have been in "survival mode". We are so thankful for the extra help we have received from other organisations and donors that have enabled us to keep going. We know many of you have gone through struggles of your own and everyone has a story to tell of how COVID or other world events have affected them. It feels like there is light at the end of the tunnel for us here in Tanzania though, as the world continues to open up, and we hope and pray the same for you.

It has been a very dry year here again, and many parts of northern Tanzania are now in severe drought and animals have been dying and crops failing. Our area has been in drought for several months now with the last two rainy seasons producing little, and the current rains again less than normal. At Seeway we get electricity just every other day (Tanzania relies heavily on hydro-electric power); and also water is only coming to the compound every other day too. It is manageable for us, we just need to be organised and fill containers when we do have water - we're thankful we have water at all, and we have food. Many don't right now and animals in particular have suffered. This eland lives near Rebecca & Wendy and struggles to find enough to eat each day.



Very exciting news - Nord Anglia Education expeditions have started up again! We had a couple of smaller expeditions with other Swiss schools earlier in the year, which helped to get the wheels moving again and gave us the opportunity to test out new ideas but now we're 1/4 way through a full season with NAE schools. We're back building at Kiwawa Secondary School - working on finishing the laboratory we started back in 2020, and we've started work on the dining hall and school kitchen. It's so exciting to be working with international school



teams and the lovely expedition leaders again. As well as mixing a lot of cement at Kiwawa we're also back out in the community working with families and building chicken and goat sheds, installing solar systems, and building fuel-efficient stoves. Being out in the community and helping people is the core of what SWTz is all about.

Some other news from the past few months:



•We were very sad to say goodbye to Martina who has worked with SWTz since first coming from Austria as a volunteer in 2016. Martina has been instrumental in setting up the ground-breaking special needs unit in Seeway Nursery School, as well as being a key member of our expedition project staff. She is still in Tanzania but pursuing other projects. She has brought positive change to so many lives here and is much missed at SWTz. We wish her well in her new endeavours.

- James broke two bones in his arm at school trying to copy a Ronaldo over-the-head kick! Ouch!! Fully healed now thankfully.



•We had a lot of visitors in the last part of 2022, now that travel is open and feels relatively safe again. These included Sarah being visited by Macon (*left*) and her mother Susan, Diane visiting Saruni, Maureen (*below*) coming to see our nursery program, Tanya and her parents, and finally Jasper (*pink shirt bottom left picture, page 1*) from Germany who



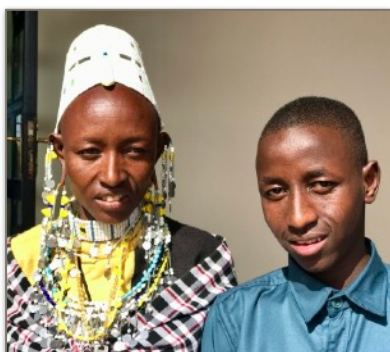
volunteered at SWTz for 2 months and made such a huge impact we didn't want to let him go!



•Neema (*left, in her aunt's shop*) and Doris (*with her aunt Gertrude*) are both doing so well at home since we repatriated them, and we keep in constant communication with them and their families. We are working hard to repatriate more children and reduce the number of children in the residential program. Things have changed a lot since we first started SWTz - in particular there has been a lot of investment into the Ministry of Social Welfare, and they are now able to do most of the work that, previously, NGOs like



SWTz were relied upon to do. There has also been investment into teaching families and communities responsibilities regarding childcare, and we've seen the need for residential care reduce considerably. Though we still have a few residential children, we have a beautiful facility which will have a lot of term-time space available in 2023 - we have some exciting ideas on how to use it that we hope to share soon with you!



•Three of our residential children had major events recently: Mahija (*right, with Fatuma and Mama John*) finished 'O' levels and graduated from secondary school (her stepsister Fatuma came up from Dar es Salaam, where she is a teacher, for the event). Kaposhi (*left, with his mum*) graduated from primary school. And Frida had her



confirmation at her church as well as graduating from primary school (in the picture, right, with her siblings).



•We continued in invest in our staff (left), sending them on counselling courses as well as some government run courses on child protection.

•Seeway Nursery held its annual graduation in December - graduates included 3 of our special needs students. We are so proud of every graduating student and wish them well as they continue on to primary school.



We have worked hard this past year on strengthening relationships with government bodies, in particular with regards to our work with our more challenged students. We plan to expand this part of the work when we can, as it is where one of the greatest needs in

education in Tanzania exists. The Tanzania president Samia Hassan recently cancelled Independence Day celebrations in December 2022, stating that the \$400,000 budget should be used to build dormitories for special needs students at 8 primary schools instead. We continue to be the only provider of special education at nursery level in our district, but the need far outweighs our capacity.

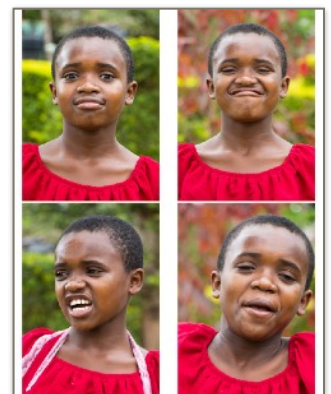


•Finally, here are some silly faces from Jasmine, the SWTz clown who keeps us laughing and reminds us to be silly

now and then...



We have survived the past 2.5 years because of the generosity and support of so many individual people, large and small organisations, churches, friends, and family. We are so grateful, and have been so humbled. It means everything to us, and we are blessed to see the results of lives changed here in Tanzania thanks to your giving. As a last story,



we recently met Mama Valerie who received one of our first goats and sheds from NAE, back in 2014 (when the picture was taken with Wendy). She has bred from her female goat since at least once a year, sometimes twice, and her goat has often delivered twins. Mama Valerie has been able to sell surplus offspring. Thanks to the goat project, she has been able to put all her kids through school, and always has nutritious goat milk to drink. A small investment can make a huge difference.



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