

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



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Dear Friends and Supporters of St. Nicholas!

In July, I visited St. Nicholas for three weeks. The children had just finished their June-break and were back in school. But I was still able to take 13 children on vacation to Lake Tanganyika in Kigoma. To take the children on vacation, has become a tradition over the years. I keep a list of who got to go on vacation when, in order to make sure that everybody gets her or his turn. These vacations are so good for the children. They are looking forward to it all year. You are making those trips possible because of your support. Thank you so much!



I am always happy when former volunteers return to St. Nicholas because they have missed the kids. And sometimes the volunteers return with their parents, who have become sponsors for some children. The sponsors are excited to meet the child they are supporting in



person and vice versa, the children are always happy to meet their sponsors as well. This year we already welcomed ten visitors. We have a guest house with three self-contained bedrooms on our compound. You are more than welcome to visit us – *karibuni sana!* We are looking forward to your visit!

In March, social services brought us a new child. We think that James is about 12 years old. He has a mental disability and speaks very little. Many times it appears that he does not understand what someone tells him. In the beginning, he was very scared and aggressive. He is doing much better now. He is much happier and finds his way around on our big compound. We comfort him when he still cries from time to time. James attends our special kindergarten for children with disabilities.



James



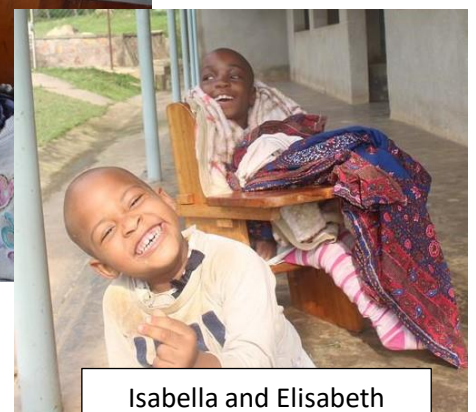
Gordon

A similar story is true for Gordon. He came to live with us in December 2022. Gordon needed a long time to adjust to us and to feel at home. In the beginning he did not understand anybody because he comes from Uganda and speaks another language. By now he is a happy boy and sometimes he is a bit mischievous!

Elisabeth and Vanessa have been with us for a year now. Elisabeth has gained weight and has become a lot stronger. She happily watches everything that is going on around her. Elisabeth communicates with her big smile and her bright eyes. Isabella is her best buddy, always at her side. They both are in a smile- and cuteness-competition with each other!



Elisabeth



Isabella and Elisabeth



Vanessa

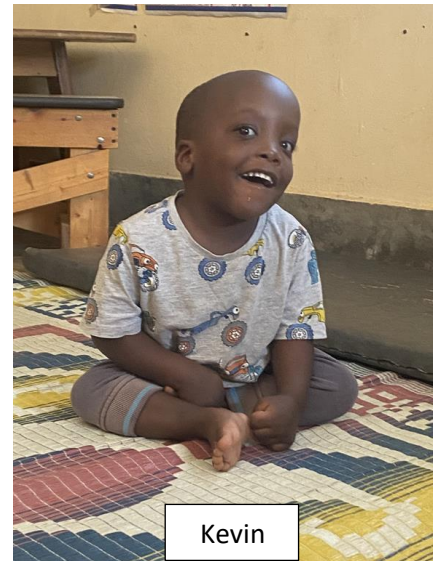
Vanessa started school this year in January. She is highly motivated to catch up with the years of education she has missed. Health wise she is doing a lot better than from when she first came. At present, she is changing from a child into a teen!



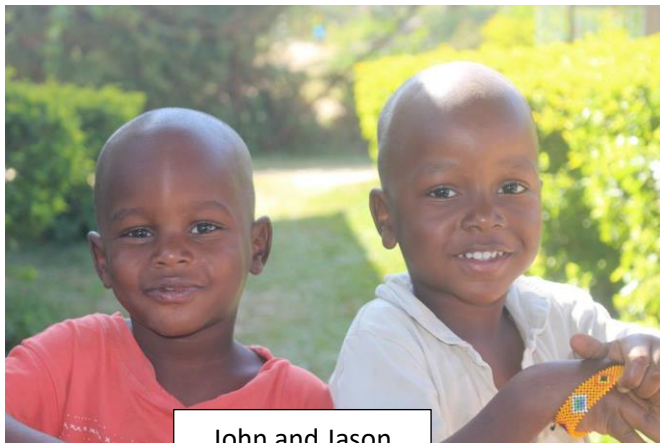
Pelagia

James, Gordon, Pelagia, Elisabeth and Kevin are still hoping to find a sponsor!

