

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

F:ioptanzania

T:ioptanzania

I:ioptanzania



Ilula Orphan Program (IOP)  
P. O Box 151,  
Mazombe, Iringa  
[admin@ioptanzania.org](mailto:admin@ioptanzania.org)

**We are excited to share the events and projects IOP has been involved in during October 2018. Enjoy reading dear friends!**

---

Articles:

- Graduation Ceremony
- Fire Safety
- A better home
- The big game
- A half year at IOP Center
- Visitors from Norway (SUFH GROUP)
- They need support

## GRADUATION CEREMONY

The 4<sup>th</sup> of October was the official graduation ceremony for the finishing students at Lords Hill High School. Friends, family and members of the local community went up to the big hall to celebrate the 28 students' hard work and completion of Form four. The program of the ceremony should start at 9.30, but the event did not begin before 11.30, which meant that people could talk to acquaintances and take some pictures with a "fake giraffe" while waiting. Too loud music is a common factor in most Tanzanian events (why?), including this one, and you could almost get to the location by following the sound of the music blindly. The upbeat party like music was a big factor both before and during the event, and worked as background music during multiple dances. The graduating pupils, younger Lords Hill students and some children from Sunflower all went in front of the crowd to show off some dance moves.



In between all the dancing, there was time for speeches and fundraising. People greatly involved in the school, such as Berit, the school administration, and Cynthia from Luxembourg (boys' dormitory renovating leader) sat by the High Table in front of the rest of the attendees. They were only a couple of meters away from the soapbox, and used the opportunity to say some words to the leaving students.

Towards the end of the ceremony; the students finally got their diplomas. Their names were called one by one, and they went to shake hands with the High Table and get their papers.

When the official part was over, some people got up from their chairs to dance, while others went outside to take in some fresh air. All the attendees were able to get food, and some even a piece of cake. People went out in the sun, happily knowing that all 28 students had finished Form four, wondering what exciting choices the students will make the next years

## FIRE SAFETY

Fire safety has been on the agenda this month, and Berit decided to teach parts of the staff about fire safety the 16<sup>th</sup> of October. These staff will bring the training to ALL staff later! She also made folders with information about dangerous items and situations that can cause fire. I met Kanisia Chengula (IOP staff) in the hallway to talk about what she learned during the meeting.

Kanisia tells me: “We learned about things that can cause fire: lamps, irons, sockets, extension cables and different kitchen equipment. Berit told us to be aware of the risks of using too much charcoal when cooking and to hold the match box away from the body when letting a match stick. I also learned that the most fire safe doors swing outwards, because that makes it easier to escape during an emergency.

**Were you surprised by any of the information, or did you already know everything she went through?**

I knew most of the things from before, but it was nice to be reminded. I did not know that batteries could cause fire just by laying in your pocket, so that surprised me a bit.

**Are you going to tell anyone about what you learned at the meeting?**

I am going to teach the rest of the IOP employees at the Center about fire safety the first of November. All IOP staff members are required to attend a fire safety meeting by then. Within this year, there will be an “EMERGENCY CALL” as if there was a fire, to see that staff has really understand what to do.



Chesco Sanga providing training about fire drilling to other staff

## A BETTER HOME

Cynthia from Luxembourg has been a volunteer at IOP for 6 months, and the last couple of months she has been working hard on improving the dormitory for the boys at Lords Hill. I sat down with her to talk about the project, and why she wanted to spend money and time on this renovation.

### **First and foremost, why did you choose to work so much with this specific project?**

I always wanted to invest in a project during my stay at IOP. It was important to find a project which I was interested in, so I could fully involve myself in it. I went up to the Lords Hill one day to make some brochures, and I saw that the dormitory was in a very bad condition. There were broken windows, missing mattresses and beds, broken lights, water problems etc. I felt the need to do something to improve the situation; after all, this is the boys' home for four years.



### **Did you fund all this on your own, or did you get contributions from other people?**

In the beginning of the project I used my own savings. I fixed small things: like windows, light bulbs and bought some new beds and mattresses. The list of things I wanted to improve became longer as I worked on the project, and I decided to reach out to my father. He talked to suppliers, colleagues and friends from Luxemburg and Germany, and some of them wanted to support the project. Their donations meant a lot, because it made it possible to buy even more mattresses and beds, plaster the water tank, put lights along the road to the dormitory and more.

### **Why was it so important to fix the water tank and the lights outside?**

It was very important to plaster the water tank to prevent it from leaking. We are also working on installing a pump from one of the water tanks and a new piping system to the showers. The water situation at the dormitory right now is not ideal. The boys have some water during the raining season, but they have to walk to the High School to get water for cleaning and washing clothes, especially during the dry season. It was very important to put lights outside along the way to the dormitory, because during the night it is very dangerous due to all the venomous snakes in the area.

### **What was the most fun part about the project?**

I like to renovate and supervise, and to see improvements as projects develop. Nothing specific stood out, I just liked the work in general. I like to commit myself to a proper cause or work, and when I decide to do something, I want to do it right. I got help from a lot of people at IOP, like Justin, Titus, Erick, Joshua and Ajolon. They helped me by advising, suggesting things to improve, smaller installments and fixing contracts. One of the most rewarding things I experienced during this work is the appreciation of the boys who are living in the dormitory. It showed me that I made a difference for them and that is one thing I will always have in my heart. It is an amazing memory I will take home and give me motivation to do more in the future for the Lords Hill High School.



## THE BIG GAME

The day we had been looking forward to for weeks was finally here. The football match between the bachelors and the married men – staff of IOP - took place the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, on the football field outside the Center. People had practiced and stared intimidating at each other for weeks building up to the game.



