

## Dear adoptive parents, dear supporters and friends of Center Narovinu,

We are happy to bring you another bulletin, the first one in 2018. This year, we are planning a few new projects and events which we will gradually introduce to you. There are big challenges ahead of us so keep your fingers crossed.

In the bulletins from last year we introduced to you the team of Center Narovinu working in the offices in Prague and Nairobi. This year, we will gradually introduce to you our amazing

volunteers. We greatly appreciate their work as our organization is to a great extent based on it. If you get inspired and you decide to join our team of volunteers, or support us financially or materially, don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to our mutual cooperation.

Happy New Year and all the best.

**Simona Heřtusová** on behalf of **Narovinu Centre**



## Fair Trade Shop Pass it on!

**Product are bought directly  
from Kenya's producers**

**100% of incomes will support children from  
Kenya's community centre Island of Hope  
We create and develop a self-sufficient and  
sustainable community centre attended  
daily by more than 500 children.**

## Fellowship for University students who study the problems of development cooperation

Are you interested in the problems of developing world and would you like to obtain experience within a non-profit organization? Do you have good communication skills, are you creative and do you enjoy learning new things? No difficulties using computers and speaking English? You must be the right person for an internship we offer within our organization.

### Work Responsibilities

- Administration for adoption of African children project
- Administration for small "Fair Trade" shop / E-shop
- Advertising (organization of charitable activities, support with the materials, social networks media – facebook, youtube...)
- Fundraising (preparing the presentation for the sponsors, contact search, emails distribution)
- Project "Island of Hope" (support materials for the project implementation such as contact search, validation and search of information, budget preparation etc.)
- Help with the development of printed materials (information

search, development of advertising leaflets and text, proofreads etc.)

### Fellowship is not paid, but we offer:

- Opportunity to gain experience and knowledge of working in the non-profitable organization and development cooperation
- References and confirmation of fellowship
- Friendly working environment in the small team

Please send your application to Lenka Čumpelíková, email: lenka.cumpelikova@adopceafrika.cz, mobile 732 203 196, www.adopceafrika.cz

## Who is in the team of Center Narovinu? Introducing volunteers and new helping force in Nairobi

**My name is Petra Augustová and I have been connected with Centrum Narovinu since 2002,** when together with my husband we adopted a five year old Kenyan girl named Maureen. This little girl turned into a university student as you might have seen on the organisation's Facebook page. We still support her.



After exiting the finance sector I decided to start voluntary work. During that time my colleague was leaving for a two month trip to Kenya and brought me to the thought of spending my time and energy at Centrum Narovinu. At first I helped at the office and at some events. After doing an interesting seminar for volunteers I became the coordinator of adoptions. I am now responsible for a part of the database of adoptees and I communicate with their sponsors regarding payments, letters, insurance etc. Since after leaving the bank I started accounting both for firms and non-profit organisations, I started helping Centrum Narovinu with finance – budgeting, payments or databases. When in 2016 I got the offer to become the accountant for Centrum Narovinu I was very happy, because I became able to connect my passion for helping children in Africa with my actual job.

I am now even closer to the projects and other Centrum Narovinu events, but most importantly with many amazing people – both in the office and volunteers.

And about my hobbies? I like sports; running, yoga, Pilates, cross country skiing, cycling, beach volleyball, travelling, mountains, books, Spanish and most importantly my amazing family.

**When in 2010 I adopted a child through a project called „AdopceAfrika“, it felt great.** Sometime later, when Centrum Narovinu looked for new volunteers, I decided to join as a coordinator. **My name is Ljuben Nunev and currently I'm a pensioner,** so I can devote more time to my volunteer job, which consists of cooperating with parents, who are interested in adoption. I confirm the delivery of the parent's mail, I give information about any treatment their children underwent or I put together any materials we receive from Kenya. All in all it is much harder to do



the job for people who work 9-5; they're the heroes, not me. I look forward to the coordinators meeting, which take place twice a year and are very useful. During these meetings we Exchange information about different projects of Centrum Narovinu. We usually end this meeting with a group picture of our team, where I'm the oldest and I'm glad the younger members look up to me, at least that's how I feel. Although I'm not the youngest, this job fulfils me a lot. It's all about communicating with people, which I very much enjoy. Sometimes the adoptive parents praise us for what we do. I really wish to be able to do this job for many more years, since I can't imagine my life without it.

