

LAKE VICTORIA CHILDREN (LVC)

LVC NEWS LETTERS

FROM JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2016



2016



P.O.BOX 36, NANSIO - UKERWE
MWANZA TANZANIA

“HELPING THE HELPLESS”.



LVC Ambassador, Ms Chabona giving school materials support to Wilson



Wilson's Parents posed for a Photo

Wilson (12 yrs) is the first born of Mr. Mtiro (52yrs) and Nyamumwi (45yrs) living in Ukara ward, Bwisya village (one of small Islands within Ukerewe big Island).

Surprisingly Wilson hadn't yet started schooling, according to the Tanzanian Education Policy; he was supposed to be in standard six but unfortunately he is denied this potential need.

His father was mentally deranged just from his early ages though he was also married to a partially deranged wife called Nyamumwi (45 yrs) and was luckily to have five children, whereby Wilson is their first born

We started by facilitating Wilson by providing him with school materials e.g. School uniforms, exercise books, pencils and one solar light and he has already been admitted at **Bwisya primary school** and enjoys studies.

Wilson ***"I still don't believe what's happening in my life, it reached a point where I was giving up on education , but now I can see my future, many thanks to LVC "***

Wilson's mum is now equipped with entrepreneurial skills whereby she farms potato and does vegetable gardening for domestic use and income generation by selling the surplus for the sake of the well-being of her family.

she says ***".....before LVC involvement, I used to rely on my children's fishing activities to feed family which forced them to drop out of school ,***

OTHERS DO MARGINALIZE US , YOU DON'T !

Hakika Michael (7 yrs) is a marginalized child living a badly life as her father became blind since the last six years from a particular disease that has totally affected his vision. Regardless of his blindness and incapable to participate in his daily income generating activities yet Mr. Michael is a father of 5 children including Hakika, who is the first born, all the five aren't in school, there were also short intervals between births as the result of having poor family planning.

When Michael became blind his wife abandoned the family for four years where she didn't want even to hear anything about her family.

Her decision came after knowing that she only was a house wife and was then going to be fully responsible in providing all family supplies. She moved to one of the small islands for fishing activities which often seen as a male activity and mostly women involving are single, divorced and widowed women, and separated mothers.

When this household was identified by one of LVC ambassadors, a team arranged for a visit and identification of their needs was made and school materials for a first born/Hakika were provided (i.e. uniforms, solar light and pencils) and was assisted for admission at Bugaramila primary school for standard one class



I'm short of words to what LVC have done to support facilitate my daughter's school admission, hopeful she will study hard and maybe she will reverse this vicious cycle of poverty . That's why I'm saying others do marginalize us, you don't".

EMERGENCY MEDICAL FUND

June this year we got a generous support for our Emergency Medical fund from CACHA, a Canadian Organization we have between June and September supported over 60 children by helping them have access to Medical care they so much need, Our long time wonderful UK partner Smiles to Tanzania have also continued to hugely supported the our Emergency Medical fund project , we hope to reach more and more children before the end of the year

How my daughter was cured diarrhea

*"I had saved some amount of money for repairing our house which was collapsing, suddenly my daughter Theodora Ntare (11 yrs) one night cried from extremely bad abdominal pain that was accompanied by excessive vomiting and diarrhea" I was extremely worried ,.....said **Mama Keresensia Arobogast**,a widow (54 yrs).*

Mama Keresensia lives with her only daughter whose father died 10 years ago and the other children were taken away from her by her late husband's relatives living in Dar es Salaam.

Theodora is in standard five and she is doing well in school, she is encouraged by her mother to pull up her socks in studies so that one day she would become someone respectful in their society.

One night after few hours on bed **Theodora** cried from pains she was feeling in her stomach and she started vomiting and had bad diarrhea, the situation was very worse that night, her mother couldn't do anything but she only prayed to God to spare her daughter from death as she was becoming very weak.

"Fortunately in the morning one of my neighbors came in , she advised to call Mr. Laurent who is LVC village ambassador , The ambassador came in and immediately communicated with LVC staff in Nansio town and he was told to let us prepared for the next day's journey to Nansio district hospital for Theodora's further medical examinations and treatment, I was very happy for a such compassion information . In short my daughter was treated and LVC Cleared all the Medical bills, Am very grateful for this wonderful support



Luckily mama Keresensia didn't spend her money she saved for her daughter's medications and will use it for rehabilitation of their house/residence as she planned before the rainy season.

