



# TUWAPENDE WATOTO

## Dear Friends and Donors of the Tuwapende Watoto Foundation

Since last November, Tanzania has faced exceptionally heavy rainfall, resulting in significant hardships. According to media reports, many lives were lost, and numerous people were evacuated. Farmers lamented the loss of their crops, washed away by the heavy rain, along with many houses, bridges, and roads. Large parts of the country were submerged, severely affecting the poverty-stricken population, with many Tanzanians losing their belongings.

The loss of crops and the need to rebuild roads, bridges, and houses pose major challenges for Tanzania.

I am pleased to maintain constant contact with our on-site employees and to know that all the pupils, students, and employees in our children's home, school, and vocational school are safe. Once again, the quality of our infrastructure has proven invaluable. Our school bus drivers did an excellent job navigating damaged and waterlogged roads, ensuring the children arrived at school and returned home safely.

## Children's home

We are very happy about the good development of our children in the Tuwapende Watoto Children's Home. For a year now, Daniela, Rebecca, Hamisi, Mishi and Adhija have also been enjoying the loving care of our Mamas and siblings.



Nancy



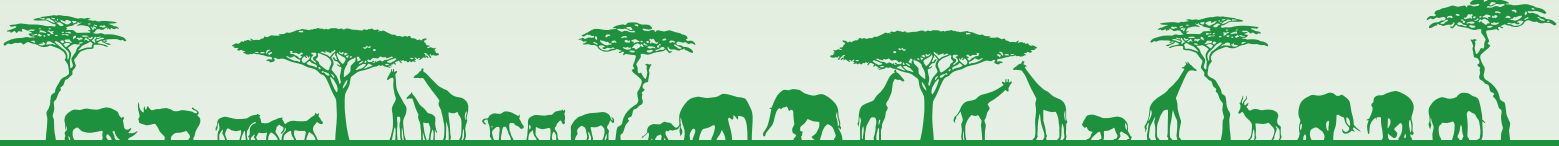
Jackson

- The four boys - Nevius, Jackson, Emmanuel and Didier - attend university lectures in Dar es Salaam attentively and achieved impressive examination results. Nevius and Jackson also work as interns alongside their Master's courses.
- Petro spends January to June at the vocational school and attends the electronics apprenticeship classes. This allows him to make good use of the six months between completing his fourth and starting his fifth year of secondary school.
- The older girls are also doing well. Martha completed the Montessori nursery school seminar last November and is now working as a trainee in our nursery school. Bahati likes it at the University Center for Foreign Relations and Maria at the Tanzania Public Service College for Human Resources Management. Nancy graduated from high school in May.
- All the girls and boys attending private secondary schools did very well in their quarterly exams, as did Kelvina and Zawadi at high school.
- Emmanuel and Nasri passed the national fourth-grade exam in October with an A grade.

## Christmas at Tuwapende Watoto Children's Home

by Jo Zahner

Last December, my wife Anita and I had the privilege of spending an unforgettable time at the Tuwapende Watoto children's home. The festive Christmas party with the children and their Mamas was particularly impressive. Everyone danced and played



enthusiastically during the pre-Christmas evening, eagerly awaiting midnight, the time for presents. Mama Bea presented each child with a lovingly wrapped gift. Only when all the children had their parcels did they open their presents, enjoying the clothes, school bags, and books with beaming eyes. It was a wonderful and emotional moment full of joy and gratitude in the midst of the Tuwapende Watoto family.

**Nursery school and daycare center** "Education for a bright future"



We are happy that we were able to complete our new building for the nursery school and daycare center on time despite record rainfall in November and December 2023. All the experience we have gained over the past 13 years was taken into account in the planning. The 193 children were able to move into the new classrooms in mid-January. We also managed to make the outdoor area very child-friendly with fall protection mats for sports and games, a large sandpit with climbing frame and sun protection as well as a large square with a small stage for performances or parent events. At night, this space serves as a parking lot for our school buses.

Dar es Salaam. After several phone calls, our nursery school children were able to spend an unforgettable day at the airport, board an Air Tanzania plane in the hangar, take a seat and look around everywhere.