**Hello, hi :-)** My name is Mirka Mrňáková. I live in a small village near Kutná Hora together with my husband and few cats and dogs. I have two adult daughters. I love music, theatre, books, nature and South Bohemia; I also enjoy swimming and cycling. I spent most of my spare time in my garden and walking with our dogs. I hate arrogance and unreliability. I do geodesy for living and love my job.



I have been working with Centrum Narovinu for more than ten years. I adopted a six year old girl back in 2007. She is now an eighteen year old young lady. I later became a coordinator of adoptions and a volunteer. As a coordinator I take care of the communication between the parents and Kenya and as a volunteer I try to help at all sorts of different events and if you are also a volunteer or a supporter of Centrum Narovinu, you know that all of the e-mails you get are signed with my name. All my roles are great.

Hello to all adoptive parents and supporters of Centrum Narovinu. **I'm Martin Mevald and since 2008, when I started supporting Frederick through the project of adopting African children, I also help as a volunteer.** I take care of the website, the databases and other things connected with computers and the Internet.



I grew up in Hostomice pod Brdy, I lived in Strakonice and three years ago I moved to Prague. I work as a programmer and besides helping Centrum Narovinu I enjoy going for a walk around Prague, I learn Spanish and I grow cacti and succulents. My other hobbies include architecture, literature, nature, history, tourism, music and watching documentaries.

**Hello, my name is Veronika and since 2014 I have been a volunteer at Center Narovinu, first as an English – Czech translator and since 2015 also as a coordinator of long-distance adoptions.** In the fall of 2017, I also organized a fund-raising concert for Center Narovinu in my home town, which I am really happy about .

I am currently finishing a Master's degree at a university in Denmark but I am slowly starting to look for a job in the Czech Republic as I would like to settle down close to my family and friends. My biggest hobbies are singing, hiking and low-cost travelling. I am the happiest when I am singing on stage in front of a big audience but also at a camp-fire with my closest friends.



In the past two years, I travelled to India, Singapore or Lebanon and in the future I would also like to make a trip to Kenya where I could experience the atmosphere at Island of Hope and meet Esther, whom me and my mom adopted last year.

## Introducing volunteers and new helping force in Nairobi

**Hello, I'm Veronica wanje mungah, I joined centrum Narovinu in December 2017.** I coordinate the college and post high school students. My work mainly entails updating the table of college students, verifying the information in the database about college and university students, add missing



information in the table and gather admission letters and fee structures from the college students as it is not possible to release the money without having both documents.

I'm passionate about children and I believe that education plays a vital role in the future of a child. I love nature and travelling since to travel is to experience and to live, I also love the beach as I come from the coastal town of Kenya which is Mombasa, reading

novels is also one of my favorite things to do. Finally I love spending time with my family and close friends since spending time with loved ones is priceless.

## Health insurance programme

*Health Insurance Programme is a programme of Centrum Narovinu that caters for health care needs for the adopted kids. The programme has been of great help to the kids in the distance adoption programme. The programme runs from 1st June to 31st May of the following year. The health insurance covers annual medical checkup, outpatient and inpatient cases. The insurance covers up to ksh 10,000/ for outpatient cases and ksh 250,000/ for inpatient, accidents and terminal illnesses annually.*

*Children who are covered get the opportunity to go for the annual medical checkup which is normally done in August. Kids get tested and treated. Those with special health care needs are also identified during this period and follow up is done on their conditions. These conditions are not only the common diseases like malaria, typhoid, upper respiratory tract infection but also chronic diseases like HIV/AIDS, epilepsy, asthma among others.*

*Currently, there are 905 kids insured in medical year 2017/2018. This is 45% of all the kids in the distance adoption programme. The total number of medical cases (treatments) in 2016 was 556 while in 2017 it increased to 709 cases. August 2017 had the highest number of treatments of 126 cases.*

### OUTSTANDING MEDICAL CASE

Filicity Velma Atieno (52494) a nine years old girl has been having breathing difficulties since childhood. She was unable to breathe normally. A surgery was suggested but her family could not raise the money to cater for the medical expenses.

