

www.ioptanzania.org

F:ioptanzania

T:ioptanzania

I:ioptanzania



Ilula Orphan Program (IOP)

P. O Box 151,

Mazombe, Iringa

admin@ioptanzania.org

We are excited to share IOP events and projects worked on during the month of December. Enjoy reading, dear friends

Articles:

- ✓ Pre-School Graduations
- ✓ Celebration Lunch for Education and Culture Department
- ✓ Girls trip to Riverside Valley Campsite
- ✓ Christmas Party
- ✓ Advocating for Democratic Justice on 16 days of Gender Based Violence

PRE-SCHOOL GRADUATIONS



The end of the school year was getting closer; this meant that also the children's graduation was getting closer at Sollerud and Kid's Corner pre-schools. The graduation at Sollerud started at



10 am on December 6. Although starting somewhat late, many guests showed up, and the event was very successful. The occasion also marked an important step in the children's education, as they are now officially prepared to attend primary school next school year. The importance of the occasion was evident in many songs, dances, plays, and speeches performed and given by both the children, teachers, parents and the



Guest of Honour. In addition, the graduating children demonstrated the school's learning techniques through using Montessori materials in front of teachers and parents. On Friday the 7th of December, it was Kid's Corner's turn, and it similarly to Sollerud, it was an event characterized by

dancing, singing and happiness. The children even performed an impressive and entertaining dance to the music of King Africa's La Bomba. When the fundraising started, a big cake was brought in, and while many parents and guests contributed, the children seemed to enjoy the delicacy. Further, the kids of both preschools got an official certificate of graduation, followed by several gifts and awards. After the long, but rewarding ceremonies, both events were closed by a big meal served to all children and attending guests.

CELEBRATION LUNCH FOR EDUCATION CULTURE DEPARTMENT



Starting with a Polonaise parade to Johan Strauss' "Radetzky March", all staff involved in the Educational and Culture Department arrived at IOP. Teachers and staff from Kids' Corner, Sollerud Kindergarten, Sunflower Primary School and The Lord's Hill High School made up the attendances. Starting with some formalities such as speeches and

words of thanks, the lunch was off to a good start. A short quiz was organized, with a variety of questions about geography, politics, logistics, and of course IOP. After warming up the guests with this quiz, the three course menu started with a vegetable soup. For the main course the attendances could choose between chicken and fish *filet* (*surprisingly: NO BONES!*). The lunch was finished with a delicious waffle topped with cream, strawberry jam and chocolate. The food seemed to be very well received by all invitees, as the plates returned to the kitchen empty and clean.



Furthermore, one employee got some extra attention; namely Mohamed Fute the bus driver from Sollerud Kindergarten as he was considered both hardworking, and focused on problem-solving and cooperation. He did an outstanding job as a driver, working over hours when needed, as well as that he was positive and helpful towards his colleges and the children. In conclusion, the lunch marked and celebrated another

successful year of IOP education, and the guests enjoyed the formality and chicness of the event.

GIRLS' TRIP TO RIVERSIDE VALLEY CAMPSITE



At 9am on Wednesday the 12th, 2018 the girls at the IOP Center were ready to leave for a daytrip to River Valley Campsite. The mood in the bus was good, which could be heard through the girls' singing voices during the whole 30 minute bus drive. Once arrived at their destination, the girls couldn't wait to get out of the bus and greet their day guides and the friendly dog that accompanied them. The

day then started with a tour of the campsite, starting with a trip to the highest point of the area. The view showed incredible surroundings, a lot of green plants, and a river running through bushes. After seeing the stunning view, the group to see this from nearby. Passing through the coffee plants and banana trees growing in the region, they alongside the beautiful river to the journey's last



with
the
went

hiked
stop;



a stunning view over the river and its backdrops. There were also many rocks surrounding the river, on which the girls could playfully walk and jump. After some time, the journey back followed, with many of the smaller girls being carried by the older ones. Once returned to the starting point of the tour, the girls ate lunch consisting of meat,

potatoes, waffles, bananas and peanuts. This seemed to recharge their energy levels, and after lunch all girls ran excitedly to the playground nearby. When announcing the trip back home, only smiling faces could be seen entering the yellow Sollerud bus, which completed the enjoyable trip successfully.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday the 16th of December was a special day here at the IOP Center; it was the annual Christmas party for the girls and Ilula United Methodist Church. All had dressed up in their new and pretty dresses, the members from UMC, volunteers, and some of the staff was there to celebrate as well. In the beginning, everyone was given a "Santa Claus hat" to wear during the celebration. You could see that people appreciated it and thought it was much fun. After the welcome words, the girls went up in the front to sing some songs. It was a happy day.



