



St. Nicholas Children's Centre Kemondo (NCCCK)
Bukoba Catholic Diocese
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*Christ is risen from the dead,
Darkness now no more shall reign.*

Easter 2018

Dear Friends and Supporters of St. Nicholas Children's Center,

Happy Easter Blessings from all of us at St. Nicholas!

This year we are going to celebrate Easter with many children, caregivers and visitors, because our St. Nicholas-Family has grown significantly in the past months.

In the beginning of December, the siblings of Annajoyce joined our family: Kaijage (15), Adventina (14) and Menrad (8). After their mother's death the children were raised by their grandmother, while Annajoyce came to live with us in 2012 because of her disability. In September 2017, the



Kaijage, Adventina, Menrad, Annajoyce

grandmother died unexpectedly. It took several weeks until the children's situation could be cleared with the Social Welfare Department but finally we received the go ahead to take the children in. Because the children had visited Annajoyce many times, they did not find it hard to adjust to our place. In January, Kaijage and Adventina went to boarding school because their school is too far away to commute daily. However, they come home to be with us most weekends and during school holidays. Menrad started first grade in the same elementary school that our other kids attend. He is a quiet, easy-going boy who has made new friends quickly.

A few days before Christmas, we received a phone call from a nearby hospital: An abandoned baby had been found and was taken to the hospital. Unfortunately, we were not able to find out anything about the child's background. We are guessing that little Rosie is about a year and a half old. She has cerebral palsy and Epilepsy, which is why she is developmentally delayed. Her seizures are less frequent now that she is taking medicine. Luckily, she has a big appetite and is able to eat without problems which is a blessing given her disability.



Rosie

Seven more children joined us in January: Ellieth (10), Erick (9) and Alicia (3) lost their mother in October 2017. The children were first taken in by their grandmother. However, she is in her 70s and does not have the strength to raise three little kids. Ellieth and Eric had not been in school. They are now attending a special class for children who are too old to join first grade. The goal is that they switch to a regular class once they have caught up with some basics. It is obvious that the children have been neglected in the past. Little Alicia cried a lot during the first weeks. All three children need a lot of attention. However, they have been with us now for three months and the children have adjusted to their new life. Our well-structured daily life helps the children to settle in quickly and to feel secure.



Ellieth, Alicia, Eric

Only two days later two different Social Welfare Offices brought four more children to us! Little George is just about two years old. His parents are in prison. We do not know anything else about his story. Like Alicia, he cried a lot in the beginning, too, did not want to eat and was

overwhelmed with his new oversized family. Now he runs around the house and is getting all the attention that he needs. He walks and talks, he loves to be picked up and carried around, and he wants to be spoiled and loved.



George

And finally Matungwa (15), Joas (14) and Sebastian (12) joined our family. The three boys are not related but they grew up together in a state-run nursing home. In January, Social Services decided to take out all children from the nursing home, which is how the boys came to live with us.



Matungwa, Sebastian, Joas

Matungwa lived with us for just a few days until he joined the same boarding school that Kaijage and Adventina attend. On the weekends and during school holidays he comes home to be with us. Sebastian and Joas attend 5th and 6th grade at a nearby local school.

Altogether, we now have 40 children, ten of them are living in boarding schools and only come home during the school holidays. It is good to see that even the new children who have not grown up at our place like to come home. We are still looking for sponsors for our new children!

The arrival of so many new children within such a short time stirred up life in our house. In addition, the new school year started in January. Most children changed schools, two children started kindergarten, three children became first graders, several of our youth started their secondary education or vocational training.



Our 11 new children

31 children are attending 11 different schools. This is quite a challenge to cope with, especially at the beginning of the school year and during school holidays when I have to take all the children to their schools, to pick them up for the holidays and to pay for their school fees. I am using lists so I do not confuse any of the children and their schools!

Right now all the children are home enjoying a few days off for Easter. They are talking about their different boarding schools, about having to get up so early, to study so much and they are cleaning out our food dishes as if they had nothing to eat since Christmas!



Our children are coming with the school bus!



Proud School Children



Verena, Viona, Michaela, Marie

Four volunteers from Germany are supporting us. The volunteers help the children with their homework, they do fun activities with them and they are assisting our caregivers. We have also received many visitors these past weeks.



Extension

We were able to construct an extension building.

At present, we are building a multi-purpose-hall because on rainy days, all our kids play inside the house (instead of outside!) and with the fast growing number of children, they might cause our house to burst!!!



Multi-Purpose Hall

My two daughters and I are looking forward to visit Sr. Anne and the Franciscan Sisters in Springfield, IL this June.

Thank you so much for your continued support that enables us to accept more children, to pay the school fees, to extend our buildings, and to put enough food on the table!

We are wishing all of you a joyful Feast of the Resurrection,
Stefanie Köster and the children and caregivers

