



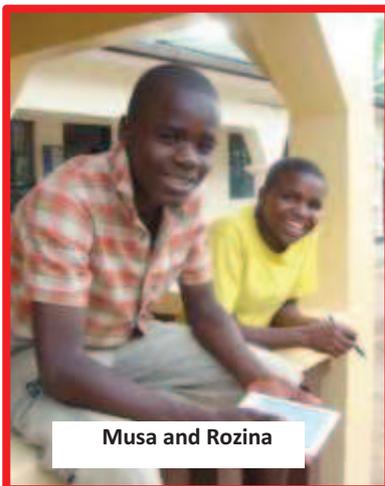
Good Hope Update – December 2012

My visit to Good Hope this December was a celebration of the ten great years I have been involved with Mama Josephine and her mission to help AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children in Umbwe-Onana Village, a poor community high on the slopes of Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. It was also a celebration of Good Hope's 2012's major accomplishments.

The morning after I arrived Josephine and I drove to town to pick up the five girls and two boys who have completed their first year as boarders at Moshi Academy, four of whom I have known and watched grow over nine years. It was a terribly difficult year for them, especially the older five. In addition to the move from a poor village school where what little teaching occurred was in Swahili, now they were facing much more challenging education - all in English. They had completed class 7 at the local primary school but it was soon very clear that they were well out of their depth. The school assessed their skills and placed them in Class 5. The head teacher and his teachers provided all



Last day of school before the Christmas holiday with Head teacher, a class teacher and Mama Josephine



Musa and Rozina

sorts of extra help, and to their credit the kids took full advantage. Their year-end reports reflect their hard work, as most ended up in the middle third of their class, and surpassed the class average in at least one or two subjects. For the first time ever I have rejoiced in report card information that compares students' rank to the rest of the class! The biggest success story is Musa who will go on to Secondary at the start of the new school year in January.

Most of the students at Moshi Academy are from middle class families who have nice things and pocket money so in addition to being academically way behind, our kids also had to deal with having so much less. Next year we will try to make sure that they at least have a little pocket money to be able to get snacks and other treats at the school shop.



Saying thank you

All this is made possible by people who have undertaken to contribute to paying school fees, and time was spent on the first day of the holidays writing thank you letters to at least some of the kind souls who are making such an important difference in the lives of these girls and boys – and ultimately all the people they will touch.

Upendo and Angel, the two little girls with Mama Josephine full-time, are both almost three. They chatter away to each other and



Upendo and Angel

whoever else will listen. Angel's single mother Filomena, who is not much more than a child herself, also lives and works at Good Hope, helping care for the children and supporting Mama Josephine in the many daily household tasks that life without washing machines and the many mod cons I take for granted entails. Fourteen year old John who lives nearby with his grandmother and has just finished Class 7 comes every day, helps keep the compound clean and the pigs and chickens fed in return for a very small 'salary' and a nourishing meal. Like so many kids who finish primary school barely literate there is not much future in education for him so Josephine is exploring how to enable him to acquire skills to help him to eventually become self-sufficient and independent. The rest of the kids are at school during term but home for holiday periods – a few weeks sat Christmas, Easter and late summer. The Good Hope board has decided to focus resources on making sure that the children currently in their care continue to access good quality education rather than spreading too thin.

A major 2012 event with long-lasting benefits was a visit in the summer by special friends Wendy and her colleagues from *Artists for World Peace*, a US-based NGO that has been working with Good Hope for the last few years. They gave the Health Centre a final coat of paint, expanded the chicken coop and funded and began construction of a maize grinding mill and shop. The mill will provide employment for a couple of villagers and enable local people to have their maize ground much closer to home. The shop will make agricultural supplies including animal feed available locally. Currently it can only be bought in town which requires a full day's travel there and back. Both will save villagers from having to walk long distances with heavy loads and will contribute to enabling GH to eventually be self-sustaining. While



New maize grinder and shop almost ready for use

these activities brought long-lasting benefit to GH as far as the kids were concerned the highlight of Wendy's visit was a safari to Ngorogoro crater – a truly magical adventure. They beamed as they told me about the all the animals they had seen, the wonder of staying in a hotel and the excitement of new travel. Very few poor kids in Tanzania ever get to experience what tourists take for granted. They will

never forget this amazing experience. For more information about Artists *for World Peace* and the work they do for Good Hope and around the world visit their web-site [www. artistsforworldpeace.org](http://www.artistsforworldpeace.org)

A highlight of my visit was the first-ever official graduation from the kindergarten, certificates and all. While almost 400 girls and boys have gone through the Good



Recognizing success

Hope KG and on to primary school since its start-up in 2004, this ceremony, which welcomed parents and grandparents, villagers and other visitors, was a chance to highlight the importance of early childhood education.



