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“The person who has confidence in himself gains the confidence of others”

African saying

1 Editorial

Dear friends

Happy New Year! This is traditionally a time to pause, reflect and establish plans for the coming year. This newsletter will only illustrate some of ours. As in every year, everyone at Kids of Africa – including our children – participates in this in order to make our village better every year. I hope that you will find this useful and, as always, I cherish your feedback!

Best regards

Burkhard Varnholt

Burkhard Varnholt





**“Those whom we support
hold us up in life.”**

Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach (1830 – 1916)

2 The most important thing...

...for Kids of Africa will always be our long-term mission. Not only to put destitute children back on their feet, but much rather to foster their confidence, their sense of responsibility and their ability to look after themselves and their families. Above all, this long-term goal requires three fundamental elements:

- A caring and dignified family environment. This is where confidence develops.
- Good health. One of the most important conditions for the independent developments. We foster good health through a balanced, healthy diet and regular physical exercise.

- Education: We emphasize practical education which focuses on the most promising employment opportunities in the Ugandan context.

Establishing a sustainable institution for needy children and best development – aid practices within the letter and the spirit of Uganda law. Summarizes the challenge we face. It's long-term nature requires patience, persistence and a stable funding-base. It's also our best chance for having a sustainable impact. Yes, we can create a better future for many!





3 ...and three more goals for 2012

3.1 Reaching out to young and old

At Kids of Africa we all try to reach out! Our 92 children increasingly reach out to their nearby friends. We celebrate hospitality and we gladly organize community events. Our bi-weekly village-runs reach across our shores. When our children started them, we were about a dozen. Today, we sometimes mobilize over a hundred other children even for spontaneous runs.

We also reach out to other community-schools through which Kids of Africa has impacted the lives of over a thousand. And we also reach out to elderly. To some, we can offer meaningful jobs. Others we can help through their own families or through basic medical support.

"Reaching-out" is an important principle at Kids of Africa. It should support the development of the community we are part of. And it should set an example of compassion, which our 92 children will hopefully emulate. In 2012, we hope to reach out to about five-hundred families through a combination of agricultural-, technological-, social-, educational- and environmentally-targeted measures.



3.2 Protecting our environment

Rapid population-growth and economic developments pose a serious threat to Uganda's environment. As part of our commitment to long-term development, we support several initiatives to protect our environment. Specifically, we raise awareness for environmentally friendly lifestyles, for replacing firewood (which causes widespread deforestation) with solar-power and we actively protect certain bio-reservations, together with local community-leaders. With the pace of environmental degradation accelerating, this initiative will inevitably remain an important thread in many of our initiatives.

In 2012, we hope to protect at least 30 acres of wetlands, home to about 600 bird-species and many other important animals (like frogs, which reduce malaria through eating mosquitos) and possibly some remaining, valuable rainforests of our community.



3.3 Education: a key-priority in 2012

Out of the 92 children at Kids of Africa, about 70 attend primary school. The others are still in kindergarten. Put differently, 2012 will still be one of the most important years for their formation. If our children enjoy to learn and to look after themselves today, the chances that they may continue to do so in the coming years increase greatly. Because early education offers the highest rewards and the best chance to create a long-term impact.

In 2012, more children shall benefit from the many improvements we have made to primary education in our community. And we shall step-up our effort to raise and maintain primary education standards for as many children as possible. Because it is the best way to take care of our future.



Henrietta



Jacky and Mummy Harriet



4 And five children who set shining examples

Henrietta has shown what a difference a strong character and a caring family can make! Having joined us in poor health, malnourished and heavily traumatized (she did not speak for the first three months) she has become a real princess. Just look at her today! She is confident, healthy and has just begun to join our regular morning-runs!

Jacky in House 8, struggled with school, never settling down in class nor listening to teachers. As we say here, everyone assumed she had a “stubborn character.” But this year, Jacky made a great improvement. Starting in the 2nd term of school, Jacky started to settle down in class. She started to do her work, listen to her teachers and peers. She improved immensely in school, still having a long way to go, but it is a great start. She also discovered how she is a talented artist, taking her time and creating a beautiful piece of work!