Because of different nationalities, it was explained a bit about how each country celebrates Christmas and about the holiday and traditions in Sweden, Norway, USA and Tanzania.

Songs and speeches were happening, but also trivia and games for entertainment. First of was the trivia for all the children, later on for the adults. All the questions were about Christmas and Christianity. It was nice to see, hear and share the knowledge to everyone. Then it was the time for a tasting-game for the children. They got split up into three groups, where they had to send one blindfolded person at the time to try to taste something. The selected person had to go back to the group and show/explain what he/she had tasted. It was fun to hear what they guessed, also when the groups answered different things. The girls also performed a beautiful play, which was about how Jesus Christ was born.



Then it was time for the story from BB Berit. She talked a bit more about the Christmas in Norway, where she also mentioned how much everyone gets taken care of during this holiday. Not only the people but also animals. Even the smallest ones, like the mice. Therefore, she started singing one of the most famous Christmas songs In Norway, "Musevisa", with some help from Lovisa Petersson (CFC-participant). Since the lyrics were in Norwegian, Pastor Upendo showed up to help translate so everyone could understand.



The evening ended with delicious food and drinks, gifts for the guest who does not live at IOP, followed by an evening gathering with songs and prayers. All concluded, the whole celebration was a big success.

ADVOCATING FOR DEMOCRATIC JUSTICE ON 16 DAYS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

On 13th and 14th, December 2018 Ilula YWCA advocated for gender justice on campaigning for 16 days of Gender Based Violence. The theme was **Hear Me Too**; where by 150 people attended the event. YWCA of Tanzania at the head quarter in Dar es Salaam sent a well and experienced gender activist named Martina Kabisama.



The objectives of the event were to create awareness on the concept of gender based violence, sensitize the community to act on issues of GBV and what steps to take and where to go if you have been a victim of GBV. The campaign was conducted in over two days where by the first day participants got to know each other. The trainer began with explaining the concept of gender and gender based violence in general. Also there were victims of GBV who narrates their stories as you will read one of the stories at the end of this article. Different people were invited, The Officer Commanding District, the gender desk from the police station, Community Development Officers, District Community Development Officer, Village Chair person, The representative of Farm For The Future Tanzania Limited, beneficiaries of the community empowerment project peace makers VICOBA (Village Community Bank) groups, Young single Mothers, Masai women from peace makers adult education and beneficiaries of Boresha Afya project.



The guest of honor was Regional Community Development Officer. The event ended with some

resolutions from the invited participants, that people who received this training will be ambassadors to the community to educate others about GBV, also whenever they see or hear anything considering the act of GBV to either a neighbor or at school, they will report it quickly and be ready to cooperate by being a witness up to the court. During the speech from the OCD, He said: *"One of the challenges of GBV victims is fear of the law and the consequences of reporting the GBV act to the police. Many are reluctant and scared to report to the police because they think their husband or a neighbor may go to jail. Sometimes they go to the police and report it but when the case proceeds to the court, some are scared to go and witness what they have already reported to the police. Or some start negotiations outside the law while the case is either in the police or at the court"*. Furthermore the guest of honor said the community needs to raise voices for whoever is practicing GBV and stop paint GBV act in the name of culture.

A survival of GBV case

One woman aged 31 has six children. Her husband refused to cooperate with her in using family planning methods. One time she tried to use a loop hole. When the husband found out about it, she was badly bitten. She reported to the police and to the social welfare. The husband apologized for it, but he insisted that he doesn't want and he will never allow his wife to use any contraceptive for family planning. So the woman decided to use it secretly because she knows life is very difficult and having many children is a burden to her. She refused to sit and be a victim. She is responsible for her life and she is advocating for family planning for women and it is also her Human Right.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

IOP Tanzania

Edson: edson.msigwa@ioptanzania.org

IOP Netherlands

Annelies: info@iopnederland.nl

| | |
|----------------|--|
| IOP Norway | Ingunn: iop.norge@gmail.com |
| IOP Luxembourg | Helen: helen.clarke@sunflower.lu |
| IOP USA | Stepanie: stephaniegraber07@hotmail.com Or Ron: porterronaldj@gmail.com |
| IOP Italy | Deborah and Massino: iopitalia@gmail.com |
| IOP Denmark | Lenne: iop.denmark@gmail.com |
| IOP Sweden | Annica : annicarenberg@hotmail.com |
| IOP Germany | Irma & Jos: iopgermany@gmail.com |