

St. Nicholas Children's Centre Kemondo (NCKK)



Bukoba Catholic Diocese
Stefanie Köster, Directress

P.O. Box 1777
Bukoba, Tanzania
Phone: +255 756 751 605
E-Mail: SEKoester@t-online.de
Webseite: www.nikolaushaus.com



Christmas 2020

"Christmas: Let us become human, a human being for one another."

Phil Bosmans

Dear Friends and Supporters of St. Nicholas!

The year 2020 has been a most challenging year for everybody. Suffering from a Covid-19 infection, the fear of getting infected, all the precautions, restrictions and living in quarantine are very difficult to live with.

In Tanzania we are blessed that we were basically spared from the pandemic. Maybe scientists will be able to explain later on why the virus did not affect us as badly in Africa. Schools closed in Tanzania from mid-March until the end of June. People sewed face masks and wore them, hands were washed frequently.

But after 500 people tested positive for Covid-19, the government decided to no longer publish the infection rates. Also not much testing has been done. With the re-opening of schools in July, Tanzania resumed its daily life. Most likely the virus is going around in Tanzania. However, we do not notice sick people nor do people die in unusual numbers. I presume this is due to the mild climate and to the young population. Life is so different in Europe and in the US where we are facing a long winter period and are battling with so many infections.



The children are doing well at St. Nicholas. Currently we are caring for 42 children. Our youngest child is Tumaini who is turning four in December. Five youngsters have completed their school education and are discerning their options regarding vocational training schools or higher education. Several youngsters have turned 18 years old this year. They will be the first ones to leave St. Nicholas. However, we will continue to guide and support them until they are able to support themselves and we will always be their family to come home to.



On October 10, 2020 my daughters Anita and Aisha and I celebrated our farewell from St. Nicholas. Our move to Germany was planned long in advance. Nevertheless leaving was very difficult. Since we have arrived in Germany we are in daily contact with St. Nicholas and we miss the children and our African life a lot. Sr. Celestina, Clemence and Njunwa make up the leadership team now. They are working together very well and they report to me regularly. We would have loved to spend Christmas in Tanzania. However, due to the current situation with the pandemic this is not possible. We are planning to visit St. Nicholas in July 2021.



Our St. Nicholas-Family at our farewell party on October 10, 2020

Thank you for your continued faithful support.
We are wishing you a blessed Christmas Season and
all of God's blessings for the New Year 2021,

Stefanie Köster, the leadership team, caregivers and children