



Arusha Kids Trust: Action for Growth and Education

Arusha Kids Trust Newsletter Number 7 April 2018

News from Australia

Save the Date: Photo Exhibition Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th September

AKT will be holding an **exhibition of our photos from Tanzania**. This is a fund raising event and we would love you to come. Venue: Studio MV 426 Parramatta Road, Petersham. More details soon.

Our new Website

Copy this link into your browser <https://www.arushakidstrust.com/>

Our revised Facebook page

Facebook users can copy this link into your browser <https://www.facebook.com/Arusha-Kids-Trust-532258497157566/>

News from Arusha, Tanzania

A future for Edwin and Augustino

The children living at SAO attend three different primary schools. During Kathy's visit to SAO in October she realised that two of the older boys attending Amani Primary School had just finished sitting their national PSLE (Primary School Leaving Exams). We received the boys results on December 26th. They both did amazingly well in obtaining a B Grade.



There are not many government secondary schools and places are only offered to individuals with an A Grade. We were determined that both boys should go to secondary school. We used email addresses provided by the Director of SAO to contact some of those who had visited. We asked if anyone was sponsoring these boys. We got responses from Lauren and Matt, two friends living in the USA. They have sponsored Augustino, Edwin and a younger boy John for six years now, even though they had lost contact with anyone who could tell them about the boys' progress.

Photos: Augustino (top) & Edwin in 2016, Arriving at Haradali Winners Secondary School

We asked Lauren and Matt if they were prepared to sponsor Augustino and Edwin through secondary school. We also suggested they use our services to find a school and keep them informed about how the boys were progressing. We provided the contact details of three referees for AKT so that Lauren and Matt could check us out. (Thanks to our three referees for their positive input). We also approached Haradali Winners Secondary School (a private selective secondary school) and they agreed to take these two young men on the strength of their national exam results.

Just a day before the Tanzanian school year began in January, we were able to enroll the boys at Haradali Winners. Lauren and Matt will continue to sponsor them through secondary school.



Lauren (Co-Sponsor of Augustino and Edwin) visits Sydney from the USA



While the emails were flying between AKT and Lauren and Matt, Lauren emailed us to say she and her husband Josh were soon to transit through Sydney en route to New Zealand. We met them in Sydney on 20th January. Lauren told us a lot about her volunteering at SAO in 2012. We compared notes and had a wonderful afternoon. How lucky we were to meet Lauren in person!

Photo: (L to R) Lauren, Kathy and Chris in Sydney

Megan sponsors Witness and Joel As a result of our email enquiries to find the sponsors for Edwin and Augustino we were contacted by Megan from Canada. Megan has sponsored Joel and Witness to go to Amani school for some years. She was very pleased to hear that our organization is supporting the children she met when volunteering at SAO. Megan is planning to be in Arusha for the graduation of Witness and Joel from Amani Primary School at the end of 2019.

News of the older SAO residents: Patrick, Stefano, Elizabeth, and Raymond

As well as Edwin and Augustino, there are four other post-primary students: Patrick, Stefano, Elizabeth and Raymond. Patrick now has a room in Arusha near where he is studying.

Patrick. Kathy first met Patrick in 2014. He had finished four years of secondary school and had no family. Francis, the Director had seen his loneliness and offered him a place to stay in exchange for odd jobs. He was no longer living at SAO when we visited in 2015. When he heard mid-2016 that Kathy was visiting Arusha again, he came to see her. He reminded her that she had once promised to help him further his studies. Kathy and Patrick went off to speak with Victor, the Admissions Officer of the Arusha Technical College to discuss options. The advice was to re-sit the national Certificate of Secondary Education Exams (CSEE) so that he could obtain sufficient marks in the required subjects and then apply to Arusha Technical College.

Victor suggested Patrick enroll in an adult college, Ngais Academy, to repeat Form 4. The Academy turned out to be a couple of classrooms at the edge of a primary school. The energy of the place and the desire to study was immediately obvious when Kathy and Patrick visited. After 18 months of study at Ngais Academy Patrick passed the CSEE exams with a grade D. This was sufficient for him to apply to Arusha Technical College. He was offered a place after an interview. He is now studying Automotive Engineering. Congratulations to Patrick for his perseverance and success!



(L to R) Stefano, Kathy and Patrick

Stefano sat the national PSLE end of primary school exams in 2015. When we visited in 2016, he was spending his days at SAO helping with various chores and running errands for the staff. He told us he did not have his examination certificate; he assumed he had failed. After several attempts to find his results, and after visits to various government offices, it turned out that Stefano had passed. He had obtained a Grade D and it might be possible to enroll in a private secondary school.