In 2016 Velma got her first adoptive parent. Velma and her mum were very happy to hear this. Her adoptive parent then paid her medical insurance in 2017. She then went for medical checkup in August then later went for further medical attention at Kenyatta National Hospital.

Velma was then booked for a surgery on 5.12.17 at Lifespan Medical Center. She underwent a surgical procedure for the removal of enlarged adenoid gland. The procedure was done successfully and she was discharged the following day. Velma can now breathe normally and she is very grateful for the medical insurance. I have attached her letter of appreciation to her adoptive parent and photos.

*Written By: Irene Olali*

*Health Programme Administrator – Centrum Narovinu, Kenya.*



# EDUCATION SYSTEM IN KENYA

**What does the education system in Kenya look like? What Are Certificate and Diploma Courses? Does Kenya have vocational schools and high schools and how is it in Kenya with school fees? We hope you will find the answers in our article - a brief overview of all levels of education from kindergartens to universities.**



## Kindergarten and primary school

Kindergarten is visited by children for 3 years, just like here. Classes are designed as baby class, nursery class (or middle class) and a compulsory year before entering primary school, the pre-unit class. A total of eight years of primary education usually starts at the age of 5 - 7. Individual classes are referred to as Standard (Standard 1-8). School year begins in January and is divided into 3 trimesters, followed by holidays. Thus, the lessons take place during January - March, May - July and September - November (tests are under way in November). Schools may be state or private. In public schools, basic lessons are provided free of charge but pupils have to pay for textbooks, uniforms, sportswear and school fees. At the end of the 8th year, pupils make state examinations of KCPE (Kenyan Certificate of Primary Education). According to the results (max. 500 points), they can apply for secondary schools - the better results, the better (but also the more expensive) schools. If a pupil gets less than 200 points, he or she can start learning skilled trades at a vocational school or decide to improve his / her results in order to have a chance for (better) high school, and then repeats the final year and the KCPE exams (also applies at the end of high school).

## High School

Kenyan system is similar to Czech system of high school education, as it takes 4 years of general education. Classes are referred to as Form (Form 1 - 4). School year is also divided into 3 trimesters. Schools may be state or private. State schools

are divided into several categories according to the quality of teaching and children are selected according to results of final exams from the primary school (KCPE). High school study is completed by KCSE exams (Kenyan Certificate of Secondary Education). These are held in the 4th year usually in November - the results are available in February or March of the next year. Based on the results of the KCSE, students can apply for follow-up studies at colleges and universities - the average grade on the KCSE is decisive for admission to study. Students receive grades from A (Best) to E (Worst). Each grade has three subtypes: better (B +), no indexes (B) and worse (B-). Students apply for higher education after receiving their results and then they are waiting for acceptance letter - they usually start their studies in autumn (August-October), but sometimes in January.

## Vocational education

Primary school pupils who get few points in KCPE, or do not perform tests at all, have the option to continue in vocational schools. They learn practical skills such as car mechanic, welder, plumber, tailor, etc. The studies last 1 to 4 years, depending on how many grades the student chooses to study. Basic technical training has a total of three grades (Grade III / II / I) - each of which usually lasts 1 year and ends with state exams. Higher levels of vocational education are Artisan courses. They take 2 years. State polytechnics can also provide advanced courses at higher professional levels. Some shorter trade courses (such as hairdresser / beautician or general IT courses) do not require any previous qualifications - they last for several months and after graduation student gets a graduation certificate. To obtain this certificate the student does not have to take any state exams - it is not a generally recognized qualification.

