HOPE for Tanzania

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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

Elisha and Godfrey Mchena are two children who live just outside of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.Their difficulties are hard to imagine as both live in poverty and with dystonic and spastic tetraplegia cerebral palsy, respectively. This means that Elisha, 11, is unable to walk or write and that Godfrey, 8, cannot sit, speak, or use his hands.



Elisha sitting

The Mchena family includes five members: Elisha, Godfrey, their 2-year-old sibling, Israel (who has a hernia but no disabilities), and their parents. Their parents are small-scale farmers, but their caregiving responsibilities severely limit their ability to earn a stable income.



Godfrey lying down as he cannot sit

Economic hardship and the responsibility of caring for their children are not the only pressures that the parents of the Mchena family feel. They are also frequently pressured by their own relatives to abandon their disabled children. Despite the economic and other challenges, they have remained steadfast in their commitment to their children and continue to care for them.

Thanks to the generosity of Hope for Tanzania ("HFT") donors, the Huruma Fund has been established and maintained to help families like the Mchenas. With the assistance of the Huruma Fund and the INUKA Rehabilitation Hospital ("INUKA") staff, the Mchenas now live in a rented home and are currently raising their children with greater dignity than before. Love and care have always been present in their home, but now even greater hope and resilience exist in the spirit of the parents as progress is being seen in the conditions of their children.

Rehabilitation is the core mission at INUKA, and their rehab services help people of all ages. With the financial assistance of the Huruma Fund, INUKA's rehab services have provided timely and valuable help to the mother of a young Franciscan sister this past year. **Sr. Margaret**, 20, is the eldest child in her family and has just recently professed her first vows as a religious. Her mother suffered a stroke at the young age of 43 and required rehabilitation services to aid her recovery. Coming from a very poor situation, Sr. Margaret brought her mother to INUKA and humbly requested the help of the team there. She received the care that she needed at INUKA which was made possible by the Huruma Fund and the new facilities and equipment funded by the donors of Hope for Tanzania.



Sr. Margaret and her Mother

RECENT NEWS

The progress made thanks to all of you!

In July, HFT Board President, Steve Obendorf, traveled to Tanzania to tour the facilities at INUKA, attend the semi-annual INUKA board of directors meeting, and see the beautiful country of Tanzania. He shared pictures and information on his trip during HFT's September fundraising events, and you can find his travelogue on the HFT website. His personally financed visit helped the HFT board to confirm the amazing work of Fr. Nestor Mtweve and his team during the past four years.



Steve O. tours the New Staff Apartments and Greenhouses at INUKA



We also kicked off our 2025-2026 fundraising campaign in July for the next phase of projects that include private rehabilitation wards, a new orthopedic workshop, and a new hydrotherapy treatment facility. These projects will contribute to INUKA's patient service options and operational sustainability as it includes the addition of 16 patient housing rooms. Some patients are willing to pay more for quality accommodations which will help compensate for those patients who can pay very little. Our fundraising goal for the new campaign is $325,000 and the HFT team has been actively raising funds.



Fr. Nestor Speaking to Donors at Cress Creek

Fr. Nestor traveled to the U.S. in September to participate in our fundraising efforts and visit with donors and HFT supporters. At our September Cress Creek Naperville event, we were blessed with a turnout of 89 attendees who heard Fr. Nestor, Fr. Brad Baker and Steve Obendorf share stories about what has been accomplished at INUKA. Earlier in September, Mike and Nicole Murray generously hosted over 40 people in their Joliet home to get an update on the HFT and INUKA story. We are grateful for their generosity and for the wonderful supporters who attended each event. Overall, our total campaign now stands at $234,000 and funds have already been sent to the Diocese of Njombe to start work on each of the noted projects.

Outside of our current campaign goals, we are also working with selected donors to fund two additional projects this year. First, the board is looking to have INUKA employ a full-time surgical team to optimize the use of the operating room facility. A robust surgical center capable of performing timely operations is viewed as important to the overall success of INUKA. Second, we are providing funds to help with the completion of the Kijombe Outstation church. HFT helped them put a roof on their church in 2023 and they need a boost to finish the project. Both projects enable HFT's mission to Heal Bodies and Help Save Souls!

On behalf of Fr. Nestor and the men, women, and children in Tanzania, thank you so very much for your continued support of our efforts.

DONATE

SCAN ME

Checks to:

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

HOPEFORTANZANIA.COM/DONATE

Year-End Giving

Please remember HFT in your year-end giving plans. As a 501 (c)(3), we regularly receive Donor Advised Fund grants or Qualified Charitable Distributions made to satisfy your annual "RMDs." We are also able to receive stock donations. Reaching our goal would be a blessing!

