April 2025
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# Cause of Our Joy

A PERIODIC PUBLICATION FROM HOPE FOR TANZANIA

# MAKING MIRACLES HAPPEN

## Stories about providing hope to the hopeless in Tanzania

Edward Mlelwa is a 15-year-old with cerebral palsy. He has issues with his lower limbs including muscle spasms. While he can speak and comprehend, he has been confined to his house for his entire life and has never attended school or church.

His impoverished parents sought the assistance of witchcraft and did not see any value in sending him to school. They hid him away from the community. An INUKA Rehabilitation Hospital ("INUKA") team visiting the area discovered that even his neighbors were unaware of his disabilities. Unfortunately, many disabled people like Edward are hidden from the community out of embarrassment.



***Edward Receiving Care***

While he was outside cooking, Edward was discovered by a neighbor who led the INUKA team to him. After discussions, his parents agreed to bring Edward to INUKA with the local pastor facilitating his transportation to the hospital. He is now a beneficiary of the Hope for Tanzania ("HFT") established Huruma Fund. "Huruma" means "compassion" in Swahili and through the generosity of HFT's donors, people like Edward now receive the treatment they desperately need.



***Eda and Her Mother***



***Eda Walking***

Eda Komba is 10 years old and is suffering from severe scoliosis and microcephaly (i.e., an abnormally small head for her age). She lives with her mother who has taken her to several hospitals for help. As time passed, Eda's medical conditions worsened but her mother could no longer afford her increased medical care. Eda's mother sought out INUKA even before hearing about the beneficial rehabilitation options that the hospital offers. Upon meeting the INUKA team, she tearfully pleaded for help saying, "I can't afford to pay for anything. Please help me."

The heart-wrenching story of Eda and her severe spinal condition highlights the urgent need for support and resources for families in Tanzania facing similar challenges. Eda is now at INUKA and, like Edward, is also a beneficiary of the Huruma Fund.

# RECENT NEWS

The progress made thanks to all of you!

In July 2024, we kicked off our 2024 - 2025 fundraising campaign with a goal of $270,000 and Our Lord and Our Lady blessed us once again through the generosity of all of you! Through April 15, 2025, $308,000 has been raised. Please be assured that any extra funds will be put to good use as the need is great at INUKA.

Our 2024 - 2025 projects for staff housing, water system upgrades, and operational improvements are swiftly proceeding toward completion. The pictures on this page show just how quickly your donations turn into tangible improvements at INUKA as Fr. Nestor Mtweve, INUKA's Manager Director, and his team do not waste time! The operational improvements represent a different type of project as it includes building up a farm operation to help feed the families being housed for rehabilitation services and also to generate some income.



***New Staff Housing Currently Under Construction***



***The Cow Shed is Built and has New Tenants!***

**INUKA's challenge is to build an operating footprint that leads to a sustainable business model.** The goal is to be able to breakeven from a cash flow basis so that they do not need to rely on subsidies from any government, NGO, or charitable organization in Tanzania or outside the country. It is not an easy task when your patients have a limited ability to pay for services and you want to pay adequate salaries to attract and retain professional medical personnel. HFT's infrastructure support has allowed INUKA to offer more services that people will pay for. Investments in the outpatient clinic, surgical center, rehab services, and income generating businesses have strategically aided the efforts to attain this goal.



***Constructing a New Water Storage Tank***

**Additional recent new developments are as follows:**

- Bishop Kyando of the Diocese of Njombe recently approved adding HFT Board President, Steve Obendorf, to the INUKA board of directors. HFT Medical Director, Dr. Ken Sanders, is also invited to attend the meetings as a nonvoting guest. Both Steve and Dr. Ken attended their first INUKA board meeting on January 15, 2025.
- On January 21, Fr. Nestor, Dr. Ken, and Steve attended a Zoom meeting with key members of the Medical Doctors Association mission team. This Catholic organization reviewed INUKA's application to host future medical mission doctors; the next step is to visit INUKA. The goal is for INUKA to begin hosting medical missions in 2026.
- HFT has recently added a monthly recurring donation option to its website. Please scan the QR code below if you would like to set up a recurring donation.

On behalf of Fr. Nestor and the men, women, and children in Tanzania, thank you so very much; or, as they say in Swahili, "asante sana!"

DONATE

SCAN ME

Checks to:

Hope for Tanzania, Inc.
c/o Edward P. Graham
1730 Park St Suite 200B
Naperville, IL 60563

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Fr. Nestor will be present at HFT's special donor event at Cress Creek Country Club on September 26th. We encourage all who receive this letter to note the date and join us in hearing about Father's plans for 2026.**