



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

## Maasai Kindergarten

### Maasai Kindergarten in Arusha Celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Arusha Children's Trust, (ACT), built the Maasai Kindergarten in Olmuringiringa village, outside Arusha, which opened in January 2002. Parents, teachers and children are all very happy to see the kindergarten continuing after all these years and to celebrate 20 years of Early Childhood in the village.

To mark the occasion in January 2022, ACT repainted and repaired the classrooms and teachers' rooms, added colourful posters and donated sports equipment.

The three teachers, the director and the support staff have been the backbone of the school. The support staff make the daily porridge for up to 90 children.

It has been a wonderful team effort with a supportive parent body. In over 20 years hundreds of children have passed through the school and moved onto primary schools in the area.

At the end of 2022, 45 children graduated and moved up to Standard One.

### Meet the Teachers



Suzana Ngalesoni

Suzana joined the school in 2006 and is the mother of 3 boys. She knows it's hard for the new children to learn Swahili at first as their mother tongue is Maa, the language of the Maasai. After three months of exposure through singing and playing the children soon pick up Swahili.

Suzana is the leader of the local community's women's group which promotes and helps individuals to set up small businesses.



Leah Godwin

Leah joined the team in 2008 and is mother to 4 daughters. She enjoys all aspects of teaching in Early Childhood and especially enjoys story telling and singing. Through singing the children learn to count and to learn Swahili and English.

She believes in good communication between the parents and teachers.

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Elias Samson

Elias was the first teacher to join the kindergarten in 2002, but previously he had conducted classes in the local church and so brings a wealth of experience to the school. After all this time he still enjoys the job and has seen his own 6 children attend the school.

He says the greatest achievement is helping the children to learn Swahili and English and also to see them learn many new skills. It's Elias's ambition to run his own school one day.

## Education and Family Support



Johnson outside his new school

ACT has continued to support the Amini family, orphaned several years ago, with house rent and the siblings Hawa, Zena and Johnson with their education.

Hawa completed her two year diploma course in Community Development in 2022 with an excellent pass. She has been volunteering as a social worker in a local hospital while seeking employment.

Zena completed and successfully passed a one year course in Banking and Finance at the Institute for Accountancy in Arusha. ACT is now sponsoring her on a two year diploma course which started in August 2022 in the same subjects.

Johnson sat his final primary exams in October 2022 and starts Form One at Kaleloni Secondary school in January 2023 with help from ACT for his uniform and educational needs.



Zena outside the Institute of Accountancy

## How can you help?

ACT is a small educational charity which relies totally on donations and volunteers.

With increased funding and support it can help more families and individual children to access primary, secondary and further education.

Please support our projects by going to the Donate page on the website.

[www.arushachildrenstrust.org](http://www.arushachildrenstrust.org)

## Special thanks in 2022 go to:

ACT gives special thanks to :

- Bob Gray in New Zealand for the website and newsletter design
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- Angela and Peter Kennedy
- EK Muzungu Club UK and Lochwinnoch International Aid UK
- Robert Gunn and Annie Ritchie