
FOXES COMMUNITY AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION TRUST

2018 ANNUAL REPORT



CHARITABLE GOALS

Foxes Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust was founded in 2005 to provide shelter, sustenance, education and medical care for vulnerable children and families in the Mufindi region of Tanzania, wherever possible focussing on environmentally sensitive areas; to curtail the spread of HIV/AIDS; to teach life skills, (language, fiscal, vocational and self sufficiency); and to create supportive networks and opportunities for future generations enabling them to sustainably manage their natural resources.

CHARITABLE OBJECTIVES

Using an integrated, holistic and far sighted approach, the NGO programmes work towards empowering and involving the local community. Programmes which not only provide immediate support, but which are aiding the recovery of the project area in the long term.

OUR PROGRAMMES

CHILDRENS VILLAGE:

During 2018, Igoda Children's Village (ICV), the hub of the organisation, has continued to care for orphaned and vulnerable children both in the Children's Village itself and through its ongoing work with the community.

The community is continuing its gradual recovery, which is encouraging, and some of the children in the care of the Children's Village have been able to return to their extended families.

However, any recovery is very fragile, and our safe and loving Children's Village and its associated programmes are providing invaluable assistance to help families achieve a stable and sustainable future.

EDUCATION:

The purpose-built Nursery building, also open to children from the local community, continues to thrive as does the Montessori Kindergarten, both on site at the ICV.

Primary and Secondary school sponsorship and support for further education students in the form of university and college placements continues to give opportunities to the next generation of young Tanzanians preparing for an independent life in the future.

HEALTH CARE & SOCIAL WELFARE:

HEALTHCARE:

Paediatric and Dental Clinics both in the Children's Village and at the local Clinic by our long term volunteer health professionals and visiting volunteers.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

The Home-Based Care Programme (Village Volunteers) and Social Welfare Outreach are planned to be continued and expanded in the second half of 2019 fiscal year.

The established Milk Powder Programme remains invaluable in the care and sustenance of motherless infants and malnourished children.

VALUE ADDED PROGRAMS:

AGRICULTURE:

The Children's Village continues to run a successful agriculture program consisting of a garden, an orchard, a greenhouse, and a chicken coup. During the year, the cows were sold as they were no longer deemed financially viable.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE:

The Vocational School, which has been outsourced by the NGO, has commenced its first Tourism and Hotel Management Courses which will benefit both young members of the ICV through free placements extended to them, as well as the local community.



HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Last year we reported that we had made changes, partly in order to accommodate, financial restraints and of course a major change in the management structure following the departure of Jenny and Geoff, project managers for the previous ten years. The new Management structure is now in place with Ezra Mhegele - Finance Secretary; Akida Mdalingwa - Head of Administration; and Joseph Majembe - Social Welfare Officer & House Father. The local management team is completed by Jordan Garbin - long term Peace Corps volunteer - and, prior to March 2018, Lucy Tamberrino and Michael Scott, both Peace Corps volunteers, were valued returned members of the team.

Both Ezra and Akida have long standing connections with the ICV and we are very happy to have them in full time positions, allowing them to apply their deep understanding of the Children's Village to ensure a high level of management expertise.

And, great news! On the 6th December 2018, Baby Andrew Pierre van Der Ruit arrived. Sheree (our much-valued volunteer nurse here in the CV) and Peter, her husband, are now proud parents. Many, many congratulations to them!



Baby Andrew

Almost as exciting for the Children's Village this year was the arrival of the new school bus thanks to a very kind donor - the Merck Family Foundation.

It gets quite full, but all the children can get a lift to school now. What a difference it has made for the youngest ones not to have to walk and the bigger ones get a lift too. Thank you from all of them!



Happy not walking!



Camouflage School Bus

Another highlight was a visit by Jenny Peck and Geoff Knight with their two youngest children, who were soon enjoying the playground and the kindergarten. Jenny and Geoff as always, full of energy and ideas, were a great help to the hardworking management staff and were preparing to return with the Louisville Medical Volunteers later in the year.



Geoff and Jenny

THE CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

In December 2018 the Igoda Children's Village was home to 48 children, 23 girls and 25 boys and there were 14 Secondary School students who live at the school hostel in the week and mostly return to their home villages at the weekends, part of the reintegration process preparing them for their adult lives.

There are happy stories and sad stories but through it all the devotion of the children's guardians shines through. They provide love and stability to children who have lost their parents and their home, provide special care to those who are challenged both physically and psychologically.

It is thanks to them that the Children's Village is like a family home, albeit a bit bigger and more crowded than most!

