



# TUWAPENDE WATOTO

## Dear Friends and Donors of the Tuwapende Watoto Foundation

For several years, Tuwapende Watoto, as an I-NGO, has pursued Charitable Status. Following meetings with influential and high-ranking officials of the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA), we submitted a detailed report of our activities on August 7, 2023, to obtain tax-exempt status. Both our head of school and I personally followed up multiple times with the relevant authorities regarding the progress of our application. Despite setbacks, we remained undeterred, and thanks to our head of school's strong connections, we continually found new opportunities. Finally, on August 30, 2024, we were granted the Charitable Organization certificate, valid until December 2029. We will apply in due time to renew the Charitable Status.

## Children's Home

It is a joy to watch the children in the Tuwapende Watoto children's home grow up. The progress of the boys and girls attending nursery and lower primary school is remarkable. I am continually impressed by how naturally the children help each other and treat one another with kindness.

Nevius completed his final exam for his Master's program at the Institute of Finance Management (IFM) with an A in September. For the past two years, he has worked as an intern at Dexter Insurance alongside his studies. His supervisor was always very pleased with his performance and offered him a full-time position starting in mid-October 2024. We are thrilled that Nevius received a job offer immediately after completing his Master's program, allowing him to join the company's health insurance plan and receive a competitive salary, enabling him to lead an independent life.

All young adults who are of age are working diligently and successfully at their respective universities and colleges. Our secondary school and high school students are also achieving excellent results.

Nancy was excited to start her studies at the Institute of Finance Management in October.

Julius is in his second year of ICT training at our vocational school and will complete his studies in December with the national exams. During his internship, he worked at the Muhimbili University Hospital and received a highly positive reference from his internship supervisor.

Daniela took the national exam for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade in October. She successfully completed all her preparations. We are confident that she also did well on the national exam and are eagerly awaiting the test results.



## Nursery school and Daycare Center

Education for a Bright Future

Currently, 19 children attend our daycare, and 122 children are enrolled in our four nursery school classes, including 35 girls and 40 boys in preschool. The new school building, equipped with purpose-built facilities, a Montessori classroom, and a welcoming outdoor area, has proven to be highly effective. Both the children and teachers feel very comfortable here.

At the end of the semester in June, children aged between two and a half and five presented a diverse showcase to their parents. All the children participated in various games, performances, and relays. Once again, I was deeply impressed by the excellent collaboration among all 115 staff members. During the nursery school festival, many visitors had the opportunity to get to know our child-friendly, well-kept facilities and to experience our teaching methods firsthand. In the first week of school after the summer break, many new nursery school children enrolled for the second semester of 2024.



## Expansion of the Tanzanian Railway Line

The first SGR (Standard Gauge Railway) train service between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro was launched on June 14, 2024. Our school received train tickets for our nursery and primary students to celebrate the opening of the new route. Excitement was high, as most of our





students had never traveled by train before. The children enjoyed a very special day, with a two-hour train journey to Morogoro, visiting a fish farm and the return trip to Dar es Salaam. My heartfelt thanks go to the head of school and the teachers for their excellent organization of this extraordinary excursion.

At the end of July, SGR trains began operating from Dar es Salaam to Dodoma, the capital of Tanzania. In the future, the train will travel at an average speed of 160 km per hour, significantly reducing travel time between Dar es Salaam and Dodoma.

**Primary School: Education is the Key to Success**

The national examination for seventh-grade students took place this year on September 11 and 12. All primary schools across Tanzania administer the national exam on the same days. This year, a new examination format was introduced. Instead of multiple-choice questions, students now respond with their own written answers. Our teachers thoroughly prepared students for the national exam, and our head teacher motivated them daily to stay focused and put forth their best efforts. The exam results were a great success for our school and students. The grades - 67 A's, 4 B's, and 0 C's - were the best results since we started the national exams for seventh grade eleven years ago.

**Successful graduation ceremony and distinguished guests**

On Sunday, September 22, 2024, we celebrated a significant milestone: 40 girls and 31 boys from the seventh grade graduated from our primary school. Additionally, 45 boys and 30 girls successfully completed our preschool level and will move on to first grade in January 2025.

The graduation ceremony was held with several distinguished guests in attendance, including:

- Guest of Honor Patrobas Julius Katambi, Deputy Minister for Labor, Youth, Employment, and Persons with Disabilities.
- Honorable Julius Mtatilo, District Commissioner of the Shinyanga region and father of one of our graduates.
- Mrs. Naitwa Mghumba, Officer for Educational Quality Assurance.
- Representatives from the Parent Council and local government.