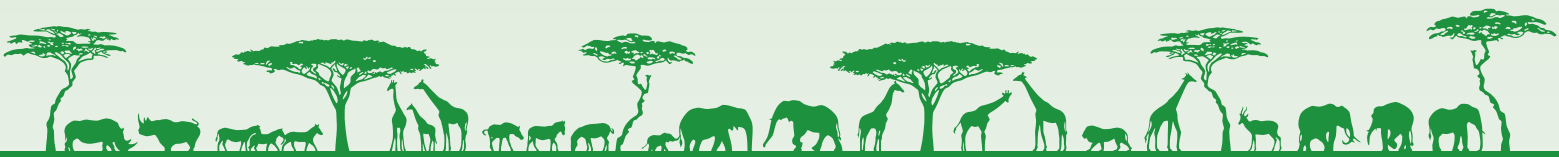
I am always delighted by the great commitment of the nursery school and daycare teachers. Last November, a nursery school-teacher decided to show the children the international airport in



**Tackling challenges together**

My name is Julia, and I am currently studying social work at the Bern University of Applied Sciences. I am doing a six-month training internship at Tuwapende Watoto and am very happy about it.

My tasks include supporting children with special needs at school and nursery school in the morning, where I aim to relieve teachers by working with children with autism spectrum disorder, for example, and providing one-on-one support tailored to their needs. In the afternoon, I help organize activities at the children's home, focusing on supporting the children according to their individual needs and offering them opportunities for further development.



## Primary school

Education is the key to success.

- Our pupils are happy to attend Tuwapende Watoto Primary School. We have been one of the best schools in the Dar es Salaam area for years, without the use of corporal punishment.
- In September 2023, 82 Grade 7 pupils took the National Examination, achieving 48 A and 34 B results.
- The 100 students in Grade 4 also wrote the National Exam in October 2023 with 87 A, 11 B and 2 C. We would like to thank the principal and teachers for their exemplary exam preparation and support for the weaker pupils.
- Since January 2024, 645 children have attended our primary school. Our foundation finances the school fees, school materials, meals and transportation for 15% of the children in nursery school and primary school. These pupils all come from families in need of support.
- I am always impressed by the idealism of our teachers and principal. It is important to them to leave the classroom and observe the world outside of school together. Last autumn, the subject of social studies focused on the concerns of people in need. The children collected clothes, shoes etc. that were no longer needed at home and were allowed to distribute the gifts to orphanages. It was a valuable experience for everyone involved and was also very well supported by the parents.
- Other excursions were organized, such as a visit to a zoo for the primary school, shopping in a supermarket and in the bakery of our vocational school. The visit to the NBC bank branch in the neighboring village was also impressive. Pupils are always very interested and enthusiastic about growing vegetables in our school grounds.



## New project – establishment of a secondary school

The desire of many parents for a Tuwapende Watoto secondary school is the result of our successful work at the primary school, the moderate fees, the healthy food and the exemplary way our principal and staff treat the children and young people.

- We are planning to build the secondary school between 2024 and 2027. Construction phase 1 includes the construction of a dining hall, the kitchen and the east wing of the main building by the end of 2024.
- When the secondary school opens in 2025, we will have a school kitchen with dining hall, 6 classrooms, a staff room, rooms for administration, toilets and a biological septic tank.

We are on track, excavation and foundations are progressing according to plan despite heavy rainfall.

To successfully transfer the good atmosphere as well as our values and principles from the primary school to the secondary school, we will motivate teachers from our primary school with secondary school qualifications to sign a contract at the new secondary school.

## We are well positioned for the implementation of the Ministry of Education's new curriculum.

Soon, the secondary school will comprise two categories:

- a. Students will take academic subjects from the first to sixth grades of secondary school and then enter university or college.
- b. A vocational apprenticeship path, covering one vocational course of study in four years and six academic courses (English, mathematics, geography, Kiswahili, business studies and history).



## Vocational Education Training Center

Clean water thanks to the reverse osmosis system.

Last year, we successfully installed a reverse osmosis water treatment system at the vocational school. This system processes the drinking water from our 90-metre-deep water borehole, which we have been operating since 2016. The system uses a pre-filter to remove sediment, limescale etc. before the salt is removed from the water in a second pass. The drinking water is purified in a post-filter. As the public water supply does not yet provide water daily, we are very happy to have our own water. This not only improves the health and well-being of our apprentices and

employees but is also a sign of our commitment to sustainable solutions.

The maintenance of the entire infrastructure is carried out by our vocational schoolteachers in collaboration with the apprentices.



