

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



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View over St. Nicholas

September 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters of St. Nicholas!

In June and July my daughters and I visited St. Nicholas for three weeks. This time we managed to celebrate our 10-year anniversary. We should have celebrated this anniversary in September 2021 but had to postpone it until this year. So by now it has already been 11 years since we moved into St. Nicholas with the first children. Our celebration was very joyful. I had to think back to our opening celebration in October 2011 when all of us were baptized in the downpours of rain! However it is so much nicer to celebrate during the dry season. So much has happened in those 11 years – most of all I am amazed to witness the development of the children! We moved in with 10 children and have grown to a family of 50 kids. Thanks to your donations (!) - we were able to add many buildings. A visitor observed once that St. Nicholas has grown to the size of a village.

On the following page I am comparing pictures from 2011 and 2022:

2011



2022



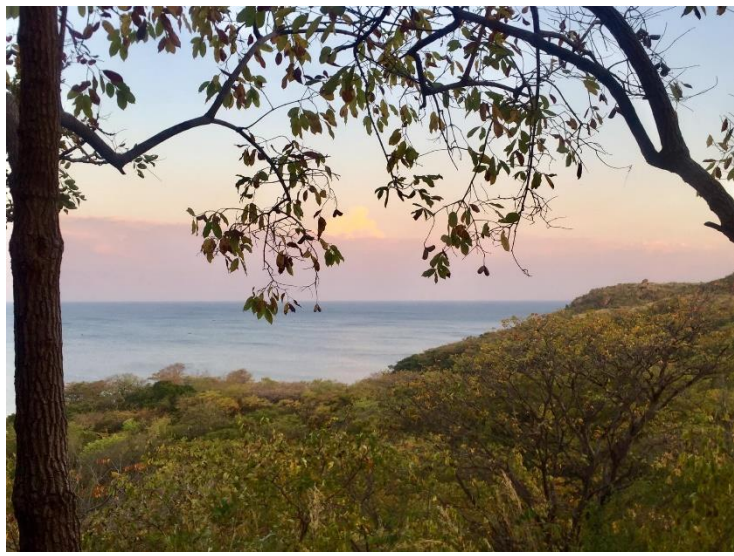
2011

2022

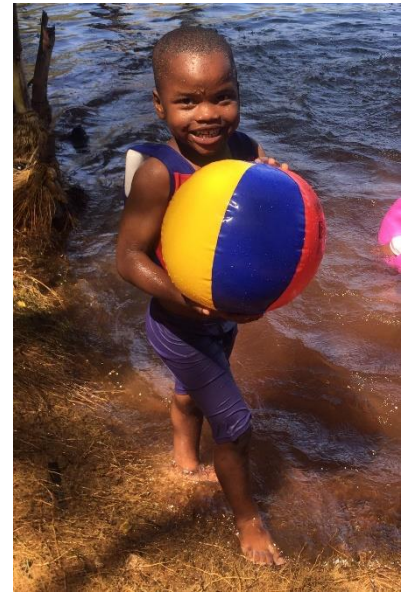


Our 10-Year Anniversary





In July we did a lot of fun activities with the kids. We went on vacation to Lake Tanganyika in Kigoma with a group of 13 children and three caregivers.



The kids always enjoy to travel and to do fun activities in smaller groups.



Our Zebra is called „Zebastian“



And even the kids who did not get to go on vacation this time had fun at the state fair. The state fare is really special. It takes place once a year in Bukoba. There was even a camel!





In May Alicia was brought to us by Social Welfare. She is from our village in Kemondo. Neighbors heard her cry and found her by herself locked inside the hut. Alicia's parents are very young. Her mother has epilepsy and is quite affected by this illness. She is separated from the child's father and has no family support. Since Alicia has been living with us, her mother comes to visit and when she

does, we give her medicine to treat the epilepsy. Alicia adjusted well to her new oversized family. She clearly enjoys being the youngest. She will be two years old in November.

And then we received Johnson in August. We think that he is about eight years old. Johnson has a mental disability. He can tell us his name but he cannot tell us about his family and where he is from. And so far no one from his family has come to us, to the police or to social welfare to look for him.

Whenever we receive a child, it is my first hope that the child's family situation can be cleared and that the child may return to his/her family. And sometimes this does happen and we just provide a temporary home for the child. But many times we receive a child where we cannot find out anything about the child's origin.





In September we received two volunteers from Germany. Since the outbreak of the Covid-pandemic in March 2020 we had no volunteers and very few visitors. Clara will be with us for one year. Carlotta already volunteered for a year in 2018/19. She is visiting for one month and she helps Clara to adjust to the many people at St. Nicholas, the different culture and language.

My daughters and I are already looking forward to spending Christmas at St. Nicholas. Because we get to visit so often and because we are in touch daily, we continue to be a close part of the St. Nicholas family.

As always thank you so much for your faithful support and prayers!

Stefanie Köster, the leadership team, the children and caregivers

