



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

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Dear Friends and Supporters of St. Nicholas,

From mid-May to mid-June, I was back at St. Nicholas for four weeks. I am happy to share some impressions from my visit with you.

The highlight was, of course, our big 15th anniversary celebration. It is hard to believe that it has already been that long since we moved into St. Nicholas in September 2011. Back then, we started with ten children and three caregivers. The first days and weeks felt like a chaotic summer camp. We lacked household items and furniture, there were no established routines yet, and even the responsibilities still had to be figured out. Many things developed step by step.



September 2011: We are moving in – The compound was still a construction site!

years, we are filled with gratitude and amazement at how much life, growth, and development God has graciously given us.

Over the past 15 years, a total of 67 children have found a home with us. Some of them are now adults, living independent lives and have even started families of their own.

What began with three caregivers has grown into a team of 40 staff members. In addition to our first house, two more houses have been built.

As we look back on these past 15



Moving in with 10 children and 3 caregivers – the adventure of living at St. Nicholas begins!



For our anniversary celebration, we invited many guests. We were especially delighted that so many former children returned to celebrate with us—two of them even came with their own families. The day began with a festive church service.



Afterwards, we shared a meal together, listened to speeches, and enjoyed songs and dances performed by our children, which added great joy to the celebration. The happiness and gratitude of this special day could be felt everywhere.



We have published some pictures and a short video of the celebration on our website. Take a look and experience the unique atmosphere for yourself: <https://www.nikolaushaus.com/aktuelles/15-jahre-nikolaushaus/>





The kids enjoyed their school holidays in June and all of them were home. So I was able to spend a lot of time with all the children—including those who attend boarding schools during the school year.



During my stay, Mwolokozi had to undergo surgery. He was operated on at the main hospital in Bukoba. Thankfully, the procedure went smoothly without any complications, and after just three days he was allowed to return home. We are very grateful for this.



As in previous years, I also travelled to Kigoma at Lake Tanganyika with a group of children and one caregiver. We always stay there in a simple vacation house and prepare our own meals. Therefore, spaghetti with tomato sauce or rice with vegetables are often on the menu, and sometimes we go out for French fries.



However, the highlight for the children is swimming in the lake every day—both in the morning and in the afternoon. We all enjoy this special time away together very much!



At the same time as I was there, our former intern Verena and her partner also came to visit. Verena is now working as a qualified early childhood teacher. Together, they actively supported us with their time and energy:



They completely reorganized our special needs kindergarten, sorted through the toys, rearranged the rooms, and as part of this big clean-up project, the walls were freshly painted as well.



Our kindergarten is now shining with a new look, and we once again have a clear overview of our materials. We are deeply grateful for this wonderful contribution.



We also cannot thank you enough for your faithful and ongoing support. Without your help, our work at St. Nicholas would not be possible. Thanks to your support, we are able to provide the children with a loving home and give them hope and opportunities for their future. *Asante sana – thank you very much!*

Stefanie Köster, the leadership team, the children and caregivers



Stay Connected

Together with a few dedicated volunteers, I keep our website up to date, and we also post regularly on Instagram and Facebook. Please feel free to stop by – it's worth a visit!

 www.nikolaushaus.com

 [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/nikolaushaus)

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