Fighting Malaria remains LVC key battle

Akisa Samson (43 yrs) is a widow and mother of 5 children , Fedrick is her last born. She labors in farms and is HIV victim, she is paid low wages but that's how she has been running her family since her husband died on March, 2014.

LVC has been closely supporting her family by providing them with nutritious flour and even school materials for her children who are in primary school. One day Fedrick has very bad Malaria, he had bad headache and very high body temperature, I was panicking and didn't know what to do as there was no food in the house let alone no money for transport to take him to Hospital

I opted to speak to LVC ambassador in our village who has been supporting my other children with school materials, she came and communicated with LVC staff in Nansio who then said we should go to hospital. We went to Nansio Hospital and they paid for the medications and all other charges, I am greatly thankful for their wonderful support which saved my son

Three days after the malaria treatment, **Fedrick** seemed to improve, although she still had high temperature and her appetite improved.



Fedrick is now healthy and playing with other kids, LVC staff in Nansio promised me one more mosquito net next time they distribute mosquito nets in our village to help me fight malaria in the family, I now have only one mosquito net which is not enough for my 5 children

A Sad story of Novia

Lake Victoria Children (LVC) is dedicated to the acquisition and utilization of every available resource to elevate the quality of life for desperately needy people on the Ukerewe Island, disadvantaged children being a priority concern for our assistance.

Chausiku Mateso (38 yrs) is living in **Masonga** village and married to a partially deranged husband Mr. Mateso Lusato. Their little daughter **Novia Mateso (3 yrs)** was injured by a sharp object in her eye in November, 2015 when she was playing with her fellows.

She was identified by village LVC ambassador on April 2016 , she hadn't been taken to any medical service due to financial difficulties her family was in

She was then supported under LVC emergency medical fund by being sent to a district hospital for medical treatments where she was referred to a regional referral hospital in Mwanza city.

In the regional referral hospital little Novia was referred on to Muhimbili National Hospital in June 2016, where she stayed for one week before she was discharged after having diagnosed with malignant cancer which was in its late stage.

“It is really tragic that 10 years after I started working here we are still seeing little people in the terrible state that Novia arrived in. If she had been able to make it to us when she had a white pupil we could have cured her”. Dr at Muhimbili Hospital

However we shared the medical report with one of the Ophthalmologists from the other hospital to look for any possibility of curing the lady but this was the doctor's response

“I went through the report, it shows that the patient has metastatic retinoblastoma (which means it is an advanced cancer that has spread to other parts of the body). Therefore, the child has been sent home for palliative care, as her cancer is not treatable anymore and has very poor prognosis”.



This was extremely heartbreaking to both to Novia's family and LVC team, our dedication to rescue her situation suffered a huge blow,

Novia is now back home and we're only helping her with morphine and nutritious food as recommended by doctors and have been insisting palliative care when at home surrounded by family who love and care for her .

Novia represents many children like her suffering silently in their family who can not afford small transport money to bring the children to Hospital soon enough and before it is too late, Our LVC medical funds continues to discover many children and support them with access to medical care they so much need, we need more support for this project so we can reach more children



Novia's home which is almost collapsing and LVC is now finalizing plans to start rebuilding it, thanks to Smiles To Tanzania for donating a sizeable amount to maintain Novia's family House

LVC SERVICE DELIVERY COMMUNITY OUTREACH KEEPS GROWING , MORE AND MORE CHILDREN REACHED

We continue with our life changing community outreaches mainly distributing much needed school materials as part of our **Back to school Campaign** since June we have done a lot in terms of school materials distribution, where we successfully reached **528** needy children (**262 boys and 266 girls**),

we have distributed **528** solar lights , **686** school uniforms (i.e. **172** short trousers for boys, **172** skirts for girls and **343** shirts for both girls and boys). **343** children had both school materials and solar lights where **185** children got only solar lights.

We also distributed **1600** exercise books, **450** ball pens and **100** pencils.