During the year we welcomed Baby Francisco in March - his family being unable to care for him when his mother had died. Then Halima joined the Children's Village family in June. Halima suffered severe burns when she fell into a cooking fire as a small child and had been cared for by her grandmother. She has severe epilepsy but under the care of the ICV this has improved, and she has had the first of many operations intended to improve the mobility of her hand and her speech. In the Children's Village Halima has made many friends and is settling down well.



Baby Francisco



Halima (with book) and her friends

And then Winson. He came to the Children's Village on December 9th, 2016 so afflicted by multiple epileptic seizures every day that his family could no longer give him the care he needed. His mobility, speech and mental development were adversely affected, but in the Children's Village he began to thrive. He had many friends who delighted in helping him to walk, a special carer (Mama Salome), and was enjoying his time in pre-school. Then one morning in November 2018 Winson didn't wake up. He had died in his sleep, probably as a result of a seizure. Everybody who knew him mourned for the happy little boy he was, and all who work in or who support this organisation can feel proud that he was so well cared for in the Children's Village.



Winson, we miss you!

Another child in our care, Tunae, who also suffers from epilepsy no longer has seizures thanks to the effective treatment afforded to her.

In December Zulea and Magret were taken to see an eye specialist at Ilembula Hospital. Zulea, who has albinism and who has been supported with treatment by the ICV, needs specialist glasses as she has difficulty at school at present due to her eyesight.

And in November, great news! Baby Gloria has gained weight at last and has had her cleft palate operation in February 2019.

The emphasis on improving self sufficiency continues in the ICV and the green house has continued to thrive under Michael Scott's expert care and tuition. Tomatoes, lettuce, watermelon, salad leaves and green peppers were some of the crops produced. A welcome and healthy addition to the menu.

The broiler house, again with Michael's help has burgeoned, and Raheli together with Godrasto work wonders producing healthy vegetables, eggs and meat for the children. There are now also beehives, so Children's Village own honey will be consumed.

From ICV records: *'More than 1,466 bunches of Vegetables, 7 buckets of tomatoes, 40 ltrs of cucumbers and 20 ltrs of green pepper provided from GH (greenhouse). Bustani (garden) 3,044 bunches of veg., more than 2048 eggs, Kuku (chickens) 100, 3 cows been sold'*



Good work Michael

In September there was great excitement when a lorry arrived with all the new blankets, mattresses and bedding - this was as a result of a Facebook appeal, and it was so good for the houses all to have replacements for the very well- used bedding.



Unloading the mattresses



Joseph and Co. having fun

On Saturday 1st December World Aids Day was celebrated as usual at the Children's Village, an opportunity for education and reflection whilst having fun.

EDUCATION

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

The ECE is continuing to flourish in the complex on the ICV site. This benefits not only our own resident children but also our employees and the local community. Children moving to Primary School after having been in the Kindergarten are getting very good marks in the standard tests at school.

As of December 2018, there were 29 (16 boys and 13 girls) children enrolled in the Kindergarten. The Nursery and Pre-School are also well used, and it is one of the nicest places to be in the Children's Village. As of December 2018 there were a total of 14 Girls and 10 Boys in enlisted.

Primary, Secondary and University Sponsorship

This continues to be an essential funding element to build the best possible future for vulnerable children and young people and in 2018 - 45 Primary, 14 Secondary, 8 vocational college and university students were supported.

In October Zacharia graduated from Madisi Secondary Form 4, and Fadhili graduated from Ruaha Secondary Form 4. Esther Mwangala graduated from the RDO vocational school as an accomplished seamstress.

Two University students graduated; Harry Makongwa, who has also been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study in the USA next year 2019 and Akida Mdalingwa. They both studied at the Dar es Salaam University College of Education (DUCE).

Congratulations to all of them!



Harry Makongwa



New school uniforms



Nursery School

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Due to budget constraints in 2017 the Home-Based Care Village Volunteers (VVs) seminars and village visits and general NGO involvement were scaled back although the VVs continue to follow through on their role of helping their fellow villagers access health care, attend appointments etc.

Social Welfare and Child Rights Advocacy

Fortunately, this vital programme was able to recommence in November 2018 and several village visits have been made, 4 in November and 2 in December, and children who have returned to their extended families have been monitored. The village seminars were on hold for most of 2018, but plans are underway to enable village visits to continue in the near future.

A long term strategy is evolving, funding permitting, to link these two programmes as the situation in the villages is changing, and so too the role of the VVs. It is anticipated that, with suitable training they will be able to take on a role with more involvement in Social Welfare, thus hopefully pre-empting some of the issues which can result in children becoming vulnerable. The first stage of this programme is planned to commence in 2019 with the VVs taking up their enhanced role combining Home-Based Care with Social Welfare.

