



“Give each day the chance to be the best one in your life.”

Mark Twain (1835 – 1910)

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1 Wishful thinking?

Have you noticed that giving is better than receiving and that when you make someone else happy, it makes you happy too? It can generally be said that most people agree with this concept.

When you throw a stone in a pool of water, it creates ripples. In the same way, each one of us is capable of taking actions that will have an impact, no matter how big or small. Kids of Africa can, in some ways, be compared to a stone and the ripples it creates. And what is wonderful is that every one of us – including each child at Kids of Africa – can make a difference in his or her own way and can help to make the world a slightly better place. I am not only talking about giving material

gifts: we can also offer others our time and empathy. After all, the unbounded respect that people show each other is far more powerful than anything money can buy. This type of respect opens the way for something much more precious: the sense of being appreciated by others for who you are. And the great thing is that there are different ways in which we can display our appreciation of the people around us. By enabling others to share in our happiness, we give them strength and hope and show them that each individual can make a positive contribution to their community, no matter how small. Is this wishful thinking? Yes, absolutely. On that note, I would like to take the opportunity to wish you a happy festive period and all the best for 2011!

In the following newsletter, I would like to tell you about the various ways in which your support for Kids of Africa makes a real difference – in both a big and a small way.





2 A few of our children

Before coming to Kids of Africa when they were small, the two sisters **Aisha and Amina** had been regularly abused by their mother, both physically and mentally. For example, she forced them to spend entire nights sitting on the floor with their arms stretched out in front on them. Aisha and Amina have since grown into two very responsible young girls who care lovingly for their brothers and sisters in the village. They are also two of the best pupils in their class at school. The girls never cease to impress us with their charming manner and countless talents.

Caleb was found abandoned in a latrine as a newborn baby – his navel was still wrapped in banana leaves following his birth. Today, Caleb is a healthy little bundle of energy: his friendly nature and lively curiosity reflect his intellectual potential.

“Many people miss out on small pleasures as they wait in vain for great happiness.”

Pearl S. Buck





William used to wander the slums of Kampala with his mother, who suffered from schizophrenia. When he arrived at Kids of Africa, he was a frightened and unresponsive little boy. Today, he is one of the most active and attentive kids in his class at kindergarten.

Destiny was found alone in a house next to her dead mother. The little girl weighed just 1.5 kg at the time. Today, Destiny has almost reached the regular weight for her age and is meeting the normal development goals for young children.

Esther had been physically abused and had two broken legs when she came to Kids of Africa as a young child. At first, no one thought she would ever be able to walk normally again but she now runs to her carer as if her legs had always been healthy.

Christopher and Joshua were entrusted to us by their parents who are both seriously ill with Aids but were desperately sad to give up their children. The two boys are doing very well and are extremely talented when it comes to music, sports and schoolwork. Christopher recently won a small prize after competing in a sports competition and he used the money to buy little gifts for his brother Joshua and for Peace, who lovingly looks after him in the village, as well as for his natural parents. When you consider that Christopher is just 10 years old, you can see that he is very caring and mature for someone so young.





3 Important developments in 2010

- All 92 children have continued to make progress over the last 12 months in terms of both their schoolwork and their personal development. In addition, Kids of Africa is now reaching out to over 350 young school children through the primary school we co-manage and supply with expertise on teacher training, infrastructure issues, food and hygiene. This year, we set up a small library that has generated lasting improvements in the quality of the teaching. For the first time in the school's history, several of the kids made it onto the list of the best pupils across the whole of Uganda.

- Sport is an integral part of everyday life at Kids of Africa – whether it takes the form of games or physical training. The children have great fun exercising and taking part in contests to test their strength. This has helped to enhance their motor skills as well as their self-confidence.

- Our organic farm is growing! It has not only become an important economic aspect of Kids of Africa but also provides the children with valuable skills and a better understanding of sustainability.

- Our carpenter's workshop is another success story. A great deal of passion went into building it and it is today an excellent source of training opportunities for the older kids in our care.

- We have worked hard to further improve the processes in our kitchen this year in terms of efficiency and quality. We have also broadened the range of food we offer.

- Thanks to the continued, comprehensive transfer of knowledge, we have been able to make a further contribution towards the prevention of disease in our community and have largely eliminated malaria at Kids of Africa. We have also organized other treatments efficiently and cost effectively.





4 Future plans

We will focus on two main issues next year at Kids of Africa: first, we will continue to develop a holistic approach to the children's education and to their involvement in sports. Second, we will continue our work in our neighbourhood. This is just as important for the sustainable development of the community in which we operate as it is for the children at Kids of Africa who will one day integrate into this society on both a professional and social level. I will, of course, keep you regularly informed about these developments in the coming years.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to you for your continued support. I can assure you that the help you provide is gratefully received and greatly valued by the children and our team at Kids of Africa. We wish you and your loved ones a happy festive period and all the very best for 2011!

Best regards
Burkhard Varnholt



“The smile that you send out returns to you.”

African proverb

