

**GOOD HOPE**  
**Support Program for AIDS Orphans**  
**and other Vulnerable Children**

**Onana Village, Kibosho-Umbwe,  
P.O. Box 7748  
Moshi, Tanzania**

**December 2010 Update**

Dear Friends of Good Hope,

This newsletter comes with season's greetings for the many wonderful people who have helped Good Hope grow and thrive as it continues to serve the most vulnerable children in the Onana community. I have just returned from a wonderful visit where I was able to catch up with all the news, see how the children have grown, and had a chance to hear about and see for myself the many things that have happened this year.



**The Good Hope Family**



**Upendo at  
8 months**

There are now 14 kids living at Good Hope, 35 coming to the nursery school, 7 being sponsored to attend secondary and 1 to attend a vocational training center. As older kids move on to more appropriate living situations new little ones take their places. In March 5-day old Upendo (her name means love) joined the family as the youngest ever member and has been a source of joy to all.

2010 was a good year for Good Hope as friends new and old found ways to continue to make things better. In the spring a generous donation from *Save Africa's Children-USA* supported the installation of a water harvesting system which allows rain water to be saved for later use for washing, gardening and animals. This has reduced the cost of piped water by about 2/3 and guarantees that the garden will thrive.



**District Commissioner inspects  
water storage tank**



**learning together**

The Nursery school continues to give vulnerable kids in the village a wonderful head start to later school success. Mwalimu Rogati spent a week with the Aga Khan nursery school in Dar es Salaam and brought back new ideas for dealing with his students. This was very clear when I observed how he has the children working in groups, all clearly enthralled with learning and so proud to show off their new skills. Twelve will start Standard 1 in January and a new group will take their places. There is always a great demand so it is hard to keep to a reasonable class size but Rogati does his best. This year Good Hope's first physically challenged child showed everyone how ready she was to be just like the others. An accident when she was a baby left her with severely damaged legs. Through the generosity of Good Hope's Norwegian friends she was taken to Norway where surgery and prostheses gave her the mobility she so badly wanted. There is no stopping her now as she runs and plays and learns. An added benefit – after two successful years in the Good Hope



**Lunch time!**

nursery school it will be very difficult for the local primary school to refuse to accept her when she is ready for Standard 1. Maize raised in our shambas continues to provide food for a nourishing lunch and everyone is delighted when it is ready. After a couple of poor years this year's crop promises to be excellent and will provide enough to feed all the kids all year and have some left to sell. The piggery has also done well and there is a very good market for pork in the area.

The project vehicle was showing serious signs of aging and was becoming very expensive to maintain. However thanks to a donor it was replaced with a small van. While it was sad to see 'Sarita' go. Her replacement has made getting up and down the mountain so much easier and more reliable. In addition to taking kids to clinics, hauling food for chickens and pigs and getting to the bank there have been several airport pick-ups as to greet new friends and old.



Noah, the new van

This was a year for visitors: Bruce Downie and his colleagues from *Kesho Trust*, a Canadian/Tanzanian NGO that works with Good Hope, came to visit and delivered funds that had been collected in Canada. A



Josephine and Wendy at the medical centre in August

report of their visit can be seen at [www.thekeshotrust.org](http://www.thekeshotrust.org). Wendy, Kate and Myles from *Artists for World Peace*, an American NGO, (meet them at [www.artistsforworldpeace](http://www.artistsforworldpeace)), spent time in August learning about the center and its needs. They made joyful music with the kids and left with hearts full of love. They have decided to raise funds both to help support the kids and to contribute to the on-going construction of the medical center. Dianne Anderson from Vancouver visited in November after successfully climbing Kilimanjaro as a fund raiser for the Steven Lewis Foundation. She was keen to see firsthand what sorts

of help is really needed and she too fell in love with Good Hope and has decided to help on a regular basis. A group from The Netherlands found their way to the door, and continue to come back with gifts and another group from the Czech Republic have also become supporters. The Norwegian friends of Good Hope continue to provide vital support with their regular contributions which is a great help, especially with the few salaries that must be paid.

Thanks to some of you seven secondary students have a chance at a future with your education sponsorship. All are youngsters whose lives have been shattered one way or another by HIV and AIDS, and being able to get an education will make a big difference in their lives. A couple are already the sole support for their siblings so this is critical. Edward has just finished Form 4, the end of 'O' levels, and is hoping that his exam results will enable him to go on to 'A' levels. John, Joseph and Scholastica will graduate from 'O' levels next year and the others all have a couple of years to go. Kelvin has another year in the vocational training program which he is really enjoying. Because there are so many young people needing this kind of help Good Hope has decided to focus on the children or dependents of WAVUMBE members.

Robert, the eldest of the resident Good Hope kids, will start secondary in January as a boarder at Mlama Secondary which is very close by. The local government schools have so few teachers that students have to basically teach themselves. Concerns about how best to meet the needs of our resident youngsters as they become adolescents has led us to the conclusion that private boarding school, which is a usual practice for quality education in Tanzania, will also provide the most normal environment possible for our teens. They will have to pass an entrance exam but since they tend to be at the top of their classes in primary most should manage without too much difficulty. While boarding school is more costly (about \$700), the annual fees include everything – tuition, room and board, books and school supplies, so the actual increased cost to Good Hope isn't so significant. He is very excited and Musa, who is due to follow him next year, will I think see this as a good incentive to do well in Standard 7, his last year in primary.