Milk Powder Programme (MPP)

This programme continues to be a lifeline for mothers unable to breast feed, infants whose mothers have died and those young children at risk of malnutrition.

During 2018 an average of 23 children a month from the community benefitted from the programme, age groups: 0-6 months = 5; 7 – 12 months = 1; 13-24 months = 17. Additionally, 8 infants are resident in the ICV.

Formula milk is prohibitively expensive and difficult to obtain and as part of this programme mothers are educated in aspects of child health care, reproductive health and family planning. Sijali, the ICV health care assistant, organises the programme.



HEALTH CARE

Igoda Dispensary and Care and Treatment Centre (CTC)

FCWCT has successfully implemented the construction of the basic building which was completed during 2018 and now the task is to acquire all the equipment for this new facility (with many thanks to a kind donor who has funded the work and the equipment)

The new building will provide, in addition to general medical services and a dental surgery, a maternity unit which will be of great benefit to the surrounding villages. Hopefully more mothers will attend the unit to give birth and receive the services of a midwife thus reducing maternal mortality.

Latest anticipated timing for this unit to be fully functioning will be in 2019. The Clinic/Dispensary, once fully equipped, will be handed over to the Tanzania Health Authorities as an ongoing resource for the village.

Mdabulo Dispensary and Care and Treatment Centre (CTC)

Now under local Tanzanian administration, Mdabulo is the centre for health services in the area and key to the CD4 testing and dispensing of ARV medicines which have helped so many to survive HIV/Aids. The FCWCT constructed and equipped buildings enable health professional clinicians to hold seminars and clinics, the maternity ward and midwife have encouraged more mothers to give birth at the Dispensary, minimising risk to their babies and themselves.

Luhesela Clinic

Our own on site clinic serves the Children's Village and the local community and acts as a base for the Milk Powder programme and for visiting medical volunteers eg. Louisville medics , Dentists without Borders. It is also home to a weekly dental surgery when the volunteer dentist is here.

Luhesela Clinic from March -December served 406 people, 5 vaccinations were carried out, 4 children were referred to Mdabulo for treatment. From the ICV, Gloria(cleft palate) was sent to Mafinga 25 June and Iringa 26 June for examination, Zulea was referred to Mafinga for eye tests on the 21 Dec. , Halima went to Lugoda on 29 June for tests and to Ikonda for a CT Scan.

Doctors on Wheels

Dr Leena Pasanen, long-time friend of the Children's Village, again spent many months here in the green hills of Mufindi, providing her expertise and caring to the far distant villages and the most vulnerable people by conducting outreach visits. Driving to remote areas, never daunted by difficult, bumpy, dirt roads. Medicating, advising, caring, helping patients to access services, even organising transport - which can be an insurmountable problem for sick people in this remote area. Bringing help, hope and comfort to the most afflicted in the community.

Dr. Leena also held her twice weekly paediatric clinics at Mdabulo Dispensary as well as being on call for our own Children's Village family and seeing patients at the Luhesela Clinic.

Dental Care

Dr Bodil Sandin, again spent many months at the Children's Village, running daily dental clinics at Mdabulo, outreach clinics and, of course, seeing patients at our own Luhesela Clinic. In 2018, in excess of 1,200 patients were treated.

Dentist without Borders (DWOB) also came twice, in February and November, working with Dr. Bodil to visit schools in the area promoting dental hygiene and education, and screening pupils in order to refer to the dental clinic at Mdabulo for treatment. 6584 children were screened, 1772 were referred for treatment, and of these 544 presented for treatment.

A new programme initiated by Dr Bodil, with the consent and cooperation of the parents and the school, is a supervised tooth brushing project at Mdabulo Primary School, which aims to improve the dental health of the participants, but also to provide some statistical information the impact that daily brushing has on dental decay - 510 children are taking part in the project.

As always grateful thanks to these two indomitable and caring doctors who give their time and expertise to help others.

University of Louisville

In late June/July a large group of medical students from the University of Louisville with 27 volunteer medics and medical students, 45 bags of medical supplies and much more. They operated dental and medical clinics, as well as a specialist obstetric and gynaecological clinic at Mdabulo. Furthermore, they held clinics at the Luhesela Clinic in the Children's Village, checking every child in the ICV, and they set up outreach clinics in some of the most distant villages in the area, assisted by Village Volunteers and visiting 8 villages in total. On average, over all the sites, more than 140 patients were seen and treated each day! Screening and seminars completed the amazing work of these very much valued volunteers.