The presence of these dignitaries added special significance to the graduation and created a lively atmosphere.

Our Guest of Honor, Mr. Katambi, was particularly impressed by the extensive facilities of our primary and vocational schools. He was very pleased with our inclusive educational initiatives that support children with disabilities. His visit to our vocational school and interactions



with our trainees, who demonstrated their knowledge and skills, further reinforced his positive impression.

Mr. Katambi praised our efforts to prepare young people for their future careers and highlighted the comprehensive training we offer. He emphasized that our students not only acquire academic knowledge but also develop essential life skills that will contribute to their future success. He expressed his satisfaction that we are educating well-prepared young adults who will positively impact their families and communities.

During his visit to our orphanage, Mr. Katambi was deeply moved by the happiness and contentment of the children and young people. He shared his personal life story with our university graduates, emphasizing the importance of hard work, perseverance, and helping those in need.

Mr. Katambi expressed his sincere gratitude to the Tuwapende Watoto Foundation and all donors for their invaluable support of the schools and orphanage. He acknowledged the significant impact of our efforts and noted that Tuwapende Watoto has created employment opportunities for 115 individuals.



The graduation ceremony was a resounding success. We are extremely proud of the achievements of our students and vocational trainees, as well as the positive influence our schools have had on the region. Many thanks to all Tuwapende Watoto staff for organizing this wonderful event, which reached audiences across Tanzania through various media channels.





**Visit to the CRDB Bank in Dar es Salaam:**

In early October, the fourth- to sixth-grade students were invited by CRDB Bank to visit their headquarters. Our I-NGO member, Mr. Xavery Makwi, Head of the Credit Department, welcomed the students and shared insights about financial markets, savings, and bank accounts for children.

**National Examination for Fourth Grade:**

The national examination for fourth-grade students took place on October 23 and 24, 2024. The students' performance in the preliminary exams at the beginning of October was excellent, providing them with additional motivation. The teachers, along with our head teacher, prepared the children with great enthusiasm, patience, and expertise for the exams.

**Secondary School**



To oversee the development of the secondary school and discuss the individual stages of construction on-site, my husband and I traveled to Tanzania four times and six times, respectively, this year (as always, at our own expense). We also maintained regular contact with the team on-site through WhatsApp and Skype to make necessary decisions. We have been working with our architect, Mr. Mbaruck, since 2010, forming a well-coordinated team, and we know we can trust him. The classrooms, laboratories, kitchen, and dining hall will be ready for occupancy in December.

**Registration of the Secondary School**

To open our secondary school in January 2025, we required school registration, a five-step process where each document had to be submitted in Dodoma (the capital). The final phase included an inspection by the Head of Headquarters, who evaluated the facilities, including furniture, books, laptops, laboratories, and more. Our head teacher received assistance from our electronics teacher, Leonard, in setting up the classrooms, laboratories, library, ICT room, and other facilities. On October 22, we had the pleasure of welcoming a delegation to present our infrastructure. The committee was highly impressed with our classrooms, their equipment, and the new buildings. We were thrilled to receive the official registration for our secondary school the following day.

Our day school will provide significant social benefits, directly helping many children from economically disadvantaged families in the Bunju region, as well as children with disabilities who are unable to attend boarding schools. The construction of our secondary school, with its



excellent infrastructure, will enhance students' learning performance and help the teachers and other school staff work efficiently. Everyone will be motivated to contribute to the successful operation of the school in line with the guidance and instructions of Tuwapende Watoto I-NGO management.

**Vocational School**

Seminar on Reproductive Health

In April, Umati (an NGO focused on public health development, family planning, and reproductive health) held an exceptional seminar on reproductive health for our trainees. The seminar, which featured a doctor among other speakers, provided valuable information and was a resounding success. We are confident that this knowledge will be of great importance to our trainees' well-being.

For all second-year trainees, the three-month internship is an essential part of their training. This year, we were able to secure interesting internship positions for all 87 trainees across industries, companies, hotels, and workshops. Once again, the Swiss Embassy facilitated a three-month internship for an electrical apprentice at their embassy in Tanzania.

