

# TUWAPENDE WATOTO



## Dear Friends and Donors of the Tuwapende Watoto Foundation

At the beginning of March, my husband and I travelled to Tanzania for two weeks. Beat had not been there for two years due to the pandemic and was welcomed with great joy by all the children and staff. The experiences during our stay showed us that we are on the right track. Our 96 employees are very happy to work for Tuwapende Watoto. The mutual help and acceptance of both schools and the children's home are great. A large community has been created, a Tuwapende Watoto family! The trust in our foundation is great and our support for the monthly health insurance premiums, pension annuity, and a punctual transfer of the salaries are very much appreciated. The employees are also very grateful for the reduced school fees for their children who attend our schools. We continued to pay salaries during the government-imposed school closure in the summer of 2020, once again showing that we are reliable employers. During a meeting with all employees, I was able to thank them on behalf of the Foundation Board and the NGO for their much-appreciated commitment and good cooperation.

The economy in Tanzania is recovering very slowly from the Coronavirus pandemic. Few construction activities, hardly any casual work, and continuously rising food prices make it difficult for poor families without regular income to make a living.



Thanks to the Swissair Staff Foundation for Children in Need, we were again able to give food packages to families in need during the Christmas vacations. The parents and children were very grateful for this exceptional support and were delighted to be able to prepare healthy and warm meals during the school vacations.

The war in Ukraine is also causing increased prices on food, building materials, gasoline, etc., and is once again causing difficulties for the struggling economy.

## Children's home

We are happy about the development of the 29 children and teenagers entrusted to us in the Tuwapende Watoto Children's Home.

- The three oldest boys, Nevius, Jackson, and Emmanuel are happy and grateful that our foundation enables them to study economics at the university in Dar es Salaam. Nevius will graduate at the end of the year. They feel well taken care of in their accommodations at the university but always look forward to free days at the home.





**10 years Tuwapende Watoto!** Our principal Emmaculate has been essential in the successful development of our nursery and primary school. We would like to thank her for her great commitment.



Thanks to the loving care of our mamas in the children's home and the good education in the Tuwapende Watoto Nursery and Primary School, the children entrusted to us are developing very well.

- Nancy and the twins Martha and Maria successfully passed the National Examination for the fourth grade of secondary school in mid-November 2021, and are currently attending the preliminary course for the fifth grade of secondary school (high school) at Gili Secondary School in Kibaha.
- On March 19, Didier celebrated his high school graduation at Baobab Secondary School. He will graduate from the sixth grade of secondary school in May 2022 with his high school diploma.
- Kelvina, Zawadi, and Julius are preparing for the all-important fourth secondary school graduation exam in November 2022.
- Vanessa, Eliza, Aisha, and Gabriel passed the seventh grade National Exam and are now continuing their education at Baobab and St. Therese Secondary School.
- Peter, Luqman, and Christopher will graduate from primary school in October 2022 with the National Exam. The last year of primary school is demanding with many exams and extra school hours. Our teachers are committed to helping all students transfer to secondary school.
- Gloria, Eveline, and Samson rejoiced with the whole Tuwapende Watoto family at the nursery school graduation ceremony on November 27, 2021. They are proud to attend first grade since January 2022.

## **Emmaculate Mleke, principal at our school for the past 10 years**

Emmaculate Mleke has been essential for the successful development of the nursery and primary school. She leads our team with feeling, perseverance, and good pedagogical knowledge. I am in contact with Emmaculate almost daily and appreciate her commitment, collaboration, and trustworthiness and reliability, along with her love for the children.

Emmaculate writes:

*Thank you dear Tuwapende Watoto Team!*

*Thank you for all the years you have counseled and mentored me. You have deeply impacted me and helped me build my skills and talents in many areas. It was and is a privilege to work for your NGO. I have learned many things. Also, how to help and counsel people in need. I learned that many children who come from poor families have a lot of potential but do not have supportive opportunities in their families. Thank you for the support and happy life you give to these families. I hope that I can continue to make you proud with my future efforts.*

*Thank you again*

*Emmaculate*

## **Nursery and primary school „Education for a bright future“.**

Education is the key to success

- On December 11, 2021, we ended a successful school year with a parent's morning followed by one-on-one meetings with parents and teachers. We kicked off 2022 on January 17 with 780 students in nursery school through seventh grade. Currently, we teach from Pre-Unit through fourth grade in three parallel classes per grade. Beginning in 2025, we will triple-teach all classes. We are working with the same competent and reliable staff as in the previous year.
- In mid-January, a message from the Tanzanian Department of Education caused great anger and confusion among the principal and teachers. Without pilot classes or information, all schools were asked to teach according to a new curriculum starting in





The workshop for the two-year dual vocational apprenticeship for two-wheel mechanics is very well equipped. The apprentices are motivated and look forward to practical training, which comprises 70% of the training time.