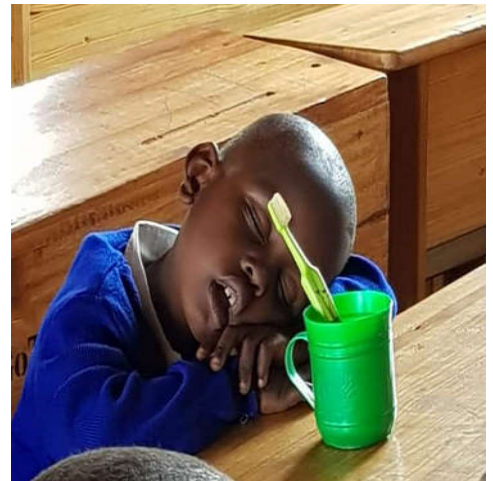
Thank you to Geoff Knight and Jenny Peck for their invaluable help in accompanying the group!



A happy patient



I want to be a doctor



Tooth brushing is very tiring

VOLUNTEERS

A big thank you and a sad goodbye to our wonderful Peace Corps volunteers Lucy Tamberrino and Michael Scott, who left us in February and March respectively. They achieved so much during their time in the Children’s Village and were much missed, Michael’s greenhouse and broiler house project are a legacy. But on 23 March, shortly after saying goodbye to Lucy we welcomed Jordan Garbin, also a member of the Peace Corps, to the Children’s Village. Jordan soon settled in and is a much-valued addition to the ‘team’.



Lucy and Michael

And endless gratitude to all those others who dedicated their time and skills to help our work— both individuals and organisations, Dentist without Borders, Sam Sofya, University of Louisville, University of Kansas, Carpe Diem, Dr Leena’s Youth Group who spent three years gathering enough money to visit, Finnish guests Yrjö and Jarkko who repaired the photocopiers for us. Sincere apologies to anyone who has not been mentioned, everything you do is truly appreciated! There are many others who volunteered in so many different ways, the Children’s Village is so grateful to you for all that you do.

Another farewell, this time in June to Johannes Stangenberg-Haverkamp who came to the Children’s Village intending a much shorter stay and eventually ended up staying 8 months. He came to the Children’s Village to volunteer his services as an accountant but soon found that there was more to the task than he had anticipated! He became and still is such a vital cog in the wheel and became the ‘go to’ person for absolutely everything in a multi-faceted role. Many, many thanks, Johannes, for extending your stay in the Children’s Village, and continuing to be such a support to the NGO both in your accountant’s role and as a friend. We wish you every success with your plans and are so grateful that you are still having an input even from a distance. Asante sana!



Johannes “out of office”

PARTNERS SPONSORS, DONORS

Finally, a huge thank you to those kind people who have taken Igoda Children's Village and Foxes Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust to their hearts, and who never cease in their efforts to support us financially.

We are proud to be able to have as our partners African Book Box Society (Canada), Mufindi Orphans (Canada), Mufindi Orphans (USA), Orphans in the Wild (UK), Mufindis Ystävät (Finland), Mufindis Vanner (Sweden), The Daniele and Christoph Berglar Foundation (Germany), and St. Pius Church (UK).

Without the continuing dedication and hard work of all these people none of this could happen.



Daniele & Christoph Berglar Stiftung

To all of you, the many other groups and individuals who have so generously contributed both financially and in kind, too many to name here, to those who did sponsored runs, held coffee mornings and even gave up on having birthday presents to raise money for the Igoda Children's Village which is the heart and the hub for all our programmes – thank you for your generosity and kindness.

So, from Foxes Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust, the community which has benefitted from the programmes which you have all funded and above all from the children and young people of the Children's Village.

THANK YOU ALL FOR HELPING!!!



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

This separately funded programme is continuing to strive to minimise the effects of climate change, population growth, and the damaging agricultural practices which could have a long-term impact on the well-being of the wider community.

Conservation and protection of remaining rainforest means increased security for water supplies and native species to the long-term benefit of our region and indeed the whole nation. Far-sighted measures undertaken now can hopefully minimise habitat loss and educate the local population in the benefits of conservation to secure the future for all.

Poaching of native species remains a problem and we continue our work to combat this problem for the environment.

The Vocational College, (facilitated by the NGO) is now up and running courses in Tourism which feature ecological education as part of the syllabus.

Education will be key to long term understanding and willingness of the population to engage with conservation management to secure the future for all.

FCWCT Local Management and Administration Team are as follows:

Finance Secretary: Ezra Mhegele, *BSC Mathematics*

Head of Administration: Akida Mdalingwa, *BA Education*

Administrative Assistant: Fausta Fwila, *BSC Biology*

Social Welfare Offices & House Father: Joseph Majembe

Signed:



Dated: 31st July 2019

Vicky Fox – Chair of Trustees