Reuben is a typical boy, always wanting to be outside playing with friends, rollerblading, riding bicycles, playing football, jumping on the trampoline. It is very difficult to call Reuben to go home in the evening as he is always outside. Reuben had to repeat Primary 1 class this past year, and with the efforts of his teachers, Juliet, Winnie, Maria as well as his mother Jocelyn and his determination, Reuben exceeded all the expectations. He has worked tremendously hard on his studies and his results have paid off. It will be exciting to see how well Reuben will do this school year!



Reuben, Dan, Hope

Naiga Juliana is always smiling! She has one of those smiles that is infectious, and can be dangerous when in class. Ever happy, Juliana struggled with settling down in class and doing her work. But this year, she started running and included in some of the older kids activities meaning she had to settle down in class and do her work so that she is not left behind by the older children.

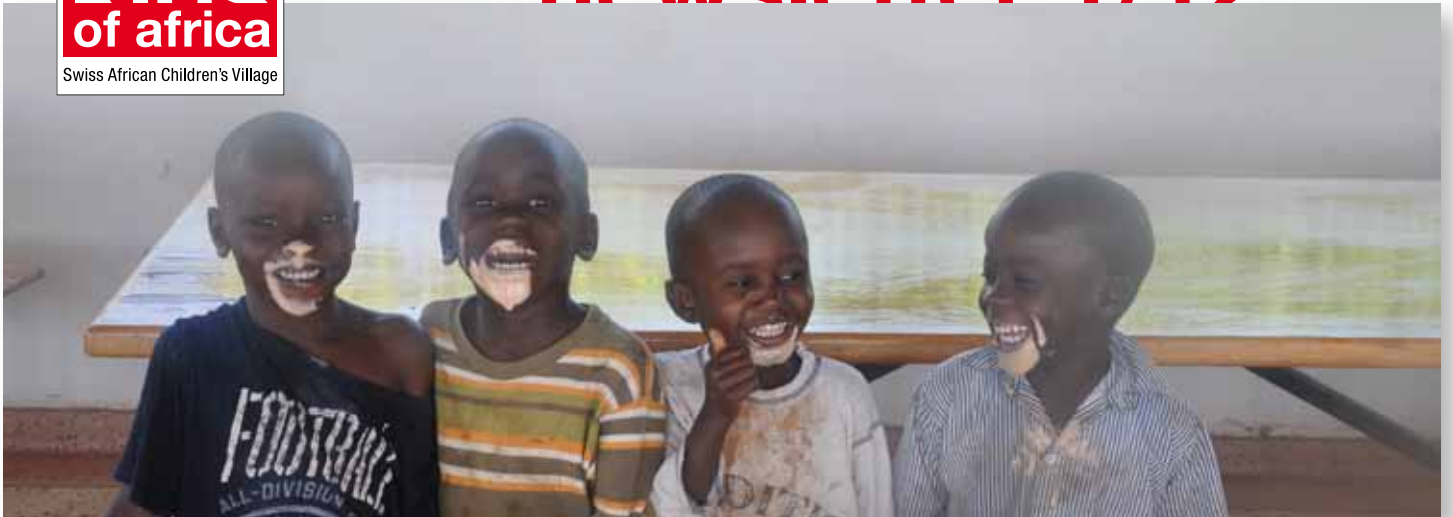


Naiga Juliana

Ronald is Juliana's brother and the funny guy of Kids of Africa. He also had trouble settling in class, always losing his school supplies but for 2011, Ronald has matured into a respectful, hard-working young man. He went from being one of the last in his class to being in the top 10! He is always willing to help the mothers and other staff who are in need.



Ronald



5 Thank you!

From the bottom of all our hearts – many children, mothers, staff, neighbors and others – we would like to thank every friend and supporter, which has helped us to fulfill some of our dreams and our potential! We are indeed deeply grateful, because Kids of Africa can only offer its help thanks to generous support from dear and loyal friends. Thank you! And have a great 2012!



Jacob



William



Destiny and Mummy Prossy