In July LVC had a privilege to host a wonderful visitor from the UK, Celia Mannings, one of the supporters of Smiles to Tanzania Charity who came to Tanzania for the first time specifically for climbing Kilimanjaro Mountain for rising fund to support LVC works. After her climb, Celia took a flight to Mwanza and takes the ferry to Ukerewe to spend a few days with us.

Celia is a professional photographer, she was busy with visiting vulnerable children and their families in some of the villages and she took lots of photographs of children and family environments and we really appreciated her support as the team learnt a lot especially how to take good and amazing photographs

Here are some of the photographs taken during the school materials distribution outreach;



Village ambassador handing support



Grandma with her grand daughters

Gertrude Bwire (12 yrs) is in standard 6 at Nansole primary school, her father died in 2010 and she's living with her grandma called **Florentina Nyakwesi (69 yrs)**.

Her mother was then remarried to another man in the nearby village soon after the death of her father , her mother is paralyzed for two years now since 2014.

The grandma is grateful for the school materials support to Getruda , *“Since I lost my son (Gertrude’s father) I have been struggling with my granddaughter I don’t know what I would do for her education without LVC support, she is now doing very well in school because of LVC wonderful help.*

LVC NEW BUILDING NOW FINISHED



Since LVC was founded in 2009 the very major dream has been having a permanent LVC Centre where we don't have to pay monthly rents , Over six years now we have spent millions of money in rents, Now thanks to **Kids Aid Tanzania** for supporting the construction 100 percent we wont have to pay rents any more, our New building is now almost ready to move in, we are waiting for electricity to be installed which we are told by National Electricity company will now happen by November , as you can imagine we are so desperate to move in and start a new life



Hellen Rocky the District Community Development Officer (**DCDO**) when visited our New LVC Building and this is what she had to say



“Congratulations LVC for extraordinary achievement, you really have set the standard for an excellent community Organization on the Island and I believe in the whole of Mwanza Region, you deserve credit and support from the Government and every member of the community, You truly have the interest of the community before yours , I promise you all my support this incredible building now represents a major resource on the Island for children support, you are the best .

So refreshing to eat vegetable from our Sack garden !

Since LVC staff got training on Sack garden from Steve and Pat of Smiles to Tanzania, this has been the major source of vegetable for the children food, we hope to expand and have more sack garden when we move to our new building as unlike other forms of garden, sack garden does not take up much space , some LVC Staff have also made sack garden in their homes, this has helped them with not having to buy vegetable from the market therefore saving money,



*It is so refreshing to be able to eat vegetable from my sack garden **Mama Lucy LVC staff***

Feeding LVC Children

Our Centre continues to serve children with highly nutritious food which we believe is key to their healthy growth, Chabona who is LVC kitchen manager also Kakerege village Ambassador hand prepares the children's food and cooks for the children everyday

Chabona *I find it extremely rewarding to prepare and cook for these children, LVC is a team of people who believe in a cause to support children am so proud to be part of this team*



Chabona preparing food for the Children at LVC Centre

LVC RECRUITES AN OPERATION MANAGER !

In the beginning of August LVC hired a new Operations Manager, Chrispine joined our team to help with lots of tasks from Administration to managing all LVC outreach projects, he brings in

great communication experience and is a very committed and dedicated member of our team , we are so proud to have him, we are pleased to kindly introduce him to you all for future communication



The experience of traveling into villages to distribute school materials for the LVC Back to School campaign is so rewarding, , the feeling of providing children with school needs to help them continue with education is beyond comparison , Am so proud of what LVC does and am just so excited to be part of the team, Looking forward to achieving so much with this Organization --
Chripine



*LVC team with Celia Mannings the professional photographer from Smiles to Tanzania Charity landing from Ukara Small Island where they went for the outreach (during school materials distribution). Celia says.....**“Guys, you’re real doing very great job, I loved every minute and wish I could stay longer”.***

A big Thank you

We wish to extend our heart felt thanks to all our partners and friends for so generously continuing to support our work , you know we cant thank you enough , we continue doing wonderful things here because you have never stopped supporting our efforts, we wish you all good health

Chrispine and LVC Team