Please check out our website where we introduce the children. You will find the English text under the German: <https://www.nikolaushaus.com/die-kinder/>



Kevin

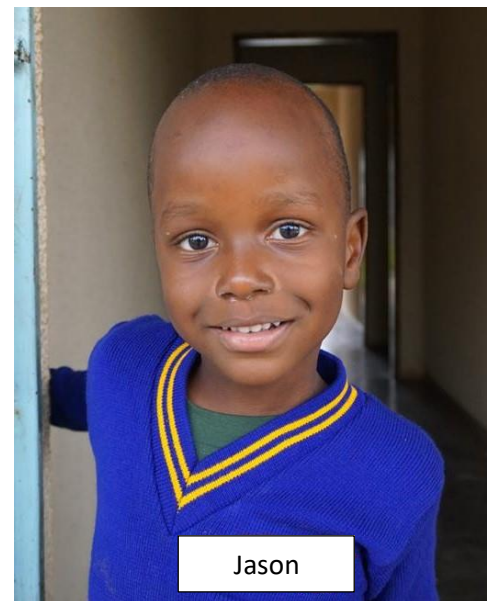


John and Jason

Social Services brought Jason and John to us in March 2023. Their request was that we watch the children for a week until their new adoptive parents would come and pick them up. The one week promised turned into more than a year! John's new adoptive mother came in April 2024. It was very hard to say

goodbye to John after he had been with us for such a long time.

Jason's new adoptive parents are expected to pick him up any time now. I am always happy for a child to be welcomed into a loving family. However, the children at St. Nicholas usually do not find new families, and it is difficult for all children when a child leaves us even if it is for a good reason. We miss John, and we wish that he and Jason will live a happy life with their new families!



Jason

On April 30, 2024, Clemence and Sr. Celestina went to Bukoba town by car. They were going down hill. A bus was driving behind them. The bus driver tried to overtake them on the curvy road. He lost control over his



Our Landcruiser

breaks and crashed into our Landcruiser. Both vehicles turned and came off the road. Clemence had minor injuries, Sr. Celestina was not harmed. Fortunately, no children or other passengers were in the back of the car. Some people riding in



The bus that caused the accident

the bus were injured and needed to be hospitalized. Thank God nobody died.



Our vehicle was totaled. It will take months until we receive money from the insurance company. We do have another Landcruiser. In addition, we have a 22-year-old pick-up-truck that we use only for short distances. In the long run we will need another vehicle in order to take care of the needs of 45 children at St. Nicholas. We are very

grateful and overjoyed that someone has given us a donation that will help us to purchase another vehicle! God provides!

Witness Clara, Kalokola and Menrad have finished the Tanzanian Primary School with the 7th grade. In July we celebrated their school graduation. We are very proud of them! In October they will start with Secondary School.



Witness, Kalokola, Menrad





Since we are so many, birthdays are not celebrated individually in our house. Instead, we plan several big birthday parties every year when 10 to 15 people celebrate their birthdays together. The point is that we are honoring the birthday of every child, we are having a party with cake and music and there are gifts for every child.

From September 2023 until Juli 2024 Joseph lived with me and my two daughters in Germany. He did a year of voluntary service at a school for children with special needs. Joseph had a great year. He quickly picked up the German language and made many friends. He mastered the art of navigating through the German public transportation system with buses and trains and traveled around in Germany quite a lot! Joseph has grown and matured during this year. He is now back in Tanzania and has enrolled in college to study social work. At this point, I want to emphasize that I personally sponsored Joseph's year of volunteer service in Germany. None of his expenses were paid for by donations for St. Nicholas.



Joseph showing pictures from his time in Germany



We received a donation of three used laptops for the children. We have set up a computer lab where we teach the children to use different computer programs.

Very Saturday morning we have a clinic for children with disabilities where parents are offered help and advice. We started this clinic in the year 2011. To date, we have seen more than 350 children with disabilities. The parents desperately need a place where they are counseled and advised about caring for their child with a disability. There are simply not enough clinics in Tanzania that offer this kind of service. We run our clinic together with a physical therapist. He examines the children and counsels the parents. We mostly see children who have suffered a lack of oxygen to their brains and as a result of this have cerebral palsy and epilepsy. At our clinic, the children receive physical therapy and medication to control the seizures. We also help the parents to pay for the bus fare in case they cannot afford the bus ticket. People travel as far as 50 miles in order to come to our clinic. In addition, we provide a special nutritious porridge for the children who due to their disabilities have problems swallowing food and who are malnourished because of this.



In January, we started building a new house for those children who have become adults but who will need life-long care because of their disabilities. The new building has five bedrooms, two bedrooms for caregivers who live onsite, as well as an office, a dining room and a living room. By the end of this year, the first young adults will be moving in.

With the help of volunteers, we are working on improving our website and keeping it up-to-date with information. We also post news on Instagram and Facebook. Check us out: <https://www.nikolaushaus.com>

Thank you so much for your faithful support. Without your help, we would not be able to accompany the children on their journey to adulthood. Please continue to support us. Also, please tell your friends and families about us. We need your support!

Stefanie Köster, the leadership team of St. Nikolaus, the children and caregivers