Kathy and Stefano made appointments with various local schools but were not able to make progress with Stefano's enrolment. Then Kathy and Chris approached Simon, the founder of Haradali School, who said he could assist. Simon phoned the Principal of Unambwe Secondary School, which is within walking distance from SAO. After an interview at the school, Stefano was able to enroll.

At the end of 2017 Stefano sat the Form Two National Assessment (FTNA) exams. Students must pass these exams to continue into Form 3 of secondary school. He did sufficiently well to advance to Form 3. This is a great achievement, as many young people fail and must leave school.

Elizabeth is a young woman who has been working at SAO, helping Violet and Mary with the day-to-day care of the children--cooking, cleaning, washing, and so on. She had finished primary school a few years earlier but had not continued with her studies. In 2017, she expressed a wish to go to secondary school, even though she would be several years older than the students in Form 1. She was interviewed by Edwin the Principal of Unambwe, the school that Stefano is attending. It turned out that Elizabeth's literacy and numeracy skills were well below the level needed for secondary school studies.



The Principal suggested that she enroll in a pre-secondary course at the school, for the remainder of 2017. She agreed to wear the school uniform, have her hair cut very short as all students must, and to be punctual and determined to attend every day including Saturdays, to catch up. Elizabeth completed the pre-secondary course then commenced Form 1 in January 2018. We are looking forward to finding out how she is progressing when we visit SAO in July.

Raymond is in Form 4 at Lake Tatu Secondary School. He is studying for his very important CSEE (Certificate of Secondary Education Exams) this year. He was fortunate to obtain a place in this Government Secondary School four years ago. He has persevered with his studies, even though it has taken him two hours each day to walk to and from school.

Raymond is the boy we bought a bicycle for, so that he can get to school more easily. He is also the young man who had a sporting accident involving injuries to his mouth early in 2016 – several of his front teeth had been broken and split. In 2016, Chris took him to a dentist at an Arusha hospital, spending several hours at each appointment over two weeks. He was provided with temporary crowns. Sadly, Raymond sustained a further accident- as a pillion passenger on a motorbike. He managed to lose two of the crowned front teeth. He had some time off school to recover. This year is a crucial year for Raymond. We wish him the very best for the upcoming CSEE exams.

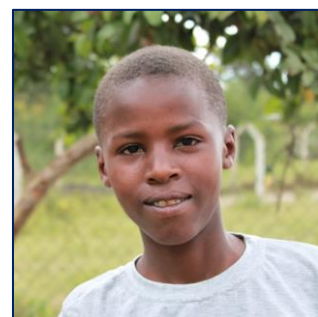


Photo: Edwin, Stephano, Raymond, Augustino and Elizabeth after a visit to the Tengeru second-hand markets to choose clothes for the first time

Kathy's second visit in 2017 In October 2017 Kathy made another trip to Arusha. The decision to go was driven by threats from the Landlord to give SAO notice to quit. At the same time the Tanzanian Government Social Welfare Department (Ustawi wa Jamii) was carrying out a thorough check on all orphanages.

We had heard that some orphanages were being forced to close. We were concerned about what this all might mean for the 54 children living at SAO.

The legal requirement is that any property used as an orphanage must either be rented on a 5-year lease or owned outright. The Landlord wants to sell the property, but we found out that his paperwork is not in order and he is unable to do so. SAO is now renting the property on a month by month basis as the Landlord will not sign a lease. Social Welfare is very concerned by this lack of certainty.

While in Arusha Kathy held meetings with SAO staff to come up with solutions to the requirements of Social Welfare to improve the children's living environment. She assisted with development of documentation including a budget for SAO.

The team decided to:



< Commission the making of two sets of small triple bunk beds (for small children)

Buy lots of mattresses, blankets and sheets and 60 colourful towels

Buy a fridge so the fruit and vegetables will last longer >



< Commission the making of 5 extra sets of shelves for bedrooms so the children can store their clothes and possessions



< Buy colourful stackable plastic tables and chairs in two sizes. These are used by the pre-school class for lessons and used by the resident SAO children for dining.

Rita Goes to School Thanks to her new Sponsor

We enrolled Rita, aged 7, in Haradali Primary School at the start of the school year in January. We were fortunate to immediately find a sponsor for her. Irena from Denmark was visiting SAO in October and briefly met Kathy. Irena contacted AKT and agreed to sponsor Rita as she had got to know this little girl while volunteering at SAO.

Next visit by Kathy and Chris to Arusha

We will be travelling to Arusha in early July 2018.