WAVUMBE, the group of people living with HIV who have joined together to fight against the stigma associated with AIDS by providing information using music and song, has had a good year. The group has grown to 52 members. This includes 44 adults and the guardians of 8 children who have been identified as being HIV positive. They meet regularly to share information about successful living with HIV and AIDS. In addition to providing moral and financial help to each other they have been able to assist an average of five people a month through the testing process and subsequent treatment – about 75% of the people they have helped to go for testing have had positive results. It costs over \$100 a year to go through the testing process and follow up on treatment which involves travelling to town, medications other than the anti-retrovirals provided by the government, X-rays etc. For people who have no cash income this is a fortune. Luckily once the new medical center is finished, this cost will be lessened considerably. The group has also established a youth group which includes kids with and without HIV and, to address the underlying poverty that makes HIV so much harder to deal with, have initiated a very successful micro-loan project. The approximately \$800 they were able to raise from small local businesses has enabled 22 members to get small loans (average \$40) which has allowed them each to start and sustain a small business. The repayment rate has been so good that another 19 loans were possible after six months, this time averaging \$100. They are seeking additional funds to make more loans available. They see this as an incentive to encourage people to initiate the HIV testing and if necessary begin treatment, as joining WAVUMBE makes them eligible to borrow. Since almost everyone in the community is very poor, poverty alleviation affects all. One of the things we did while I was there was prepare an annual work plan and proposal to seek funding to continue WAVUMBE's excellent work in the area, which now covers 7 adjacent villages in Kibosho West. Sadly 3 members died this year, including one of the original members and one of the children.



New window and door grills are all in

Construction of the Medical center continues to be a major activity and work is progressing well though slowly. In November almost all the windows and doors were in. As soon as the building can be secured plumbing (already purchased) will be installed as will wiring for electricity. Then ceilings, inside walls and finishing, doors etc. can be done. **(UPDATE August 2011 – the inside plastering, plumbing and electrical wiring is complete and we are negotiating with TANESCO – the national Power authority, for installation of power. We will have to [pay not only the installation costs but also for whatever number of**

**poles are required)** .We can only continue to build as funds become available, which of course mean that the builder is not always free when money comes in, so this slows things down a bit. Nevertheless the progress is exciting to watch. Mr. Musa Samizi, Moshi Rural District Commissioner, the senior government official in the district, and a number of other officials visited while I was last there and were impressed. "Seeing is believing" was how Mr Samizi put it. He reaffirmed the commitments made by the District Health Department to equip and staff the center as soon as it is ready. He likened Good Hope friends to the angels who sometimes appear at our door, and quoted Hebrews 11 which cautions that on-going hospitality was essential because you never know who is knocking! **(So you see you are now an angel!)**

An important task during my **(Nov 2010)** visit was to meet with an accountant who has agreed to work with Josephine to ensure that our financial management is well organized and transparent so that we can demonstrate our accountability. He will work with her to get the recording process well set up and will prepare monthly financial reports. He has done his best with 2008 and 2009 accounts (many of the documents disappeared in previous failed experiences with accountants) and will produce a complete report for the 2010 year by end-January **( This fell thorough but we have finally secured the services of another accountant who has completed the job. We now have a financial record for the center.)** Josephine and I prepared an annual work plan which she will present to the newly-elected Board of Directors. This will allow us to plan more effectively, provide a information and financial reports to our donors and seek funding from organizations. It does not include the Resource/Medical Center building activities as that will be dealt with separately.





Lillian, who has worked at Good Hope for several years was married in November and everyone donned their best clothes to go to the wedding, which was held the day I left. Everyone was delighted to learn that she will return to Good Hope and her new husband will try to establish a small business of some kind close by. (This didn't happen after all and it took quite a while for Josephine to find a suitable successor.)

As we move into the new year we have high hopes. With any luck the medical center will be finished, the kids will be healthy and happy and continue to do well at school, the older ones will graduate from Form 4 and good friends will continue to visit and inspire us to keep on going. We will try to do a better job of keeping the blog up to date and will even try to get a proper website up and running.

Good Hope survives and thrives because of personal contributions from generous people like you in different parts of the world. Whenever I start to panic about finances Josephine reminds me that "God will provide" and so far she has been right. It seems that every time a new expense has come up – someone with a little money to spare has appeared on the horizon! The cost of living in Tanzania has increased dramatically so just feeding the children is a major challenge. However I am confident that we will continue to provide a loving home for children who have nowhere else to go, a great start at learning for the most vulnerable kids in the neighbourhood, possibilities for older kids affected by HIV to get to secondary school, support for people to take those frightening first steps towards testing and treatment and leadership in the community that demonstrates in a powerful way that a small group of dedicated people can indeed change the world ( apologies to Margaret Mead!)

On behalf of the whole Good Hope community please let me express our most heartfelt thanks for your friendship and support. A special thanks to those of you who have made Good Hope a regular part of your budget. Please know that every bit helps – and all goes directly to those who are in most need. Please feel free to contact me if you want more information at any time, and if you know anyone who wants to add a special experience to a trip to Tanzania be assured that they will always be welcome.

The whole Good Hope family wishes you all the blessings of Christmas, a wonderful holiday season and much peace, health and happiness in 2011.

*Rosemary*

