

## **STUDENT PROGRESS: Education Funds at Work**

Congratulations to Rafael Komba, Didakusi Nguwila, Lucas Kaberege and Ivan Kayombo for successfully passing the national examination and being promoted to Secondary School. Two students, Ansira Mbilyini and Filbeta Haule have completed Form-IV Secondary Education. Ansira is joining Nursery Teaching College in Songea.

Recently some of our child sponsors read an article about the harsh punishment in primary and secondary schools in Tanzania. Songea's Kids asked Ramadhan Silim, Jirani Mwema CEO to give us feedback on their local situation. Even though this is in fact a big problem, he reported no Jirani Mwema kids face this abuse. The staff keeps very close watch on every student.



We are awaiting information from Songea Child Welfare about three very vulnerable orphans who will replace three who have graduated from the program. We will publish their profiles in our next newsletter to seek sponsors for so they will have basic and education needs met and a promising future.

## **ASANTE SANA! From Graduating Students**

Three students recently finished vocational training and their sponsors received thank you letters for making their education and training possible, equipping them to support themselves. **Dickson (below left)** wrote: "Dear Paul and Pat, This letter is to let you know I have completed mechanics training at Ngondo Vocational Training College. Now I want to join a certain garage in order to get more experience in practical work." **Scola (center)** expressed her thanks: "Dear Mary and Jim, It's a long time since you started helping me. I would like you to know that I have completed nursery school teacher training and am now a nursery teacher by profession." **Nelson Hangoli (right)** wrote to Karen: "I would like to thank you very much for supporting me since I was in primary school until now. I have completed two years of carpentry training at Msamala Vocational Training College. I am now a carpenter by profession and can live anywhere in my country or out of my country and support myself."

These sponsors transformed three lives. **You can do the same.** To become a sponsor, please contact Child Sponsor Coordinator Julie Nanda, [julien@songeaskids.org](mailto:julien@songeaskids.org) .



## SPOTLIGHT: Meet a Sponsor and Supported Child



Winnie Wiatrak, retired administrator for the Division of Children and Family Services in Washington State, continues to make a huge difference in the life of Irene, who is deaf and whose mother recently died. Irene would have a bleak future in poverty stricken southern Tanzania without the support of her sponsor. Winnie enables her to board at a school for deaf children, where she is surrounded by friends and is academically at the head of her class.

Now that Irene has no family, Winnie has committed to continuing support for Irene, including naming her in her Will. The school will not only educate Irene, but teach her vocational skills. Winnie also supports a second child, Anastasia. Thank you Winnie!

## CHICKENS, CHICKENS, AND MORE CHICKENS: Update

The Jirani Mwema chicken project continues to be a success beyond our greatest dreams. Chickens recently added to increase the size of the flock have begun to lay eggs, which are shared with our sponsored children. The eggs help to improve their diet, as well as provide them with important nutrients. Before the chicken project, eggs were not available to the children and they had little source of protein. Excess eggs are sold to produce income to support three areas: the chicken project continuation and expansion, a reserve fund to support the child caregiving program, and an education fund to help pay some of the education costs of the students.



## SONGEA SOIREE 2016 BEST YET: Soiree 2017 is November 4<sup>th</sup>

YOU made the Songea Soiree 2016 "Grow the Circle" the most successful annual event to date. Attendance nearly doubled, and net income increased 50% over the previous year. You supported the children by purchasing over 70 unique silent auction items and 9 amazing live auction choices. Attendees said this was our best auction yet, and they really enjoyed the evening! Here are comments from one attendee, Tina: *"The Songea's Kids Soiree was a lovely event last Sat, & I'm now the proud owner of a beautiful Tanzanian necklace, handmade bowl & antique letter opener. The slide shows &*



*speeches were very moving- -it's clear the group makes a difference in the daily lives of and future opportunities for these orphans—drilling two water wells, providing medical supplies, building new housing, facilitating higher education & involving villagers in the projects through mentoring & teaching them building skills. One of the pro bono architects from Seattle took her 13 y.o. son with her. He raised enough money through his own Go Fund Me page to bring medicines, games, real soccer balls and even laptops to the kids! I'm proud to have participated this summer collecting needed medications and supplies."*



From Linda Hines, Songea's Kids Board President: *"I was taken by surprise and humbled by the number of people who made a \$100 donation in my honor. I am so grateful for these extra funds to help the children."*

MANY THANKS to all of you who attended and donated live and silent auction items. You helped pay January school tuition for the orphans, and enabled some construction to begin at Hope Village.

