

St. Nicholas Children's Centre Kemondo (NCKK)
Bukoba Catholic Diocese



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*"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet,
you also should wash one another's feet!"*

John 13:14
(Picture: Palm Sunday, Bibel Verse: Holy Thursday)

Easter 2023

Dear Friends and Supporters of St. Nicholas!

In January I sent pictures of Christmas and New Years at St. Nicholas. Now I would like to give a report of the past months. We enjoyed celebrating Christmas and had a good beginning of the New Year 2023. Several youth finished their education programs in December. We congratulated them with a small party. We are so proud of their achievements! Now it is time for those young adults to find jobs, move out and live on their own.



Sebastian (19), Nazalius (20), Dotto (20), Joseph (21), Kaijage (20), Kulwa (20) and Adventina (19) have officially left the children's center. Sebastian and Kaijage have found jobs and live in different places. The others still take vocational training courses which we support financially but they no longer live at St. Nicholas. We are in touch with each one and we support them as needed.

In 2019 we built a new building for the youth with the purpose of teaching them independent living skills. Now as seven young adults moved out, the building was nearly empty. The leadership team and I discussed how we could use the space. The first children have moved out, new children are joining us. Life is dynamic and constantly changing and so is the use of the buildings.

We now have 40 children: 21 girls and 19 boys. We decided to renovate the old main building as well as the other building and to rearrange the bedrooms.

Now the girls are living in the main building and the boys have moved to the other building.

The children share their bedrooms according to their age. I was able to discuss all those changes

while I was visiting in January. The renovation work was completed in February and then the children as well



as some of the staff moved. With less children in each house there is more space. We employed additional caregivers who are working together with the caregivers who have been at St. Nicholas for many years. Both houses function on their own. However, only their living quarters are separated. The children continue to play together on the compound. They also go to school together. The leadership team keeps me informed how things work out, where there are challenges and where we still need to adjust to the needs of everyone.

We received two new children in December 2022: Gordon und Pelagia.



Gordon at his arrival

Gordon was sick when he was brought to us. At first the caregivers thought that Gordon was blind, deaf and paralyzed. After his health got better, we realized that Gordon has a mental disability and he speaks a Ugandan language. He was simply not able to understand anyone in Tanzania! Nor was he able to communicate much at first. It took several weeks until he would tell us his name and that he started to accept St. Nicholas as his new home and family. We think that he is about 8 years old. We do not know anything about his family and his story.



Gordon in January



Pelagia is also eight years old. She has cerebral palsy and a mental disability. Her mother is raising several children on her own and she was no longer able to care for the needs of Pelagia. Pelagia is a happy and friendly child. She is always ready to play with other children. For her it was much easier to adjust to her new big family at St. Nicholas.

Unfortunately I have some bad news as well: In March several people near St. Nicholas became sick and died of the Marburg Virus. There is an official travel alert to this region in Tanzania. After Covid and the Ebola virus that occurs from time to time in East Africa, we are all tired and really do not need another virus!

For more information please refer to: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00489.asp>

My daughters and I intend to travel to Tanzania at the end of June.



Thank you so much for your faithful support!

We are wishing you a joyful feast of the Resurrection of our Lord!

Stefanie Köster, the leadership team, the children and caregivers