We are constantly developing. Our teachers appreciate our good infrastructure. They give their best every day for the benefit of our students.

February. The new curriculum specifies a precise timetable for the various subjects so that all classes throughout the country teach according to the same schedule. Our teachers always prepare for the new school year during the vacations. Therefore, we were all surprised by this last-minute change, which meant additional work for the teachers. Our school was chosen to invite the 348 teachers of all schools and levels of our district (Mabwepande Ward) to train and inform them about the changes.

- The Tanzanian state under President Samia Suluhu Hassan is investing heavily in the construction of additional school buildings, inventory, and school materials so that more children can receive a better education. Primary school graduates in the seventh grade are now allowed to repeat the national exam. Also, secondary school students are now allowed to finish school after pregnancy.
- On November 27, 2021, 35 girls and 36 boys celebrated their graduation from our nursery school. They received their certificate to transfer to the first grade of primary school. With dancing and other performances, the children and their proud parents, together with the teachers, spent a special day at our school. We are happy to be able to teach these children in our primary school for the next seven years and to provide them with an excellent basic education.
- The fourth grade gave our school a great success last fall. Of the 66 students, 55 children passed the National Examination with a maximum grade of A and 11 with B. In Dar es Salaam's Kinondoni district, our school ranked 9th out of 120 schools, and nationally, Tuwapende Watoto Primary School once again achieved a top ranking of 194 out of 14144 schools.
- As a thank you for the excellent education and care of their children, which led to their excellent results at the National Exam, the parents organized a happy thank you party for their children and all the staff of Tuwapende Watoto Primary School.
- The National Exam is also an indicator of the quality of the training. We are very proud of the results achieved. We congratulate all students for passing the exam. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to the school management and the teachers who, with their tireless efforts, taught the students the school material competently and with great pleasure and ensured a high level of education with additional lessons.
- The invitation of parents, which takes place on Saturday mornings, is well attended and the information provided by the principal and the teachers is listened to with great interest. We notice great solidarity on the part of the parents. They offer financial help according to their possibilities in case of the death of parents or students.
- Continuing education for our staff is important to us. At the beginning of the year, we held an internal course on how to meet the expectations of parents and children. Correct communication with parents and children is of great importance to us.
- Not only a good education in school subjects is important to us. Before Easter, course instructors from Umati (NGO) visited us to teach our seventh-grade students about health and sexual education.
- Our school is open to all Tanzanian children from the surrounding area. The school fees of families in need of support are adjusted to their financial possibilities. 15% of the school children are financially supported. We also help these students during secondary and vocational school.

### Vocational school

We are also pleased with the development of the dual vocational school and the development of the teachers, their creativity, their helpfulness to Tuwapende Watoto, their expertise, and their good cooperation. We have a good team, which is very committed to the learners, provides valuable counseling sessions, and pays attention to good behavior.

- During the „Open Days“ in April and November, we were visited by a very large number of interested parents, secondary school students,



In mid-March, the Swiss ambassador Mr. Didier Chassot and his wife Joëlle Chassot visited us in Bunju B. Mr. Chassot took the time to talk to our students and everyone was enthusiastic about our country representative.



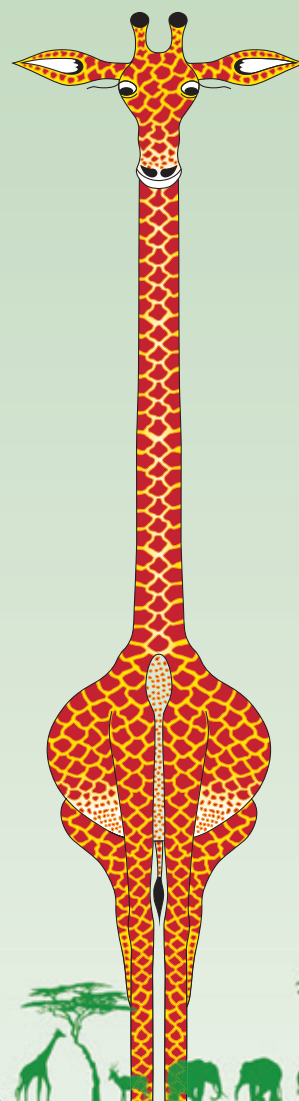
The visit to our vocational school impressed the ambassador couple. They took time to look at all the vocational school classes and talk to the learners. In the bakery, we were greeted with sweet treats by the teacher and the learners.

teachers, etc. We succeeded in making our vocational school better known and we received significantly more inquiries from future learners and recorded more new admissions this year.