**Internship Report by Eliweru Wolson Kiula**

*My name is Eliweru Wilson Kiula, and I am a second-year electrical installation trainee at the Tuwapende Watoto Vocational Training Center. I completed a three-month internship at the Swiss Embassy in Tanzania, from May 2 to July 31, 2024. I really enjoyed the environment and the offices. I met various people with different skills, and we got along well.*

*In addition to tasks related to my field, I was given various assignments based on my skills, including maintenance work such as air conditioning, solar systems, generator service, technical work like door repairs, and computer tasks. I also handled electrical work, such as installation and repairs, and contributed to event preparations, decorations, painting, and more. I attended several events, such as Swiss National Day and Gender Equality Day.*

*I was very proud to work at the Swiss Embassy. I gained a lot of knowledge and experience in different tasks and made new friends.*  
Eliweru

**Excursion to Morogoro**

In April, our vocational school organized a study trip to Morogoro for the tailoring trainees, accompanied by two instructors. The interesting exhibition introduced them to industrial technology, including advanced tailoring techniques and large-scale production methods. The latest industrial machines and equipment were also showcased. The excursion costs were covered by the parents.

**15 Firefighting Interns from Hamburg, Germany**

In June, we welcomed a group of 15 firefighting interns from Hamburg, Germany. The exchange of knowledge on first aid and firefighting with these young adults was excellent. Our trainees greatly benefited from the training, and it was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. We would like to once again extend our heartfelt thanks to Monika and Stephan Geiger for organizing this exchange and sharing their expertise in first aid and firefighting. We are also deeply grateful for the first-aid equipment they generously donated to our school. This equipment will be of exceptional value for future training sessions and will have a lasting impact on our programs. We look forward to continued collaboration and hope to welcome Monika and Stephan Geiger, as well as more firefighting interns from Hamburg, in the future.



**Teacher Training Seminar in Moshi, Kilimanjaro, August 12–16, 2024**

*The Teacher Training Seminar, organized by Stephano Moshi Memorial University College (SMMUCo) in collaboration with the Teaching and Learning Advisory Group from Ireland, England, and Switzerland (TLAG), aimed to enhance teachers' skills in using technology to improve teaching and instructional methods.*

*Throughout the seminar, participants engaged with a range of topics, including Developing and Implementing Business Plans for the Textile Industry and Design and Production of Various Textile Products.*

Husna Nassor

**Joint Inter-Vocational School Examinations**

From October 15–17, 2024, joint exams were held at our vocational training center, in cooperation with five other vocational schools from the surrounding area and Dar es Salaam. I extend heartfelt thanks to our vocational school coordinator and the teaching staff for



their successful organization and preparation of exams for over 300 students. We also took the opportunity to promote our third-year classes in ICT, electronics, and electrical installation, as most vocational schools do not offer a third year.

### Heartfelt Thanks

We extend our sincere gratitude to our school principal, Emmaculate Mleke, and our 115 staff members for their exemplary dedication. Every day, they give their best for the welfare of the children and students entrusted to us in the children's home, daycare, nursery school, and our schools. On behalf of the foundation board, I-NGO members, all parents, schoolchildren, students, and the Tuwapende Watoto family, I thank our long-standing and numerous private donors, associations, and organizations, the Dr. Rau Foundation, EDU-Mustache, and WIN FOR THE KIDS by Serge Müller. Your valued support enables us to lovingly care for the children and young adults of the Tuwapende Watoto family and provide them with a quality education tailored to their needs. Each year, we celebrate the achievements of students from impoverished backgrounds who, thanks to your support, can obtain a quality education.

Thanks to the very generous support from the Swissair Staff Foundation for Children in Need, Fondation Gertrude Hirzel, Wyler-Andersson Foundation, Golf de Payerne, the Association „Bildung gegen Armut“ (Education against Poverty), The atDta-Foundation - helping others to help themselves, Esperanza Foundation, Tuwapende Watoto Förderverein e.V. in Germany, and IMS Marketing AG, we were able to complete construction of two buildings for the secondary school this year. Many children will now have access to a quality education and a fair chance for a future without poverty or hardship. We sincerely thank you for your loyalty and trust. Your donations will continue to be used purposefully, respectfully, and economically.

On behalf of the foundation board, I also extend heartfelt thanks to our I-NGO board members, Tuwapende Watoto ambassadors, and volunteers for the many hours of volunteer work they dedicate to our foundation and for the benefit of the students, apprentices, and children in the children's home. We are grateful to be able to count on them.

We wish you and your family a joyful and reflective Advent and Christmas season, and all the best in the coming year.



Kind regards

*Ruth Bütikofer, President of the Board of Trustees*

Our bank details:

Berner Kantonalbank AG  
3001 Berne  
IBAN: CH70 0079 0016 9421 3324 5



**Our children's home and schools are located in Bunju B, between Dar es Salaam and Bagamoyo.  
Link:  $-6^{\circ}37'44.78''$ ,  $+39^{\circ}5'3.41''$**