The match was originally supposed to take place a month earlier, but it took time to find the right players, and we figured it would be great to have the match close to departure of two of our volunteers. This meant that the match became something more than a rivalry; a tribute to Cynthia and Rachel (both Luxembourg), and a celebration of unity.

The match began around 4pm. Focused men and women went to the field for two intense 45 minute halves. People gave everything on the field, which resulted in some impressive sprints, drabbling's and goals. The established men took the lead early in the game, kicking the ball in for 1-0. The game was very even, but the finishing

result was 3-1, in favor of the married men.

It was an amazing experience, both to play and to watch the game from the sideline. Men, women and children were dancing, running, playing drums and cheering enthusiastically throughout the match, motivating the players and making it even more fun to watch the teams play.

A camera team came to take some photos and videos of the event when the match was over. People gathered around Rachel and Cynthia, and celebrated them and the game with cake and a sparkling non-alcoholic drink.



Cinzia Letsch and Rachel Tshinza Ndaya cutting a goodbye cake



## A HALF YEAR AT IOP CENTER



Cynthia Letsch and Rachel Ndaya Tshinza travelled all the way from Luxemburg to IOP in the middle of April. Their long stay has made an impact on a lot of people: they have made great friends, and contributed a lot to the community. Rachel has done different work during her stay, including teaching and helping the girls with their homework. Cynthia has worked many hours to renovate the dormitory; the boys appreciated her work so much that they even threw a party for her.

Cynthia and Rachel left the 21<sup>st</sup> of October, and were celebrated both during the football match, but also got a special party at the center the 19th. People danced and sang in honor of the two volunteers, and many people wanted to say some words before they left. Adam thanked Rachel for being there for him, and supporting him like a true friend. Brian thanked Cynthia for everything she has done the boys at Lords Hill, including himself, and the managing director of IOP emphasized that the two girls definitely would be missed.



## VISITORS FROM NORWAY (SUFH STUDENTS)



The SUFH group arrived in the afternoon the 26<sup>th</sup> of October. They were greeted with open arms, singing and dancing. Every guest that visits the IOP Center gets a warm welcome, but the greeting they received was another level. They were even honored with Norwegian flags.

All the girls had to introduce themselves to a specific guest, and escort them to their rooms. The guests clearly appreciated the gesture, and they returned the kindness in different ways: some by playfully chasing them around the yard, others by learning them new games,

The new guests were not only appreciated by the girls, but also by the staff and volunteers. They gave positive vibes, made cozy fires, delicious food, contributions to different projects

and played the guitar beautifully. A huge contribution of a kitchen machine arrived as a gift for IOP 20 Years! Even seven sewing machines for the sewing room and Young Mothers project. Such a big group could easily have been disturbing, but they only made the days at the center more exciting.

It was sad to see that most of them had to go on Thursday the 01<sup>st</sup>, of November, but two men decided to stay some extra days. Tor Inge Warholm wanted to teach the kitchen staff some new techniques and recipes, while Knut Johan Ronningen wanted to stay longer to get to know the organization even better. We are still enjoying the last few days with Tor Inge and Knut, and already look forward to seeing new SUFH group returning next year.

## THEY NEED YOUR SUPPORT



Pre form one students at the Lords Hill High School

The school year is going to an end at high schools across the country. Many students finished the primary school education are preparing for four new years of studying, even moving away from their parents to live at boarding schools. However, some children might not even have the possibility to complete more than those first seven years of primary school.

Two teachers from Lords Hill have travelled to schools in Villages nearby to find potential students for the IOP

Secondary school. They have found forty bright children, with great academic results and a desire to learn more. They are topping their class with A's and B's, but are in difficult economic situations.

### ***URGENT !!! URGENT !!! URGENT !!!***

Some of them do not have parents, while others have parents struggling just to get by. The teachers met children that had to walk barefoot to school every day for more than one hour, and still were able to find the motivation and desire to do their very best at school. It would be a shame if these children would have to drop out of school because of economic factors completely out of their control. ***IOP is looking for sponsors for these children.*** A proper education would really make a difference in their lives! If you consider sponsoring one or more of these children please contact us through the contact information below.

## Contact information

If you would like more information about projects and/or sponsoring opportunities, please contact:

IOP Tanzania	Edson: <a href="mailto:edson.msigwa@ioptanzania.org">edson.msigwa@ioptanzania.org</a>
IOP Netherlands	Annelies: <a href="mailto:info@iopnederland.nl">info@iopnederland.nl</a>
IOP Norway	Ingunn: <a href="mailto:iop.norge@gmail.com">iop.norge@gmail.com</a>
IOP Luxembourg	Helen: <a href="mailto:helen.clarke@sunflower.lu">helen.clarke@sunflower.lu</a>
IOP USA	Stepanie: <a href="mailto:stephaniegraber07@hotmail.com">stephaniegraber07@hotmail.com</a> Or Ron: <a href="mailto:porterronaldj@gmail.com">porterronaldj@gmail.com</a>
IOP Italy	Deborah and Massino: <a href="mailto:iopitalia@gmail.com">iopitalia@gmail.com</a>
IOP Denmark	Lenne: <a href="mailto:iop.denmark@gmail.com">iop.denmark@gmail.com</a>
IOP Sweden	Annica : <a href="mailto:annicarenberg@hotmail.com">annicarenberg@hotmail.com</a>
IOP Germany	Irma & Jos: <a href="mailto:iopgermany@gmail.com">iopgermany@gmail.com</a>

Prepared by Mari Østby, Volunteer from Norway.