

# ILULA ORPHAN PROGRAM



## AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER

### *The events are:*

- ✓ Sunflower Construction
- ✓ MinI - Marathon
- ✓ Norway Ladies Party
- ✓ Legal Aid Training
- ✓ Iringa Trip with Center Girls

### SUNFLOWER CONSTRUCTION

IOP is excited to share with the IOP community around the World on the construction of our newest educational facility, Sunflower Primary School. Located near Sollerud Kindergarten. The school will have 14 classrooms and an administration office which will serve the children of the Ilula community and Tanzania. Construction, which began in June 2017, will consist of 3 phases and will take 2 years to complete. The first 6 classrooms will open in January of 2018 for new students, as the registration process and recruitment has already started.

Funding for this project was provided by IOP Luxembourg's partner, Christian Solidarity International Organization in Luxembourg. The assembling of Sunflower Primary School will be finalized in June of 2019, in which all classrooms will



be utilized and new teachers will be hired to provide educational empowerment to the Tanzanian Community.

## IOP MIN- MARATHON

On Saturday, August 12 IOP Center held their 5<sup>th</sup> annual marathon. Organized by the center's own mini marathon committee led by chairperson and founder Berit Skaare, the event was a 5 kilometer run around the Ilula Community. In an effort to promote physical fitness and health awareness, students, IOP staff members, and other community members came together to enjoy a day of exercise and fun. The race was also a chance to encourage Ilula children to participate in athletic activities and help support healthy lifestyles.

The event was a huge success, attracting 110 participants including some of our favorite international volunteers. Those who ran were offered contributions by friends, family, and others in the community to raise money for the IOP library. Raffles were also purchased and winners were awarded a variety of prizes such as a bicycle, mattress, smartphone, an electric heater, and a goat. All proceeds were allocated to IOP's Holland House of Books which will help fund the library's supplies, electricity, maintenance and other necessities.

Human resources officer Ajolon Mgeveke was thrilled with the success of the event and would like to extend his appreciation to all those who participated and contributed to the advancement of the Ilula community. He would like to send an extra special thanks to the Dutch group who were at IOP visiting during the month of August. Their participation, enthusiasm,





and support greatly influenced the spirit of the mini-marathon and made the participants so happy to have them as part of our IOP team.

## NORWAY LADIES PARTY



On August 19, the Ueland family, with Marita as responsible and the chief cook, hosted a benefit to raise funds for much needed improvements to the IOP Center. The all-women's party was held in Egersund and had 200 ladies attendants. All those invited were loyal friends of IOP and Ueland family, who first became connected with the center in 2012 when Osmund's son Kim volunteered for 7 months. During his stay Kim and

his family helped to rebuild the chicken house. 2 years later, they donated more than half for the construction of Sollerud Kindergarten, including furniture's, paving and a bus.

IOPs own Tamari Moto was invited to attend the big lady party, and provided musical entertainment as she sang to all of her guests. To show her appreciation for IOP she also shared her personal story of the centers support of her education and growth over the past 11 years. Tamari was provided schooling and housing by IOP and in 2012 became an employee. For 5 years she has been an important member of the IOP team as the Assistant Volunteer Coordinator traveling between Tanzania and Norway. In 2014, Tamari was hired to work for the Communication for Change program at the Norwegian University where she stayed for 3 years.

Guests of the party enjoyed delicious food and great company as they all came together for an important cause. The Ladies Party raised NOK 130,000 total. NOK 50,000 will be allocated to paving the inside gate entrance of the center, and NOK 80,000 will fund improvements and additions to the kitchen.

We would like to thank all who attended and donated in an effort to make IOP Center even better. Your generosity is very much appreciated. We extend a very special thank you to the Ueland family and friends, whose commitment and dedication to IOP has made some many things possible. Asante sana!

## LEGAL AID TRAINING

IOP hosted a paralegal training in an effort to educate the community about legal issues that involve their safety and protection. Organized by project manager Gerald Gabriel, Head of Most Vulnerable Children Department, the meeting attracted 42 men and women within the community seeking legal advice. The training was directed by members of WLAC (Women's Legal Aid Center). Participants were trained on legal matters pertaining to land, marriage, inheritance, child welfare, and human rights issues.

Through this training, community's representatives became familiar with their legal rights and liberties and learnt about the resources that could provide legal assistance when needed. Gerald believes this





training had a positive impact on community members who attended; as they became ‘empowered with knowledge’ about relevant concerns that will further protect the citizens of Ilula.

## TRIP WITH THE CENTER GIRLS (*By Lindsay Mattone From Hawaii*)

Saturday, 29th of August, was a day filled with surprises for the 34 girls living at the IOP Center. The 12 volunteers who were at the center at that time had arranged a surprise trip!

We all went with the IOP school bus to Iringa Town, and our first stop was Boma House. At this museum the girls and volunteers got a guided tour, and we all learnt a lot of new things about the history, nature and culture in the Iringa region – we even got the chance to try different types of local cloths and old tools for preparing food.

After one and a half hour at Boma House it was time for using some energy at the playground, before we went to Mama Iringa for lunch. Mama Iringa gave all the IOP girls pizza, chips, water and biscuits for free – and for many of them it was their first time to try real Italian pizza! We all really enjoyed our food, and some of us had so much to eat that we had to take a small nap in Mama Iringa’s garden, before we travelled to our next destination.

The finally stopped for the day at Magic Site, a small zoo with local animals. We were divided into groups, and went with guides to see the animals close up. During the tour we practiced both the English

and Kiswahili words for the different animals in the zoo. As an extra surprise, there was also a playground at Magic Site, and the girls spent the rest for their energy there before we went back to Ilula. In the bus back home almost everyone was sleeping with a smile on their faces. We all agreed that it was a good Saturday, and we were thankful for spending it together



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If you would like more information about projects and/or sponsoring opportunities, please contact;

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***Prepared by Lindsay Mattone , Enicka and Tamari***