

Sollerud Kindergarten Tanzania

Introduction

Sollerud Kindergarten Tanzania is a very good example on how Ilula Orphan Program (IOP) give priority to Education & Care. It was a big step toward the vision “New standard of living for the Tanzanian Community “when this fantastic service in education was introduced.

With the exciting high school Lord Hill IOP have and the new Primary School Sunflower, now just started to be constructed, IOP will in 2018 cover the complete education chain from kindergarten to high school. This puts IOP in a unique situation to help the region in the most important target – education.

Number of Kids at SKT

Sollerud Kindergarten Tanzania has been one of the important milestones for Ilula Orphan Program and the community members in Ilula and nearby villages, whose thirst for quality education service have been an issue. The school opened on 18TH January 2016 with 27 children. The number of children has been increasing monthly, even in the high season for agriculture where people usually use their money in the agricultural activities. Things do change and ideas do change. The parents are looking for this good opportunity. The number of children has grown up to 100. More will come as they have booked for the space for their children to come and learn different things. We thank donors for their great support and the parents for their great trust in IOP's great work on changing the lives of people. No change can happen without intensively investing in quality education and facilities.

Inside of the building

The school has 4 attractive furnished classrooms, with learning material for the children to learn by seeing, touching and doing. It is the first kindergarten in this area to have such high standard teaching and learning environment



Some kids sitting at the reception looking towards the entrance door



Children sitting in the classroom

Teaching

Sollerud Kindergarten Tanzania uses the Dr. Maria Montessori teaching methodology, which is helping many children to learn and adapt to the environment quickly. The school has different visual teaching and learning materials. The school has different audio materials for the purpose of learning quickly. Many locally-made materials are available for easy understanding. Children are taught in English as its medium of instruction and Kiswahili as a compulsory subject to teach. Different people are invited to be part of this very important process for making children learn. The teaching staffs are educated and competent in Montessori Teaching Methodology!

“We learn from each other”, is a small teaching plan in an agreement between Sollerud barnehage in Norway and Sollerud Kindergarten Tanzania, to learn/exchange from each other by putting the subjects: A) Social Competence, B) Culture and Cultural Exchange, C) Play, D) Language, E) Body and Movement and F) Nature into their respective teaching plans regulary.

In Tanzania they learn about the nature in Norway, and the other way round.

Outdoor playing field

Sollerud Kindergarten Tanzania has an outdoor playing unit which is new and modern to our environment. It is this uniqueness that makes the children feel more comfortable to have a place to play when having the break time. Thanks to the supporters for this important arrangement and structure.

Official Opening day

The official opening of the school took place March 3rd, 2016. The guest of honor was the Norwegian Ambassador to Tanzania, Hanne Maria Kaarstad. There were many guests from inside and outside Tanzania. Many IOP friends and the donors from Norway participated during this important event.

School Bus

IOP are making changes and bring important and unique things to the life of the Ilula community, and finds that it's possible and encouraging for the children to come to school by bus. The bus facilitates and motivates the parents and children themselves to go to SKT and learn. Children have extended hours to be at school and learn. Parents have more time to do economic activities while having great time with children in the evening. IOP hired a school bus for two months while making fundraising activities to buy its own bus. A bus was bought in May 2016, mainly paid, by Synnøve and Ole Kolstø, Marita Myklebust, and their families and friends in Norway. The bus costed 26,000USD. Thanks to all who made the bus be available!



Young Mothers Empowerment Centre (YMEC)

The centre has recruited 16 young mothers in 2016, who were at YMEC for one year in a program learning different things, and they attended the session three days per week. Another 20 will be recruited in 2017. They are trained on child development, nutrition issues, life skills, entrepreneur, microfinance, business trainings, health and reproductive, gender and leadership. Most of the young mothers (aged between 15 and 21 years) have children who need care all the time, and thus during classes the children stay with them in the classroom, which is a big challenge. Now IOP also ask for sponsors for these children, so that they can stay in the Kindergarten while the mothers are trained in business.



To use this nice building for both Preschool and YMEC is great, and will contribute greatly towards IOP's Vision: *New standard of living for the Tanzanian Community*.

The centre is acting as an important Women Information Center as well by empowering girls (Single Young Mothers) to fully achieve health and life skills development. These are guided by the Ministry of Community Development, Gender and Children which sets the standards for handling Single Young Mothers and Youth in particularly. The life that these single young mothers, who are mostly secondary school dropouts, have is really putting their children at the highest risk to face big future challenges. Different stakeholders and interested partners are invited to come and be part of empowering this growing community in our area!

Donors

The idea to build a new Kindergarten at IOP came up in 2013 by Berit Skaare and Kim Ueland (a Norwegian volunteer at IOP 2012/2013) . Kim brought the idea to Sollerud barnehage in Oslo, and they then initiated a collection of funds, where late KFUK KFUM Global came in, and made a guarantee for full financing, and construction started March 3. 2015.

Kim's family and their friends in Eigersund, also Kims father Osmund, took a big responsibility in collecting funds to help Sollerud barnehage. Kim's family later also collected funds for furniture, paving and bus to the new kindergarten.

New standard of living for the Tanzanian Community!