### Graduation November 2023

- With a small budget, the coordinator and teaching staff organized an unforgettable day for 72 students and their families. The graduates can look back on two eventful years with great pleasure. We were delighted to present the students with their certificates of attendance. The national examinations take place at the beginning of December each year. Unfortunately, it always takes a few months for the graduates to receive their exam results. Our certificates and attestations are very important for applying as soon as possible. We were honored to welcome guests of honor such as Mr. Kilasi, responsible for the registration of vocational schools and technical colleges, as well as owners of companies and principals of secondary schools to this successful event.



- It is often difficult for young adults to start a career without the help of their parents and without financial resources. All the students concerned can count on the support of our teachers and Margaret Mkandawire, our I-NGO Foundation Board member (social worker). As our vocational school has a good reputation, we often receive inquiries from companies and hotels and are able to place graduates in jobs. Companies that offer our students a work placement are often very interested in employing graduates.

### Learning from each other

Valentina, a volunteer, delivered a valuable financial literacy / financial planning seminar to our learners. The course taught important skills for managing personal finances, including creating budgets, managing debt, etc.



### New school year 2024:

Last fall, our coordinator and employees from our vocational school visited all the surrounding secondary schools and churches to present our nine apprenticeships. We also invited secondary school graduates to visit our vocational school and workshops. We welcomed 107 new apprentices for the new year and 17 students for the repetition of their secondary school examinations. We are now teaching a total of 187 apprentices in all three years of vocational training. We are proud that 105 young women attend our



vocational school. Our training opens up prospects, promotes independence and dignity, ensures access to healthcare and forms the basis for a better future.

The curriculum changes at the Tanzanian vocational school require adjustments to our infrastructure. Thanks to the Wyler-Andersson Foundation, we were able to update the infrastructure and procure consumables.

**Tuwapende Charity Golf Trophy 22. April 2024**

On a very cold April day, 98 golfers met for the 14th Tuwapende Charity Golf Trophy on the beautiful Payerne golf course, well protected with woolly hats, gloves and weatherproof clothing. Despite low temperatures, wind and a little rain, we were able to spend a valuable day and evening with the Tuwapende Watoto Golf Community. We would like to thank the golfers for their trust in our activities in Tanzania. The proceeds from the tournament are once again an important amount for our foundation. We will use it to build up the secondary school. As in the last 13 years, the green fees were donated to us by Stéphane Rapin, the director of the Payerne golf course. We would like to thank Stéphane for his generous support and partnership.

**Employees**

We currently employ 115 staff (children’s home, nursery school, day care center, primary school and vocational school). All have Tanzanian citizenship and the necessary qualifications and diplomas. Mutual respect and trust promote the community we live in. The children of employees also benefit from reduced school fees.

**Many thanks**

We look back on six varied months and would like to thank our principal and staff for their excellent work. Our principal is highly valued and respected by everyone, she is reliable and demonstrates her leadership skills daily. She looks after the pupils and staff with warmth and kindness. Together we will achieve our goals!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the I-NGO members and the Tuwapende Watoto family, I would like to thank the many long-standing private donors, the associations and organizations, the Dr. Rau Foundation, Serge Müller’s WIN FOR THE KIDS and EDU-Mustache. These much-appreciated contributions allow us to provide loving care and a good education for the children and young adults of the Tuwapende Watoto family and to support the pupils of the families in need of assistance.

Thanks to the very generous participation of the Swissair Staff Foundation for Children in Need, the Migros-Genossenschafts-Bund, the Wyler-Andersson Foundation, the Golf de Payerne, the Association „Bildung gegen Armut“ (Education against Poverty), the Frauenfeld 2-hour run and IMS Marketing AG, we were able to move into the new building for the nursery school and daycare center at the beginning of 2024 and complete the landscaping work. We would like to express our sincere thanks for these generous donations.

A big thank you goes to our volunteers, who have supported us in the children’s home and schools over the past few months with great competence, empathy and love. Our employees are happy to tackle problems together and learn from each other.

Thanks to the motivated team of foundation board members, I-NGO members and Tuwapende Watoto ambassadors, who put in many hours of voluntary work, we are on the road to success. Thank you very much for your much appreciated cooperation.

However, we can only achieve our defined goals with you, dear donors. Your support is a gift of unspeakable value! As in previous years, we will use your donations respectfully, purposefully and sparingly. Thank you very much for your support and your trust!



Kind regards

Ruth Bütikofer  
President of the Foundation Board



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