

St. Nicholas Children's Centre Kemondo (NCCK)
Bukoba Catholic Diocese
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"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances."

1 Thess 5:16

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Dear Friends and Supporters of St. Nicholas!

In July my daughters Anita, Aisha and I went to visit our family at St. Nicholas. This was actually our first visit to Africa because in the past ten years it was always the other way around: We lived in Africa and visited Germany!

We were so excited to see everybody again after eight months. Of course the children have grown but overall not much has changed since we moved to Germany in October 2020.



Anita and Aisha with Editha and Isabella



The leadership team: Njunwa, Sr. Celestina, Sr. Grace, Clemence

We met everybody and everything happy and in good spirits at St. Nicholas. This means that the leadership team together with the caregivers and staff all have carried on well with their responsibilities since we left. The leadership team is working well together. They send me weekly reports and the picture I gathered from the reports is the same that I found when I visited in person.

It is difficult to get a true picture of the situation of the pandemic in Tanzania. Few people are tested when they show symptoms. Most likely the Corona virus is going around in the country but only few people are tested and diagnosed. Therefore, it is impossible to say how many people actually die of Covid-19. Since July vaccinations are offered free of charge. However, people are skeptical. They are afraid that they could be injected with "sumu" – poison! Just like in many other countries people easily fall for all kinds of conspiracy theories. On the other hand daily life continues without any restrictions which is so important in a country where people depend on their daily income and cannot hope for any government support.

However, when traveling to Tanzania we had to follow strict guidelines: We had to get a PCR-test before leaving Germany, register on a Tanzanian website prior to arrival in the country and get a rapid test at the airport upon arrival. On our return trip we needed to get another PCR-test and show the negative results five times before being allowed to leave the country.



16 birthday children, just as many cakes, and a big pile of gifts for everyone!

We made good use of our short time: Anita and Aisha immediately disappeared in the crowd of children. They played non-stop for three weeks and had fun. I had meetings with the leadership team and all the staff and was able to work on administrative duties. But the focus was to spend as much quality time as possible with the kids. We celebrated birthdays and did fun activities together.

Three children were christened. When we arrived, school holidays just finished and we took a number of kids back to their boarding schools.



Baptism of Isabella, Aglipina and Benson



Enjoying the beach and having French fries and soda!



Isabella, 4 years

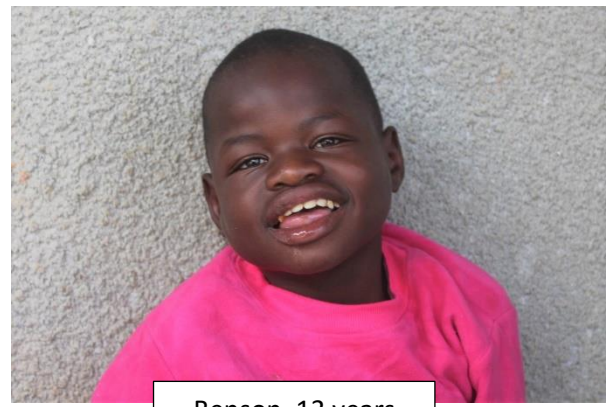
We received four new children in the past months. I already talked about Aglipina and Isabella in my last newsletter at Easter time.



Aglipina, 5 years



Since then Social Services brought to us Benson, 13 years and Kevina, 10 years. Like all children that we have received at St. Nicholas those two also have very sad stories which is why they now live with us.



Benson, 13 years

Benson has cerebral palsy and a mental disability. He walks with difficulties. His mother left the family. His father is old and is no longer able to care for Benson. Benson was in poor health when he arrived. He has been improving slowly.

Both of Kevina's parents have died. The child lived with her grandmother in the village. But it has been a life in great poverty and without protection. She already suffered abuse. She never went to school. Social Services took her to us two days prior to our departure. By now Kevina has been adjusting to her new family. We enrolled her in school. May she grow to become a happy child!



Kevina, 10 years

We are looking for sponsors for our new children! We are always grateful when sponsors support us on a regular basis because since the beginning of the pandemic we have received less donations. Also the children are happy when they know that someone cares about them and prays for them.



Those young men will have to depend on themselves very soon!

Presently we are caring for 39 children at St. Nicholas. In addition we are paying the school tuition fees for eight youngsters.



We plan to visit our St. Nicholas family again for Christmas. At that time we will celebrate our 10-year anniversary as well as the school graduation of several kids.

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers!



Stefanie Köster, the leadership team, the children and caregivers