## Higher technical / technical education

Graduate students who have passed the KCSE final exams but have not reached the university entrance level (at least C +) may apply for higher education at college. They have 2 levels - Certificate and a follow-up Diploma. Courses are divided into modules, each of which lasts about 1 year - Certificate courses usually have 2 modules, Diploma courses have 3 modules. After completing the Certificate level, students can continue to the Diploma level - completing a Certificate course shortens the standard length of study by one year. The usual duration of studies is 4 years. The most of students in our adoption program chose this option. Students who have good KCSE results (C, C-) may skip the lower Certificate level and apply directly for the higher Diploma level; study takes 3 years. Successful graduates of the Diploma level may continue to study at a university, but they do not have a chance to get state scholarship, so the study is very expensive.



private) schools total costs of study highly exceeds the student's budget. For that reason we ask for a fee schedule, especially in high schools and universities - but it is not always clear what period will be covered by the subsidy (whether a trimester, a year, a module or a whole course) and whether it is the total cost. In addition to the above mentioned fees, sometimes students have to purchase work clothes and other aids (eg in hospitality), and pay registration fees for state exams. It is often happens that the final costs of the study exceed the original estimate and student gets into debt. If students have a high school tuition debt, they are often allowed to complete their studies, but they do not get a final KCSE certificate until they pay off, and they cannot apply for secondary courses. In case student has a

**University education**

Graduate students who have passed KCSE final exams with at least C + results may apply for university degree at public or private universities. In order to be accepted at state universities and obtain the state scholarship students usually need better grades, at least B. The basic level is a Bachelor's degree, which usually lasts 4 years. Successful graduates can continue the Master's degree course that lasts for 2 years and eventually Doctoral studies. The academic year is usually divided into 2 semesters (usually September-December and January-April) followed by longer holidays. Occasionally the academic year is shortened and instead of holidays followed by the next semester - the total length of study is shortened in that case. The total cost of a bachelor study with a scholarship is usually about 200,000 KES (approx. CZK 42,000), for self-payers it is more than double. Students take exams each semester, but many schools issue the academic certificate for the full academic year only - usually up to several months after the end of the academic year. Sometimes the school issues a certificate of study, but not all schools are willing to issue such document, so we get the first student's certificate after more than a year since his entry.

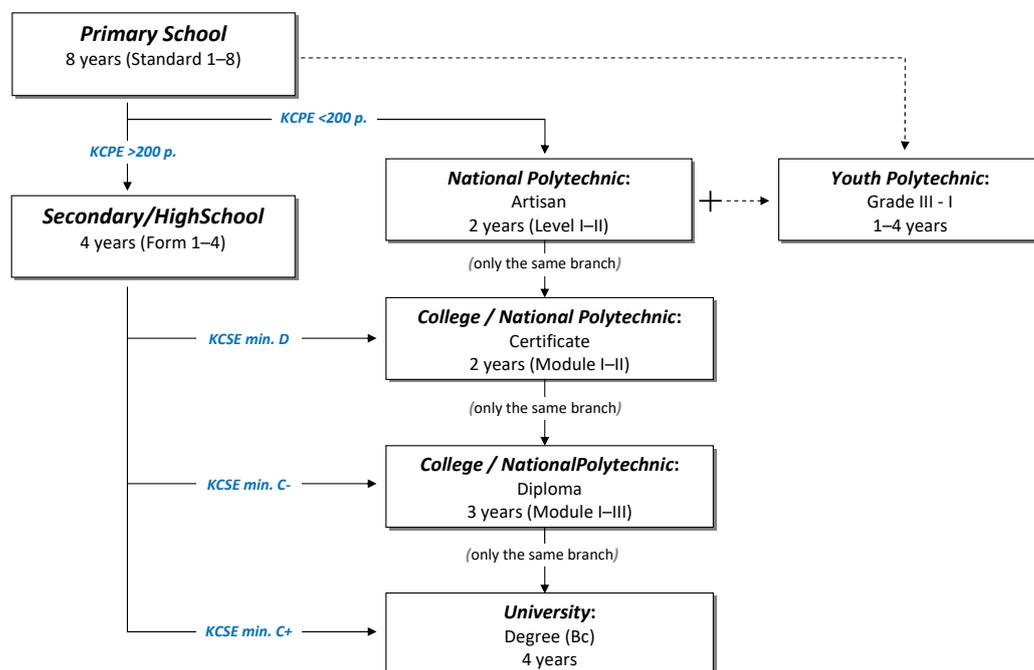
debt at higher technical school or university, he / she is not admitted to exams for the given semester. He can take exams just in the next semester after repayment of the debt - so the total length of studies can be prolonged considerably. Self-paying students can try to apply for a scholarship and hope to receive it - primarily through the HELB state organization, which offers both scholarships for the most needed and student loans, which are of course interest-rated and must be returned after completion of studies.