- Our fifth building could be handed over to the vocational school in January 2022. The construction company was very eager to complete the building on time despite pandemic-related delivery difficulties of construction materials (such as window glass or metal for window frames).
- Our new building integrates very well with the existing facility. The theory rooms, the workshop for the two-wheel mechanics apprenticeship, the multi-purpose room, and the dining room are in daily use and are very much appreciated.
- We are currently teaching 137 apprentices in the professions of a tailor, baker/cook, electrician, electronics technician, hairdresser, IT, two-wheel mechanic, and plumber.
- We recently opened the two-year dual apprenticeship for two-wheel mechanics. The workshop is equipped, with tools, machines, engines, motor vehicles, furniture, etc. are available to the teacher and the apprentices for their practical work.
- Many young adults from public schools do not pass the National Examination at the end of secondary school and thus often miss the entrance to a vocational school. We have now received the certificate to run an „Examination Center“. This means that we are allowed to conduct the repetition of secondary school grades 2 and 4 as well as the National Exam. The classrooms in the new building of the vocational school have already been occupied by these courses. The location of the repetition classes allows the young adults to get an insight into what our vocational school has to offer. After passing the exam, they can apply for one of our vocational apprenticeships.
- In May, June, and July, our second-year apprentices complete their three-month internships. Every year, the organizational specifics of this assignment are discussed with the parents in a parent's morning. Especially the parents of the apprenticeship cook/baker have a lot of questions about this because these assignments mostly take place in restaurants and hotels with shift work. We are very happy that all our apprentices of this vocational training can complete their internship in Ngorongoro / Arusha this year and that they will be provided with accommodation there.
- Before the internship, the apprentices spend a day with the course leaders of UMATI, an NGO that offers courses with information about health and sexual education.
- Christina and Tatu are both attending the ICT Level III course at Tuwapende Watoto Vocational School. They recently gained practical experience during 3 months in the IT department of Muhimbili National Hospital, the university hospital in Dar es Salaam. The IT managers were delighted with the skills and dedication of these two young women. As a sign of appreciation, they surprised the two with a small celebration at the end of the internship.

### Visit of the Swiss Ambassador and his wife

During the last two years, the Swiss Embassy limited visits and invitations to a minimum due to the pandemic. It was, therefore, a great honor to welcome our Swiss Ambassador Mr. Didier Chassot, and





his wife Mrs. Joëlle Chassot to Bunju B in March. The students were eagerly waiting for the guests and welcomed them with some songs and a Tanzanian dance. Ambassador Chassot took a lot of time to talk to the children, our students were enthusiastic about the Swiss representative. Afterward, we introduced our visitors to the teachers as well as to the workshops and the theory rooms of the vocational school. In the bakery, we were welcomed with a delicious peanut cake and other sweets. We ended the tour with a visit to the children's home. Our guests were enthusiastic about Tuwapende Watoto!

### New projects

#### Additional building for the nursery school and daycare center

In 2022 and 2023 we will build an additional building with nine classrooms to meet the large demand for care of children in our daycare center and the nursery school. The contracts have been signed and we will start construction after receiving the building permit. The future operating costs will be fully financed by the school fees.

#### Expansion of our solar plant

We are planning to equip the existing solar plant from 2010 with new, more efficient solar panels. This will allow us to cover our daily energy consumption with our own solar energy again and to supply the additional building of the daycare center and nursery school with energy from this system as well. We will then build a solar system for the vocational school and use the old solar panels of the primary school for this purpose.

#### School uniform

We are planning to hire two fully educated tailors/dressmakers to ensure the production of the uniforms for our schools.

#### Many thanks

Two years ago, we could not have imagined where the Corona pandemic would take us. We wrote numerous applications for funding and also applied to new foundations, organizations, and associations. As soon as the situation allowed, we presented our projects again in person. We are overwhelmed and very grateful for the great support we received last year.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the many private donors of many years' standing, the associations and organizations, the Dr. Rau Foundation, IMS Sport AG, Golf de Payerne, Off Limits Solutions SA, netpulse AG, and Inner Wheel Club Basel-Riehen. This unique help is of great importance to us. This much-appreciated support allows us to lovingly care for and well educate the children and young adults of the Tuwapende Watoto family and to support the students from needy families.

Thanks to the very generous support of the Swissair Staff Foundation for Children in Need, the Tibetania Foundation, the Migros Support Fund, the Foundation Gertrude Hirzel, the Esperanza Foundation, the atDta Foundation, the Tarom Foundation, the Wyler-Anderson Foundation and the Association „Bildung gegen Armut“ (Education against Poverty) we were able to build the additional building for the vocational school, the furnishing of the workshop for the two-wheel mechanic apprenticeship and the furnishing of the theory rooms. We would like to express our sincere thanks for this extraordinary help.

Our NGO members, the foundation board members, and the Tuwapende Watoto ambassadors spend numerous hours of volunteer work for our foundation every year. We greatly appreciate their great commitment and very valuable assistance. On behalf of the Foundation Board, I sincerely thank them for their admirable support.

Dear donors, on behalf of everyone involved, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the trust you have placed in us. We will continue to use your donations purposefully, respectfully, and wisely.

We wish you the best of health.

Kind regards



*Ruth Bütikofer, President of the Foundation Board*

