



What's new at Ujamaa?

2017 has been a fun and busy year so far. Thank you to our supporters for helping us achieve so much and we are excited to see what the next 6 months has in store for us!

The children are very happy at their new school, Dinka, which is supported by a Dutch NGO and provides a fantastic academic program as well as a more rounded educational experience which includes sports, dance, drama, music and other activities. Kelvin was named Head of School - what a superstar! Yohana was named Head of Class 5 - well done! And all the children are going very well.

Kelvin, Yohana, Isihaka, Nadia, Meshack, Shedrack, Remy and Angie are really excelling which is fantastic to see.

Our fantastic bus is on the road everyday. The children leave for school at 7am and are not home until 4pm, so it's a big day! After that they usually have homework to do and then squeeze in a bit of playtime (often soccer!) before they get ready for dinner.

We were invited to participate in a parade in Arusha recently which included over 40 NGOs in the region that support vulnerable children. Kelvin, Ema, Yohana, Irene, Halima, Annie and Remy were excited to have the opportunity to walk in the parade and represent our home.



The children are on school holidays for the whole of June and are enjoying lots of different activities such as swimming, going to the cinema, arts classes, dance classes and much more! We have had many visitors to our home and we appreciate the donations and skills they share with us so that our kids can grow and learn everyday.



Thanks to The Weily Tribe the kids recently spent a day at a Cultural Centre outside Arusha learning about the Masai Tribe and their traditions which was very interesting. Many people are unaware that there are in fact 122 different tribes in Tanzania - the Masai people being the most well known by those

outside of Africa. We actually do not have any Masai children in our home and as such this was a good educational experience for us. The Ujamaa kids come from a range of different tribes include Mchagga, Msambara, Nyiramba, Nyakyusa, Mbulu (also known as Iraqw), Mporogo and Mpare. One of the reasons Tanzania has stayed politically stable over the years in comparison to other African Nations in the region is because of the respect and understanding of the differences and diversity of so many tribes. Tanzanians believe they are part of the whole but also represent their individual tribes and with so many tribes it is hard for any one group to gain significant power. While there was certainly fighting in the past, these days the tribes live together without any major issues.



Our Vegetable Garden is growing well thanks to the hard work of our gardener, Mama Husna, and we have so far seen crops of tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, zucchini and green pepper. We are also growing pumpkins, carrots, papaya, mangoes and bananas. It's great for the children to learn about different plants and we love being able to go outside and collect food from our own garden. It may not replace our market shopping, but it is a great supplement!

Some of the children have started football training with the Future Stars Academy on Saturday mornings. They love all the new skills they are learning and they also get to play matches. The other kids can go along to enjoy the atmosphere and participate in play activities. It's a great way for the kids to get out of the house, meet other children and learn new things. Big thanks to Kailey for organising this for us!

We have also started doing yoga classes on Friday afternoons which is a wonderful way for them to unwind after a busy week at school.

Thank you to Yoga Pura Vida for teaching the children. They love it.



Irene

At 17 years old Irene is now the eldest of the Ujamaa Family and she has lived with us since 2009. She is kind, intelligent, caring and just so much fun to be around! We love how Irene takes care of her younger siblings as well as her willingness to learn about anything in the world whether it be science, baking, travel or accounting. She has a thirst for knowledge and gentle spirit that brings joy to those around her. Irene said recently "I wish I could stop growing older because I never want to leave this home" - for us that is what we hope for! To bring a child into our home and give them a family that they

love. Luckily for us, Irene has another 4 years of school ahead of her and then university where she wants to become a lawyer...so she will be with us for a while longer! Then when the time comes, we will be excited to see her venture out into the world and make a life for herself - we can only imagine what she will achieve and we will be thrilled to share in her successes.

We are looking for **General Sponsors** to support Irene in our home. Just **\$50 per month** helps us to pay for food, accommodation, clothing, health care and extra activities.

Irene shows what a loving home and supportive environment, as well as a fantastic education, can do for a child in need. Please support us so that we can continue to give Irene the life she deserves and so that we can support more children like Irene in the future.

For info on Sponsorship please email Carley at ujamaa.children@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE! We will be hosting our Annual Cocktail Party Fundraiser in Melbourne on September 15th 2017. Put it in your diary now - tickets on sale soon.

Books!

We do our best to keep our children reading and learning about the world. However it is difficult to get good quality books in Tanzania and even harder to get socially relevant ones. The Government has starting taxing packages coming into the country but thankfully they don't tax books. If anyone would like to send us some new books we would be very grateful! Send us your favourite books, good young adult novels, your kids' favourite books or something from these lists:

[Books to Inspire Change](#)

[Books about Kindness](#)

[Books about Happiness](#)

[Books about Courage](#)

[Books about Social Change](#)

Please send books to:

Ujamaa Children's Home

PO BOX 12993

Arusha

TANZANIA

Meet Deborah

Deborah has worked at Ujamaa Children's Home for 6 years and is loved by the children.

Deborah is our Matron as well as being an amazing all-rounder who comes up with the best games for the kids. Deb is a go-to person for anything you need. She is only 28 years old but she is incredibly wise and hard working.

Deborah is kind and generous with her time, but is also firm when the children need a little discipline. Deborah has grown in her skills over the years and recently completed her Certificate of Community Based Work with Children and Youth. Deb is always smiling and ready to jump in to help or to play with the kids. She is due to be married in October and we are excited to share in this new chapter of her life. Thank you Deborah for your hard work and dedication to our organisation!



Very special thanks to Ros & John Andrews and the guests at Ros' 70th birthday party whom raised over \$10,000 in support of our home. What a special way to share your birthday with us! We will be using these funds to buy much needed computers to help the older children with their studies and online research.

Thank you so much!



Ujamaa is about providing a loving and supportive home for children who have no chance at reunification and we appreciate everyone who helps us achieve this. If you ever get the opportunity to come to visit us and spend time with our kids you will see it is a house full of fun and love. As you can see from Teddy and Remy here - life is good! Thank you all for your continued support so that we can grow and help more children in need.