Lastly, a special **thank you** shout out to all the volunteers who planned, set up, monitored and cleaned up afterward, and who created the slide show and the **new video** (see the video on our home page at [www.songeaskids.org](http://www.songeaskids.org).)

Mark your calendar for **Songea Soiree 2017, November 4, 5pm, Redmond Senior Center**. YOU are invited to **join the planning team** for this Soiree. Share your creativity, enthusiasm and excitement to help the orphans and villagers by taking on just one task. Invite a friend to work with you on the team.

Contact Linda Hines at [lindah@songeaskids.org](mailto:lindah@songeaskids.org) or attend the first **planning meeting Saturday, March 25, 9:30 AM** at the Issaquah Holiday Inn.

Do you have attractive items to donate for the November auction?

Consider creating an enticing **gift basket**—we hope to fill an entire table of colorful, fun baskets!



## **ROTARY SUPPORT: Sammamish and Emerald City**



A generous \$10,000 grant from **Sammamish Rotary** will enable construction to begin this year on the first classroom at Hope Village. It will be converted to the Health Care Center when a second classroom is built. **Ramiro Valderrama and CJ Kahler (left)** of the Sammamish Rotary International Committee hold the latest drawings by architect Gladys Ly-Au Young of Sundberg Architectural Initiatives.

**Emerald City Rotary** awarded a grant of \$3,500 to enable accelerated brick making on the site. These grants bring great joy and excitement to our Tanzania partner Hope Village Organization and the Lutukira villagers, especially the older youth who are able to apprentice for their first employment ever as brick makers. Successful drilling of a deep well on site in June 2016 makes construction possible.



## **VOLUNTEER WITH US: Take a Trip You Will Love and Remember**

**Get ready for an adventure in 2018!** All the USA volunteers who have traveled to Tanzania agree they are successful, exhilarating and life changing trips—a once in a lifetime experience. Many strategy meetings, time with the orphaned kids, and visits to their homes and schools fill the days. Before going home, volunteers can celebrate by going on a brief, low-cost safari to Ruaha National Park—a magical experience. Volunteers pay their own way for these trips. **Will you be a volunteer traveler in 2018?**

**And join us for the biggest event of the year, our 2017 Songea Soiree – Grow the Circle?** Join us for a fun, all inclusive evening with updates from Songea’s Kids volunteers who have just returned from Tanzania.

### **2017 “GROW THE CIRCLE”**

**What:** Songea’s Kids Fundraising Dinner and Auction

- Silent/Live Auctions
- Dinner and Beverages All-Inclusive

**Who:** We invite YOU to join us!

**When:** Saturday, November 4 5:00-8:00 pm

**Where:** Redmond Senior Center  
8703 160<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
Redmond, WA 98052

**Why:** Help Transform Orphans’ Lives

- Clean Water
- Healthy Food
- Safe Housing
- Education
- Self-sufficiency

**Tickets:** TBA



### **CONSIDER WAYS YOU CAN HELP SONGEA’S KIDS AND INVITE OTHERS TO SUPPORT US**

- |                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| ❖ Become a Child Sponsor         | ❖ Donate to the Education Fund                |
| ❖ Give Gifts of Stocks and Bonds | ❖ Join the Volunteer Team                     |
| ❖ Make a Legacy Bequest          | ❖ Ask your company to provide a matching gift |



Designate Songea’s Kids as your favorite charity to receive support **at no cost to you**. Every dollar counts for the kids. We receive a donation of **0.5%** of eligible purchases you make on their site. Visit [here](#) to sign up. It’s easy!

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3020 Issaquah Pine Lake Rd. SE #539, Sammamish, WA 98075

EIN #51-0649064