

Issue 7
October 2024

Welcome to Let Them Shine

*Welcome to our
NEWSLETTER*

UPDATES

Anthony Summersell

Welcome to our latest newsletter, published on our website and emailed to sponsors and supporters. There is a lot going on.

The Children

continue to thrive at the Centre.

Nineteen will progress to primary school in January with their spaces backfilled.

The 39 sponsored

children at primary and secondary schools will move up a year too.

During a recent visit it was clear our 5 staff work brilliantly as a team to deliver high-quality all-round care. There's a great vibe with happy children all over the place.



Proper health registration and insurance will shortly be introduced for the children and Ester (Head Teacher) is going to make sure all families are aware, so they act quickly on ailments unimpeded by cost worries which are usually beyond them to resolve. Furthermore, we are looking to fund and introduce a Welfare role to expand our capability in making sure all children, but particularly those at primary and secondary schools with whom we have less regular contact, are monitored frequently to identify and act on any issues, be they health, personal or family related. This will be a really beneficial addition to the support we provide.

The number of children staying overnight at the Centre is increasing. They were delighted with their new pyjamas; something that's hard to buy in Tanzania. Previously they slept in their casual clothes. They also enjoy reading



and playing with toys in the evening. I must confess the photos were taken slightly before bedtime, hence the daylight. They don't turn in until about 9pm, which is quite late for three year olds.



At home the children have no toys at all so taking two suitcases stuffed with Duplo Lego was a massive success. After a slight hesitation everyone got stuck in making this, that and the other. They enjoyed it so much that quite a few didn't want to go home that day.



We also replaced the outdoor swings and reinstated the seesaws. Ester found a shop selling new seats and ropes, and our Fundi (odd job man) Torqoi sourced a couple of trees and some 3 X 2 timber. I



introduced him to a spirit level and three days (!) later we had a decent looking set up. Needless to say the swings and seesaws are very much enjoyed at playtimes and in the evenings.

In an attempt to save the planet and cooks' lungs, the government has issued an order stating open fires must no longer be used for cooking in schools. As things stand all meals are cooked on an open fire. It's a noble aspiration, thankfully with no timeline. In future we intend to switch to gas for smaller meals - breakfast and evening dinner. The quantities of food cooked at lunchtime are so vast that we will continue with a proper fire for now.

Although the Children's Centre is a pre-school, the teachers still implement the national curriculum for 3,4 and 5 year olds. This is



overhauled from January, with much less emphasis on traditional classroom tuition to a wider focus on learning through play, health, exercise, environmental and social responsibility. We support the change as it embraces what we've

been doing at the Centre since 2016.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND OUTING 2024

Many of you will know we raise money for a lovely Christmas lunch and presents for the children. Last year was so successful that additionally we were able to renovate much of the Centre during the holidays.

This year we're planning the usual lunch, but also exploring the cost of taking the children to the Arusha national park. It's worth remembering the children very rarely leave the villages. A similar trip



in 2018 was a great success, albeit with about a third of the children we have now. We will also buy Christmas clothing and new school uniforms. More to follow.

REPORTING

We have started sharing reports and pictures of sponsored children with their sponsors this month and will run through into December. We are slightly behind – apologies!

MEET MESHACK

There is never a visit to Lukani without getting the heads up of a child in trouble. This time it was a family living very close to the Centre. The poverty was intense! The 'house' is made of sticks and mud, has a tin roof, a mud floor with no furnishings that you could recognize. Three-year-old Meshack lives with his little sister along with his parents.



I need write no more other than to say Meshack (and next year his sister) needs a sponsor. You can change his life.

Twist someone's arm for £25 a month... <https://www.letthemshine.org/donate>

MR MASHOYA NATAI

'We thank God from where we are starting in 2024 until now, we are doing very well. We have 53 children at the Center, 26 girls and 27 boys, with many more at primary and secondary schools. 19 children are well prepared to start primary education next year. They are well served with clothes, food and studies, they have shown that they are happy all the time. It is clear those who live in the Centre that they enjoy being there more than at their home and this makes us very proud that our service is good.

On behalf of the entire community of this Center, I would like to express my gratitude to the Let Them Shine charity and all those who sponsored the children at the Centre. The results of your love are beginning to be seen and it is our belief that the children will be a blessing and benefit to our community in their society and the whole nation'.

YOUR MONEY

All our administration, travel and other costs are met personally. Just a reminder that all sponsorship income received is sent in full to the Centre around the middle of the month. Salaries and food are our biggest expenses.

YOUR FEEDBACK

We never know whether you receive the right amount of information, too little or too much. Please feel free to let us know. In fact, please get in touch with any feedback, thoughts, or suggestions.

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**Let Them Shine is a registered
charity - number 1142281**