KG class, graduates and friends

Speeches and presentation of certificates and small gifts were followed by a wonderful meal and music and dancing. It was a delightful way to celebrate successes - both the children's and Good Hope's. Five girls and two boys will go on to Class I in January. They will be replaced by another group eager to learn..The KG class is smaller than has been the case in the past,



Proud grannies with their KG graduates

a conscious decision made to increase the quality of the program. Slowly the realisation of the power of early learning to make a long-term difference is being recognized and the GH program is being seen by the village as more than just day care and a place to play.

During my visit I kept seeing older kids, former KG students, slipping into the empty classroom to read whatever they could find. A forthcoming donation of books this Christmas will make a very big difference to available reading material and encourage even more reading.



Joy of reading

Umbwe Secondary School, one of Tanzania's best boys' schools, is a few kilometers down the road and over the last few years senior boys have formed a club to support Good Hope. They visit on weekends, play football, listen, encourage the kids and provide wonderful role models. The boys claim that they gain more from the experience than they give, and since many of them will go on to be leaders in their chosen field, their Good Hope experience will remind them of the importance of ensuring that kids in very poor communities need a break too.



Umbwe students with Mama and the KG class



Sunflowers brighten the fields of maize

The Good Hope maize and beans have flourished this year and the former is now ready to harvest. Villagers will be employed for the back-breaking work of cutting, husking and preparing the maize for use – some to eat, some to grind for next year’s ugali and some to sell. There are also great quantities of beans, a main staple of the local diet. I was treated to a cooking lesson – who knew beans could taste so good?

The piggery continues to produce well. A number of piglets had been sold just before I arrived and one sow was very close to delivering her litter. I rather hoped I would be there but alas she was not quite ready. The chickens are thriving. They provide eggs, the occasional meal and profit. The garden is lush with delicious vegetables so every meal has generous servings of tasty greens.

The health center which has been a focus of our energy and resources for so long is just about ready. This year the required incinerator to destroy medical refuse was constructed and the final tiling and interior painting was done. Wiring is complete and electricity was to have been connected during the fall but word came out that thanks to government action to address the high cost of power in rural areas, connection costs will be dramatically reduced in January. Needless to say the board decided to wait. A visit to the Moshi District Health Director confirmed that the next step is to officially register with the ministry. They will inspect the facility before approving the application. This is the final step to enable them to provide services. Since Josephine has worked with the health department throughout and they have supervised each phase of construction, this should be a formality



Everyone is waiting...

WAVUMBE, the group of HIV+ people that has been making such an important contribution to helping people with HIV and AIDS in the area has had another successful year. They have registered as an official Community-Based Organization (CBO) and continue to provide support to individuals to face the terrifying prospect of testing for HIV, and to cope if results are positive. Their accomplishments are amazing, all the more so because they have been working completely on their own, with practically no donor support. A results-based workplan developed two years ago has paid off in that it enabled the group to be taken seriously by local health authorities and they have been able to approach health officials on behalf of members. The WAVUMBE chairman, Baltazar Munishi, is working with the CCT clinic as a volunteer ‘lay counsellor’. He is able to personally demonstrate as no medical people can that HIV is not a death sentence. His own experience living with HIV gives him credibility working with people to help them understand the importance of adherence to medication regimes, finding nourishing food and general health care.

The micro-credit group that WAVUMBE started on its own 2 years ago has continued to be very successful. Initial loans averaged about 50,000/= (about \$30) and allowed women to create small businesses that helped them feed their families. The repayment record has been excellent and loans now can reach 200,000/=, allowing more expansive ventures. A new type of local village community

banks- VICOBA- has developed in Tanzania. Groups of citizens can apply for this official status which enables them to be even more productive and WAVUMBE is awaiting its acceptance. This should enable them to approach businesses and other funders to expand their micro-credit potential to support more people in Umbwe to initiate small businesses to support themselves and their children.

At long last Good Hope is able provide a detailed accounting of its assets, income, and spending. A summary of this will be posted on the new Good Hope website, www.goodhopetrust.org , hopefully by mid-January when the final 2012 entries have been made. Many thanks to my brother Don for putting the website together! Who knows – a Facebook page might even be next as I slowly explore the world of social media!

All in all it was a wonderful visit and as usual I was sad to leave. However I left very satisfied, and wishing that I could share the experience with the many people like you who over the years have contributed to this very special little group of local people who are making a big difference in their own community and in the lives of children, their care givers, mostly grandmother, and the people they will ultimately touch. Some of you have visited and have fond memories. For most however this brief summary will, I hope, will remind us that entire ordinary people doing just a little extra is what really makes a difference. The long list of ‘Friends of Good Hope’ on the website is testament to the many who have helped in one way or another. I hope I have included everyone – please let me know if you spot any omissions. A special word of thanks to friends whose regular contributions over the years, are the backbone of God Hope and to those who are sponsoring kids to go to school.

To everyone who has enabled Good Hope to change the worlds just a little – Asante Sana!

All very best wishes and blessings for Christmas and 2013
from Good Hope

Rosemary, Mama Josephine and the kids

