



Arusha Kids Trust: Action for Growth and Education in Arusha, Tanzania

Arusha Kids Trust (AKT) Newsletter May 2020

News from Australia

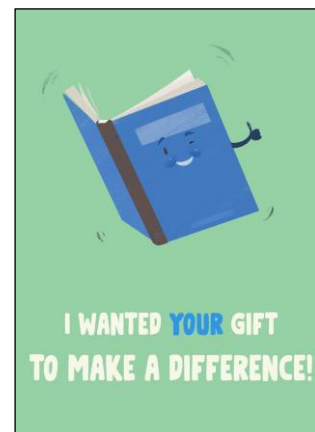
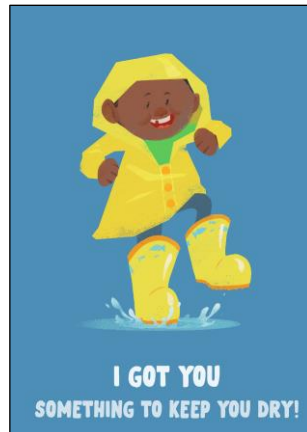
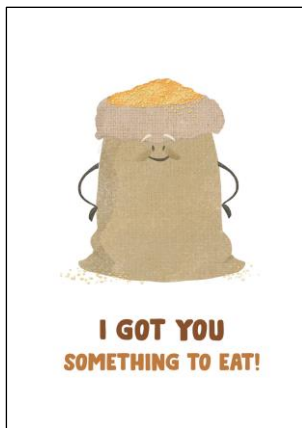
The coronavirus pandemic

From November to January, Australia suffered perhaps the worst bushfire catastrophe in our history. We were just recovering over January and February when we began to hear about the spread of Covid-19. Since early March, strict restrictions on travel and people social distancing have been in place to curb the spread of the virus. Air travel overseas is all but halted.

For AKT, this has meant that no Trustees are expected to visit Arusha this year. We cannot advertise public gatherings, and we cannot hold indoor or outdoor fundraising events that involve more than four people! AKT Trustees are holding virtual committee meetings via Zoom.

Fundraising

- i. In November 2019 we asked Kit Fox, a budding graphic designer and artist, to design and produce some AKT gift cards. We raised over \$1000 from the sale of these cards over the Christmas period. The blank cards can be used for any occasion. They are still available for sale and are \$20 each. Please write to us at arushakidstrust@gmail.com and we can deliver them to you.



- ii. Covid-19 Appeal. In mid April we asked Friends and Supporters in Australia to donate to an Appeal. We were hit hard by overseas school sponsors unable to meet their financial commitments. Also the cost of food in Arusha has increased at a time when the schools are closed and the children do not receive a school lunch. So far we have raised over \$4000. It is not too late to donate. Please see the AKT bank account details at the end of this Newsletter. We plan to set up a crowdfunding appeal for overseas supporters to donate to.

News from Arusha, Tanzania

Coronavirus update The spread of the virus across Africa is slowly gaining momentum. In Tanzania there are about 500 reported cases so far. At the end of March the Tanzanian Government introduced restrictions including the closure of all education institutions.

Development affecting the SAO children



In our last Newsletter we reported that the Order of Sisters of the Holy Spirit were building a private school behind the SAO buildings. This photo was taken in December 2019 and shows a two storey building well under way. The school is being built on land the SAO children used to play on.

News about the children we sponsor

We can report some excellent news about the children at the end of their school year in 2019 and over the first term of 2020.

Jackline appointed Head Girl of Haradali Pre and Primary School



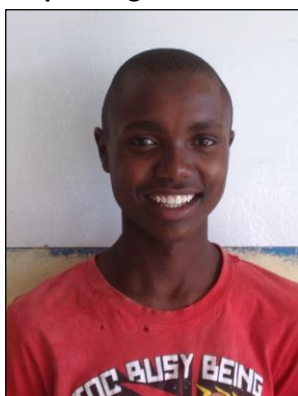
A very shy Jackline in 2014

Jackline has been sponsored through AKT since 2015. She is in Class 6, her penultimate year at the school. On March 9th we received the exciting news that she had become Head Girl of the school. This has been an amazing journey for this girl who was so shy when Kathy met her in 2014. Unfortunately we were informed on March 14th that all schools had closed due to Covid-19.



