

St. Nicholas Children's Centre Kemondo (NCKK)



Bukoba Catholic Diocese
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Christmas 2019

***“The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things
They had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.” Luke 2:20***

Dear Friends and Supporters of St. Nicholas,

Every year now since 2017 I have the honor to be a proud parent of young adults who have graduated from school. This year Joas finished 7th grade and Asimwe and Anthony completed the 2-year programs of their vocational training schools.

Hopefully next year I will attend the school graduation ceremonies of five boys and girls from St. Nicholas. Yes, our children are growing into young adulthood. In order to teach the boys independent living skills as well as needing more space for the younger children in our main house, we were able to add another building. At the beginning of December ten boys ages 12-17 moved into the new building.



Asimwe at her graduation



New building for the boys



No blessing without rain!
Blessing of the new building on November 17, 2019



Jackson

We also received a new child: At the beginning of November Social Services brought us Jackson. He is about 6 years old and he is mentally challenged. He was found wandering around alone near the lake in Bukoba town. So far Social Services could not locate his parents. Jackson is quite happy at our place but we do hope that his parents will come to take him home.

Sadly we also lost a child. Ashraf passed away on October 28th. He was only 11 years old. Ashraf had been living with us since his mother had died



Ashraf in May 2019

in January 2015. He was severely disabled but his general health was always good. In May he began to cough and to vomit. In July he was admitted to the hospital. In between times he got better but he never fully recovered. In October he became critically and he was admitted to the hospital

again. He was treated with antibiotics, IVs and had a feeding tube. Despite our efforts he died a week later. It is very hard to lose a child. I picture him now playing in heaven as a healthy and happy child and being united with his mother. We never really found out what he was sick of and why he did not respond to the treatment. The local hospitals are very limited with what they can do. Many times a proper diagnosis is not possible because of the lack of equipment and specialist doctors. There is no emergency care and no intensive care unit. This is one reason why so many people in Tanzania still die of injuries and diseases that could have been treated in other countries.

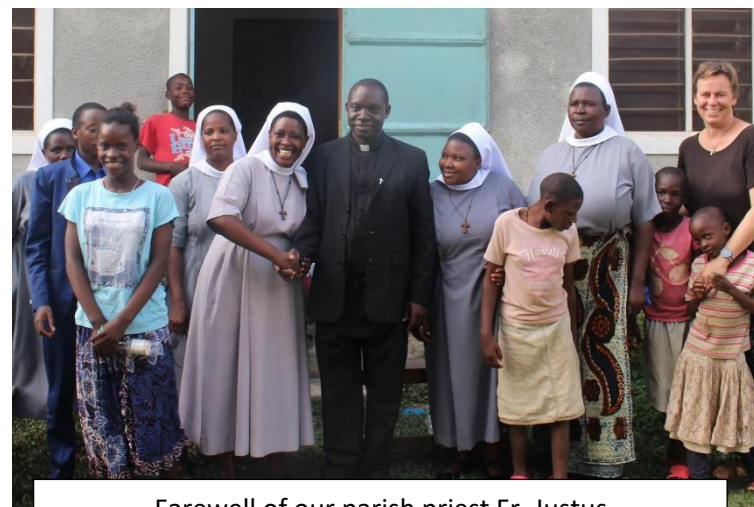


With Advent we are looking back on this year and are looking forward to the New Year. As schools are closing at the beginning of December, all the children will be home for five weeks including the ones who live at boarding schools.

Ten children were baptized. Three children received their First Holy Communion. We celebrated the feast of St. Nicholas. In fact ever week we have another reason to celebrate: birthdays, the arrival and the farewell of visitors and volunteers, church celebrations, school graduations.... Therefore this is just a quick review in pictures of all the times we are celebrating:



September: 8 years St. Nicholas



Farewell of our parish priest Fr. Justus



Baptism



Celebrating St. Nicholas



Irene, Mwolokozi and Arnold at their First Communion



This was only a brief review of our life in 2019. Thank you so much for your support and prayers. Without you we could not provide a home for the children, employ enough caregivers and make more room and care for all the children's needs.



We are wishing you a blessed Christmas Season and
all of God's blessings for the New Year 2020,

Stefanie Köster, caregivers and children