

Dear adoptive parents, supporters and friends of Centre Narovinu,

welcome to the summer issue of our bulletin. This time you can for example find out more about what Ken Okongo, the founder and head of the Kenyan office, thinks about the project of health insurance. And since Ken is currently visiting the Czech Republic, we have also asked him how he is enjoying his visit. The whole interview will be published in the August electronic bulletin.

And don't forget! In July, the container with English books for the newly built library of the community centre Island of Hope will be leaving for Kenya. If you have some at home, send them to Africa!

We wish you wonderful summer holidays. **Your Centre Narovinu**

To whom the Club of Friends of adoption has helped in the second trimester of 2015?

As each trimester we were able to help children who have lost their previous adoptive parents. We could do that thanks to the fund of the Club of Friends of adoption where, from January 2015 to April 2015, has accumulated 27.125 CZK. We supported eight children who are now in the 8th grade of a basic school and who will do their final exams at the end of this year. They should continue to the high school next year and so we hope to find new adoptive parents for them. The children are: Maria Achieng (ID 40349), Mwalimu Samson Chikumbo (ID 41005), Philip Ngutu (ID 41272), Antony Ndwiga (ID 41310),

Metinsellah Ligwilu (ID 41584), Benter Akinyi (ID 50536), Abiud Nyangweso Onyango (ID 51084), Jack Johnson Onyango (ID 51411).

A total of 19.200 CZK was spent. The stories of children can be found on our web in the Database of children free for adoption.

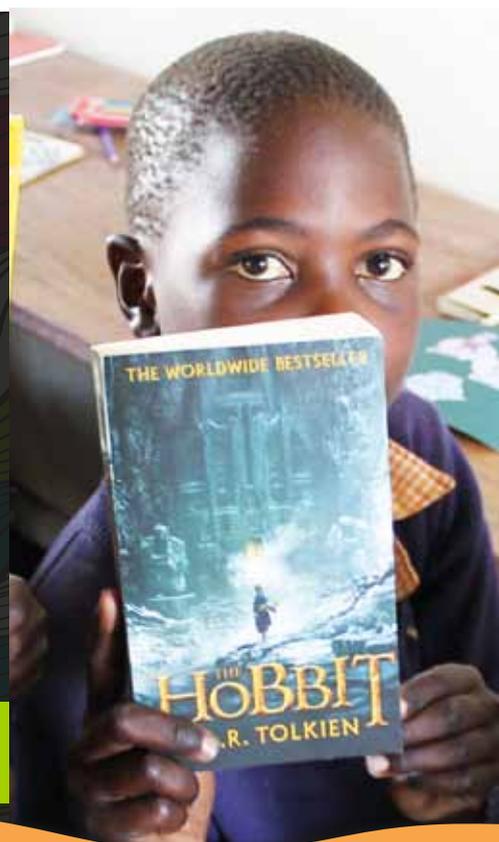
We would like to thank to all who supported the Club of Friends of Adoption and allowed the study of our children.

BOOKS FOR KENYA

Donate a book **in English**
for the new library in Rusinga
Island of Hope in Kenya.

CENTRUM NAROVINU

CenterNarovinu.org



Interview with Ken Okongo - Director of Narovinu Centre in Kenya, at the occasion of his visit in the Czech Republic

You are working with our organization from the beginning and you are not in Czech for the first time. Is there something that you were looking forward to?

Mostly I was looking forward to seeing friends that I have met over these years that I'm coming here and also to enjoy the "gulasch and knedlicki" my favorite Czech food. I also like very much the meetings in schools and the young children when they ask me questions and their imagination about Africa.

You are going to meet with Czech and Slovak adoptive parents. Are these meetings interesting for you?

It is always very interesting for me to meet the sponsors and be able to share with them our experiences. I always like mostly when they start asking questions...but very simple questions like what kind of food do we eat? Or do you celebrate Christmas? Or do you have winter?

You were in Czech three years ago. Do you see some changes here?

I'm very sure there have been many changes but for me it is very hard to notice those changes. Czech is a developed country and I was here when there were good roads, electricity and water in all houses, good transport network. So for me everything was there from the time I started coming. This is the difference for Dana and other



friends for example who have been visiting Kenya for the last 12 years. They can see better and very easily the changes in Kenya.... those days there were no roads for example to my village at Rusinga Island. It took two days to get there from Nairobi...now you have roads...not complete but almost complete so we can take 12hrs to get there. There was no even the idea of electricity when she started coming. Over the years there has been idea and finally now we have electric poles around the island. Actual electricity is almost comingso what I mean to say that in the developing countries it is more easy to notice the changes in the materialistic things than in developed countries.

In the end I would like to ask you if you can say some words in Czech?

