



NEWS FROM TANZANIA!

A bit late, but here’s a cool pic from our Easter weekend party, when we had all the residential children together and some very special guests visiting us too! It was wonderful to see Sarah and her beautiful children during their recent visit to Tanzania. Sarah was instrumental in setting up the goat project to help vulnerable families and it felt like old times as we discussed our new chicken project, and building techniques! Sarah contributed in so many ways to the work here, and she will always have a very special place in our hearts here.



How is your 2022 going? We have been bumbling along (“moving along at a leisurely pace”), though of course in reality there is always a LOT going on in the background here, with exciting plans coming together for some strategic changes to some of our programmes, and hopefully other plans going ahead to restart programmes that have been on hold during the COVID pandemic.

Some highlights from the past few months:



• Well, we started off the year right, when everyone came back from their Christmas breaks, with yummy ice cream and all the toppings - huge thanks to our lovely UK donor for this very special treat!

• We had a visit to our Special Education Unit by SEN educators from Arusha. Great to share what we do, and exchange ideas in this very new area of education in Tanzania!



• We delivered 25 desks and chairs to Kiwawa Secondary School for their new classrooms. Special thanks to donors from the USA for enabling us to have these made.

• We have been busy building chicken and goat sheds for several families. We had an adventure on one trip as the chickens managed to escape their temporary holding place while we built their new home, and we had to chase after them through fields, gardens, and even through houses 🤪🐔🏃 It took about 30 minutes to gather them together again! We are also providing seminars on the care of chickens, and how to keep them healthy. Our teacher, Mama Sam, shows families how to prepare medications using traditional ingredients.



- The SWTz Nursery School gate looks amazing, after talented local artist Charles got to work on it. It is traditional Tanzanian style and demonstrates our belief in inclusivity.



- We were blessed with lovely volunteers Amelie and Ilona who were with us for 3 months, and contributed so much at the nursery school. They also had the opportunity to help build a chicken shed! Thank you so much for coming here and giving so much of yourselves - it was very much appreciated, and we wish you both the best with your future plans.

- In March we had our first expedition visitors since March 2020. It was wonderful to catch up, and exciting to hear of plans for the future. We built a chicken shed together, had great conversations, and we look forward to seeing them back here and working together again soon.



- David Abraham graduated from A level college, and has just finished his A level exams. We were honoured to attend his graduation (here with Manager Neema). David has been a part of SWTz since he was 5 years old, and he has always been full of smiles, chat, and creative ideas, and it has been an honour to see him grow and mature into the amazing young man he is now. We look forward to continuing to watch his progress through life. He is thinking about joining the army as the next step, and looking at possible further study options.

- We recently worked with a small group of international students. We spent a couple of days plastering walls in one of the unfinished classrooms at Kiwawa Secondary School. It was fantastic to be mixing cement again, and working with inspirational young leaders of tomorrow!



- During the Easter break, one of our residential girls had the courage to tell us of abuse at her school (mainly excessive corporal punishment). We investigated immediately, found it to be true and have moved her to another school where caning and beating is NOT allowed. We are working together with other partners to report the offending school, but it is complicated and in a meeting at the school, Rebecca and Neema were verbally abused and threatened. Sadly, corporal punishment is not unusual in the education system both at primary and secondary level. There is a disturbing article here if you wish to learn more: <https://www.end-violence.org/articles/new-study-finds-high-levels-violence-against-children-tanzanian-schools>



- Finally, to end on a joyous note - we have celebrated so many birthdays recently, and eaten so much cake - including this amazing cake James received from his aunt for his 16th birthday!! Plus Ayubu was blessed with a late Christmas present...his smiles are infectious.

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

