



Christmas 2018

„The Lord will come to save the world.

Be ready, people of God. Listen to him and your heart will rejoice.”

Dear Friends and Supporters of St. Nicholas,

We are looking back at an eventful year. Between December 2017 and December 2018 we received 15 (!!!) new children. We have never received so many new children within such a short time and it is my hope that this will not happen again in the future. But every child has her/his own story and reason why s/he has become a member of our St. Nicholas Family. But after a few weeks the new children are not “new” anymore. Whenever we receive a new child, the other children ask me with excitement, “Can s/he talk, can s/he walk, can s/he hear, can s/he see?” And it makes me proud when I notice that my children do not take such skills for granted but accept each child for who s/he is.

We now have 43 children. 31 one of them attend 11 different schools, 10 children are in boarding schools. This makes the beginning and the end of the school year as well as all holiday breaks to be the most stressful times for us. We have to organize all the school supplies, pay the school fees and find new schools for the ones who are finished

with one level of their schooling and need to transfer to the next level.

Right now the kids just finished school and have a one-month break before they start with the new school year in January. They are happy to be home for Advent, the feast of St. Nicholas and Christmas.



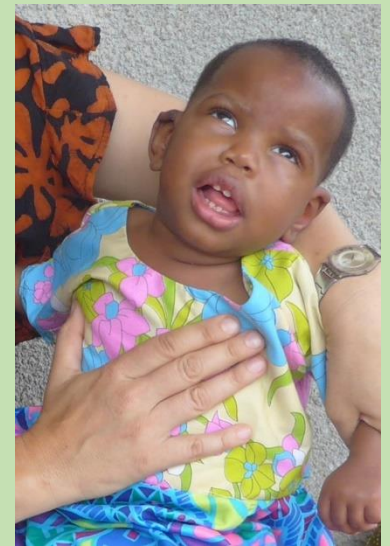


We had lovely volunteers this year who put their whole hearts into helping us as well as many visitors who are supporting our family.



A very sad event was the

death of our little girl Rosie on September 13th. A few weeks later Rosie would have celebrated her second birthday. Rosie had severe seizures that were hard to control and she had cerebral palsy. Her condition became critical within a few hours and she died very suddenly. We were all saddened by her sudden death and are still mourning losing her.



Many children need a lot of space to roam around, to play and to get rid of their energy, especially during the rainy season when the kids are trapped inside the house. We were fortunate to be able to build a multi-purpose hall with an addition that serves as a chapel. We can separate the chapel from the hall with a gate. On Sundays we open this gate and the



chapel turns into a big church where we have Holy Mass together with our neighbors. During week days the gate is closed and the children use the hall as a gym for playing and running. In November Bishop Method Kilaini inaugurated the chapel and congratulated us for our 7-year anniversary. We had a joyful celebration!



This was just a brief review of our life in 2018. Thank you so much for your prayers and support! Without you we could not provide a home for our children.



We are wishing you Merry Christmas and God's abundant blessings for the New Year 2019,

Stefanie Köster and the children and caregivers