



Arusha is in the north of Tanzania, East Africa.
ACT is a small educational charity
operating since December 1999

Maasai Kindergarten and Community Centre Olmuringiringa Village near Arusha

The kindergarten, for children aged 4 to 6, has continued with healthy numbers, between 80 and 90 children, over the last year.

The school benefits from the continuity and dedication of the three teachers, Suzana, Leah and Elias who have been with the school for many years. Elias started when the school opened in January 2002, 15 years ago. Special mention also goes to Ester and Naishiye who cook the porridge and assist in the classrooms.

50 children graduated in November 2016 and went on to start Standard One in the nearby primary schools.

The kindergarten has received gifts of educational materials and donations from visiting individuals and three school groups from the UK.

The 2015, 'Three Peaks Fundraiser' by the Malaysian students studying in the UK, raised a total of £5000 and this has enabled ACT to continue to run the kindergarten by providing daily porridge, educational materials and teachers' salaries. See newsletter No 16 for details of their amazing challenge.

Students from Ashton Park, Bedminster Down and Brune Community School (all UK) visited the kindergarten and the primary school. The children enjoyed interacting and playing games with the visitors.



Kindergarten class with teachers, assistants and Claudia from the Netherlands

Thanks to Alison Farmer (Brune Park), Paul Miller (Ashton Park) and Ben Wills (Bedminster Down) for their donations and support.

Val Rogers (UK) was visiting for the second time in October 2016 and brought t-shirts and other gifts for all the children.

Claudia van Westen (Netherlands) has been a regular visitor and fundraiser for ACT over the years and brought more wooden puzzles for both classrooms in May 2017.

Rebecca Ellison(USA) who visited in November 2016 is currently fundraising back home to buy school uniforms.

The school also received many gifts of stationary from the safari clients of Karama Lodge, Arusha, who brought educational materials through 'Pack for a Purpose' which is an organisation which encourages travellers to bring useful gifts to needy schools in many countries.

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Maasai Kindergarten

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Ole Supeet with the new puzzles

Ole Supeet is both director and ACT volunteer for the community centre and has the responsibility for buying the school supplies. Ole is an active member of the community who organises parent meetings and encourages their involvement in the school. He retired as head teacher of the nearby primary in December 2016. ACT has supported Olmuringiringa Primary for many years by building a classroom, teachers' houses and supplying desks and sports equipment. Footballs and netballs were donated in February 2017.

How can you help?

Please visit ACT's website for more information:

www.arushachildrenstrust.org

In 2016 the average monthly cost of running the kindergarten was £295. Daily porridge costs £45 per month.

Donations can be made through Paypal via the website or directly to:

Bank of Scotland
43 Comely Bank Road
Edinburgh
EH4 1AF
United Kingdom

Arusha Children A/C
Sort Code 80-11-05
Sterling Account No. 06002520

Women's Groups

The community centre is used by several different women's groups. These groups are cooperatives whereby the women help each other to start small businesses. Each member contributes a small amount of money each week.

At the end of the month some members are chosen to receive between £20 and £40 to start a small business.

They mostly aim to sell vegetables and fruits which grow well in their environment or to buy a few chickens to start an egg business.

Family Support

One family of six siblings in Arusha is currently being helped with house rent due to the death of their only surviving parent.



One of the women's groups in session

Education Support

ACT is currently supporting three girls in secondary school in Arusha and one in further education in Tanga on the Tanzanian coast. This involves paying for fees, uniforms, books, stationery, food, bus fares and educational trips.



Play time at the Maasai kindergarten

Thanks

Special thanks go to: Mike Brydon and Janeth Ngoti at Tropical Trails Safari Company in Arusha

- Bob Gray in New Zealand for his website expertise
- Gloria Lee and Friends, Malaysia
- EK Muzungu Club, UK
- Ole Supeet
- Annie Ritchie, Scotland

Thanks to all our supporters, donors and those who have visited the projects.

ACT's Founder

We would like to wish Mike Brydon, the founder of the Arusha Children's Trust, back in 1999, a continued steady recovery on his long journey with cancer. Mike misses his home, friends and colleagues in Tanzania and is still receiving treatment in Europe.