*Pavel Procházka  
(edited by Jitka Motejízková)*

**Tuition fees**

School fees may vary considerably between schools - while in some schools student's costs are covered by subsidies from adoptive parents, in other (especially

**EDUCATION SYSTEM IN KENYA**





# January news from the Community center The Island of Hope

During Dana Femin's business trip was The Island of Hope pretty eventful. Check out what happened, for example:



Great cleaning and preparation for the celebration/party



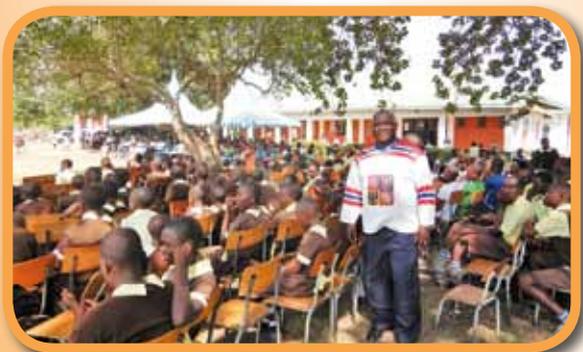
Seminar with teachers and preparation of comprehensive lessons of sexual education



The party on occasion of the new school year and the completion of the secondary school building



Olympics for children prepared by volunteer Tomas



Main project coordinator in Kenya Joash



Seminar with high school students



Start of a two-year project of cage fish farming supported by SlovakAid



Seminar with coordinators of the Long distance adoption project

**Club of Friends of the Island of Hope is looking for new volunteers, sponsors, and friends who would like to actively participate in the creation of this development project and are willing to help its further expansion and progress towards sustainability and independence.**

More information at [dana.feminova@adopceafrika.cz](mailto:dana.feminova@adopceafrika.cz),

## Examples of interesting extra-payments

*Extra payments are extraordinary one-time payments that adoptive parents can send to their children in addition to the regular payments for school fees. The extra payments can serve various purposes: they can be used to help the family in a difficult life situation (for example by buying food), to buy a bicycle or a laptop (which will help the students in their studies), to support a business idea (of students that have already finished their education), etc. We have decided to limit the number of extra payments due to organizational and personal reasons to one payment per trimester and we always try to make sure the payment is really needed.*

**Lilian** (ID 51267) attended third year of high school in 2017, she



got pregnant and in May she gave birth to a son. Because Lilian does not have parents, she lives with her aunt who helps her take care of her child. The child presents an extra financial burden on the family, and so Lilian's adop-

tive parent decided to help them by sending Lilian an extra-payment to buy the necessary things to take care of the baby (clothes, food, hygienic supplies..)

**Milky's** (ID 51691) adoptive mother send an extra-payment to support Milky's business. Milky completed a sewing course and she would like to open a little sewing workshop. Milky used the money to buy all necessary things such as a sewing machine, overlock, iron and an ironing board, fabrics, tape measure, scissors, needles, buttons, chalk, etc. and to rent out the space for the workshop. We wish Milky a lot of happy customers.