Yes I know some words which are helpful - Dobré ráno, Miláček, Dobrou noc, Na zdraví, Pivo, Dobrou chuť, Dej mi pusu, Děkuji. And many others....and I can also combine the words to make statements: „Dobré ráno miláček.“

Medical cover through the eyes of its founder in Kenya

The project was initiated in 2009 after we had had many experiences with students who could not go to school because of medical condition. Some cases were simple and could be solved in time but because the parents/guardians lacked money, the conditions grew to life threatening stages. What used to happen was that a child would fall sick, the parent/guardian would then inform the coordinator. The coordinator had only the option to inform office and wait for the answer from the sponsor if they could support the treatment. In many cases the money needed was a lot and many sponsors could not just raise such amounts in short notice.

The project works as follows: once a student who in the cover if falling sick, the parent/guardian is calling the coordinator. The coordinator immediately advises them on which hospital to attend based on the location of the family. At the same time the coordinator gets in touch with the office to start solving the money issues that might be needed in the initial stages. The coordinator also has to go to the hospital and confirm the sick student. We don't have pre-arranged agreement with hospitals so we handle each case as it comes. We only have three clinics that we collaborate with and they cannot handle complicated cases. Our fear of doing agreement with the hospitals is based on the hiked bills. Once we have the agreement then they will treat us normal insurance companies and the bills could be exaggerated.

Every year all the students in the cover go through a medical checkup. An average of 175 students benefit through in/outpatient treatment every year. Majority of the cases are outpatient and all the outpatient cases normally exhaust the limits that was at the beginning for outpatients Kshs 8,000 and

inpatients Kshs 250,000. Currently the limits were increased for outpatients Kshs 10,000 and inpatients Kshs 300,000.

Starting last year we formed a medical cover team that would work more closely with this project. The team has three people. They are from Rusinga, Kisumu and Mombasa.

Medical cover project works on the collective responsibility and efforts of the sponsor that pays for their students. It has achieved a lot. We have handled many complicated cases that if it were not for the cover then we could have lost the students.

There is one case that I still vividly remember. It was the first major case that we attended to and it was throat operation of the girl called Dorice (ID 50338). Her sponsor was one of the first to pay medical cover. The mother of the girl had separated with the father who was alcoholic and they had moved from Rusinga village and they were staying in small town called Nakuru in slum area. When we started the medical cover most of the beneficiaries did not know very well how it works and in many cases they thought it is a lie because they did not connect how we can pay bills higher than what the sponsor is sending.

So one evening the mother of the girl calls me in a very somber mood that she had taken the girl to the hospital and she had been told that if she is not solving the throat problem soon it might developed to cancer. The girl had to be taken for surgery immediately and the amount needed was very high. She was having a throat problem that was affecting her swallowing system. I explained to the mother all the details and we arranged the treatment for the girl. The operation went very well and the girl has been very fine since then.

We cleared the bills and what I remember is that after we cleared the bills the mother called to say thanks but also to mention she didn't believe what I was saying until the time the bills were cleared. All through for her it was like a big dream. She was very happy. We have been in very close contact with the family since that time.

In overall the project has been a very big success and it is my wish that we can reach a level that all the students in DA can be under medical cover. We are also very happy that other NGOs that are working in Kenya recognized our project as unique and pioneering and they take it as an exemplary project and they are consulting with us how we do it.



Ken Okongo

Meeting of Czech and Kenyan coordinators

The program of Adoption of African Children-Project of Long Distance Help runs mainly thanks to the work of our volunteer coordinators. The Czech and Slovakian coordinators communicate with the adoptive parents and the Kenyan coordinators are in close touch with the African children and their families. Every Kenyan coordinator has his/her own team of 2 to 5 helpers. Twice a year, meetings are organized both in the Czech Republic and Kenya, during which the news concerning the functioning of the association and the ongoing projects is introduced. However, the main focus is put on the project of adoption, when the past season and new challenges leading



to the improvement our job are discussed. One of these meetings which was also attended by Ken Okongo, the head of the Kenyan office, took place on the 30th and 31st of May in Prague. The last meeting in Kenya took place in January in Nairobi with the participation of Dana Feminová, the head of the whole association. Were you to consider becoming one of our volunteers, we would like to invite you to our seminar Volunteers for Development Cooperation in Africa. The next one is going to take place in the autumn; the details will be available on our website.

Lenka Čapková



Two teachers from Kenya visited a parter school in Dačice

Two teachers from Kenya, Kevin Onyango and Vincent Rowa, who came to the Czech Republic for a one month stay, also visited a parter school in Dačice. The meeting of those teachers and children at school was very touching. Kids were very excited to meet the teachers and had many questions. Kevin brought letters and greetings from Kenyan parter school's kids and also taught the Czech kids a typical game which is played by kids at school „Island of Hope“ in Rusinga Island. We wish more beautiful moments in the programme „Partnership between the Kenyan and Czech schools“.

Simona Heřtusová