Head Girl Jackline (at right)

Stephano graduates from Unambwe Secondary School



When we first met Stephano he was the only child from SAO studying at Leganga Primary School. The school does not rank well in the annual tables of national school exam results. In 2016 Stephano was sponsored through AKT to attend Unambwe secondary school. We are very pleased to tell you that he worked hard and graduated with a Division 4 result at the end of 2019.

Success for our other Secondary school students

At the end of 2019 three of our sponsored secondary students sat the Form 2 National Assessment (FTNA) exams. Elizabeth studies at Unambwe Secondary School while Augustino and Edwin attend Haradali Winners Secondary School. All three did really well with Augustino in Division I, the top band. Elizabeth and Edwin both achieved a good Division II result.

Elizabeth



Augustino (L) and Edwin



More SAO children sponsored to Haradali Winners Secondary School

At the end of 2019 three more young people from SAO passed the national end of primary school exams and gained places at Haradali Winners. Congratulations to John who obtained a grade A in these important exams. Witness and Joel have both been sponsored privately for many years by Megan from the US. They each obtained a Grade B and also secured places at this school.



Joel



John



Witness

Godlisten, Jesca and Rajabu - is their future in jeopardy?

Godlisten is in Form 4, the final year of study at Haradali Winners Secondary School. Jesca and Rajabu are in Standard 7, the final year of primary school. They both elected to board at Haradali Pre and Primary School this year so they could concentrate on their studies. They had just got settled in when all schools were closed due to the pandemic.

Nobody knows how long the schools will be closed for. Nor do we know how the Tanzanian Government will deal with the problem of lost school time and the 2020 examinations. Remote learning is not possible as many homes have no power and the vast majority of children do not have access to laptops. It is a tough time for everyone but it must be particularly worrying for these three students (photos on page 4).



Godlisten



Jesca



Rajabu

Patrick doing well at Arusha Technical College

We sponsored Patrick through two years of secondary education because he wanted to go to college to obtain a certificate in Motor Vehicle Mechanics. He is now in the third (final) year of the certificate course. In 2019 he had to carry out a research project which involved him travelling to a series of towns in Tanzania to obtain the data he needed. His mark for this project was a stunning 92%.

A search for more sponsors

In November 2019 we put out a call for new sponsors. We needed sponsors for some children we had already placed in school. We also hoped to recruit sponsors for two girls who had recently arrived at SAO. We were able to recruit four new sponsors prepared to support a child each year for the duration of their primary or secondary education. Thank you all for coming board.

Blue Sky Pre and Primary School News

As a result of our successful campaign for more school sponsors we enrolled Naomi and Anastasia in Blue Sky School in January. This is the start of the academic year. Both girls are eight years old and very happy to be back in the classroom.



Shalom with Naomi



Anastasia

Arusha Schools Supporting others during the Covid-19 crisis

Blue Sky School

We are in regular contact with Elena Ramos, the Head Teacher of this school. The school has some donated funds that they are using to buy food, soap and sanitiser for the poorest families in their area. Here they deliver beans, rice, cooking oil, detergent and hand wash to SAO (see photo page 5).



Haradali Pre and Primary School

The staff of Haradali School have been busy providing gifts of flour and sanitiser to the families of the poorest children attending the school.



Bank Details for our COVID-19 Appeal

Here are our bank details for those who would like to donate

Name: Arusha Kids Trust

BSB: 062 110 Account: 1033 4231

Website Our website documents our purpose, current programs, sponsorship, newsletters over the past four years and details of events coming up. Register your interest in school sponsorship or support for our other programs. The link is www.arushakidstrust.com

Facebook

To link with us on Facebook go to <https://www.facebook.com/arushakiddstrust/>
We have posted news and photos of our visits to Arusha. Please like us on Facebook! A large selection of photos gathered over the past years is there for you to browse.