*Jitka Motežíková*

# Club of Friends of Adoption

From the middle of September 2017 until the end of January 2018, the Club of Friends of Adoption account, under variable symbol 800, has accumulated a total sum of 12,398 CZK. This money, along with overpayments from terminated adoptions, helped in the Q1 of 2018 to 31 children. In total, the amount of 97.200 CZK + 440 EUR was spent.

From the Community center The Island of Hope were supported: four high school students (41081, 50683, 51776, 52100), 11 elementary school students (51429, 52069, 52104, 52141, 52169, 52202, 52269 - of which 4 children are from our orphanage: 52650, 52655, 52656, 52659) and 5 kids from kindergarten (52571, 52615, 52628, 52643, 52645).

From other schools were supported: four elementary school eighth-graders (40896, 41482, 41493, 41841) and seven high school fourth-graders (40710, 41179, 50286, 51148, 51205, 51512, 51910).

The account number is 19-1460510217/0100. Variable symbol of the Club of Friends is 800.

Thank you all for your support!

You can look at the stories of all these children, for whom we are looking for new adoptive parents, on our site in the database of children free for adoption. Among them, for example, is Regan Otieno (51776) who has been in orphanage since 2007 and now continues to study at our high school „Island of Hope Humanist Mix Boarding School“. You maybe know Regan from our photographs because he is very photogenic.

*Lenka Čumpelíková*



## DINO SCHOOL supports project of Centrum Narovinu

Our cooperation started on November 1st, 2017 with 'Africa seen with remarkable eyes' in a form of debates for students of our school. The children in our kindergarten listened to African fairy tale and learned about different ways of life of people living in Africa.



Students of the primary school participated in two discussions that were combination of photo show and discussion on African Kenya and local community center on Rusinga Island that among other things provides education to children. Students of secondary grammar school also participated in 2 debates where students could discuss and ask any questions about Africa and Kenya. Since we did not really dedicate any school event to Africa before, it was very useful for all students. Since the presenter was herself in Kenya many times and knows the local environment very well, it was not just a theory but also personal experience shared which was the most interesting part for all students.



Based on this debate, all class teachers were offered different forms of cooperation to support the children in Kenya. Since the community center on Rusinga Island has kindergarten, primary as well as secondary schools, it corresponds with the system of our school as it also has all 3 levels of education. It is the reason why we decided to support this community center. 6 classes of primary school and 3 classes of sec-

ondary school chose to support Rusinga Island with production of teaching gadgets. One class of primary school decided to organize a collection of materials and 3 classes of primary school and 1 class of secondary school decided they would like to exchange letters with their counterparts on Rusinga Island. Additionally, one class of secondary school and 8 classes of primary school decided they would like to support long distance adoption and enable local children to go to school. The children from our kindergarten decided they would like to draw some pictures with winter theme for their friends in Kenya. And finally, one class from secondary school decided they would like to become partners with class of their age from community center on Rusinga Island.

All classes managed to implement their form of support so our school was full of teaching gadgets, toys as well as letters. Since our students also wear uniforms, we also decided to send T-shirts and shirts with logo of our school to community center on Rusinga Island which we hope the students in Rusinga Island will be able to wear and make use of.

At the moment, we are discussing the specific form of the partnership of one of our classes from secondary school and class of community center on Rusinga Island. This partnership will be based on the development of materials on the same topic and their exchange. We hope this will lead to mutual enhancement of both our and Kenyan children. Since we are an ethical school, we very much care that our students are open to other cultures and do not follow stereotypes and xenophobia. The presented forms for cooperation are the best way to reach the goal. We would like to thank the Narovinu Center and wish all the best!

*Mgr. Ondřej Zaorálek, deputy director  
of secondary grammar DINO SCHOOL*



### Travelling photography exhibition of Centrum Narovinu

**Are you interested in organising a photo exhibition in your town-cafe, cultural centre, school or library? It's possible!**

We offer photos, which travel across the Czech Republic. We can also offer videopresentation of interesting documents, discussions and products from the fair shop.

**For further information please visit:  
[www.centrumnarovinu.cz](http://www.centrumnarovinu.cz)**

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