

Dear adoptive parents, dear supporters and friends of Narovinu Centre

We meet together via our autumn bulletin. We would like to thank you all – adoptive parents, volunteers and children from the program for your stories that you shared during our 15th anniversary of African Adoptions. (AdopceAfrika.cz). We are very grateful for your help and we hope that together we will be able to help more children and whole families to better future. All stories are posted at our website or facebook.

And as Christmas time is approaching we would be very glad if you have a look at our Fair Trade Shop while shopping for your family, employees and friends Christmas presents. The income from the Fair Trade shop will support development of the community centre Island of Hope in Kenya.

We wish you beautiful autumn days and we look forward to meeting you in person at our events that will take place across the Czech Republic.

Simona Heřtusová on behalf of **Narovinu Centre**

Christmas are coming soon, don't forget about Fair Trade shop :)

This year's new product and a tip/recommendation for an original present is our **BENEFACTANT CALENDAR - ISLAND OF HOPE 2018**.



The photographs by Regina Jäger were shot during January 2017 and give insight into the day-to-day life at the community centre of Island of Hope. The income will support children from this project.

CONCERT FOR THE GOOD

JOINED BENEFACTANT CONCERT
FOR A REGIONAL CHARITY AT KUTNÁ HORA
AND NAROVINU CENTRE.

**November 5, at 6pm at Gask
refectory in Kutna Hora**

Performers:

Zuzana Janišš, Melissa band, Lucie Mrňáková

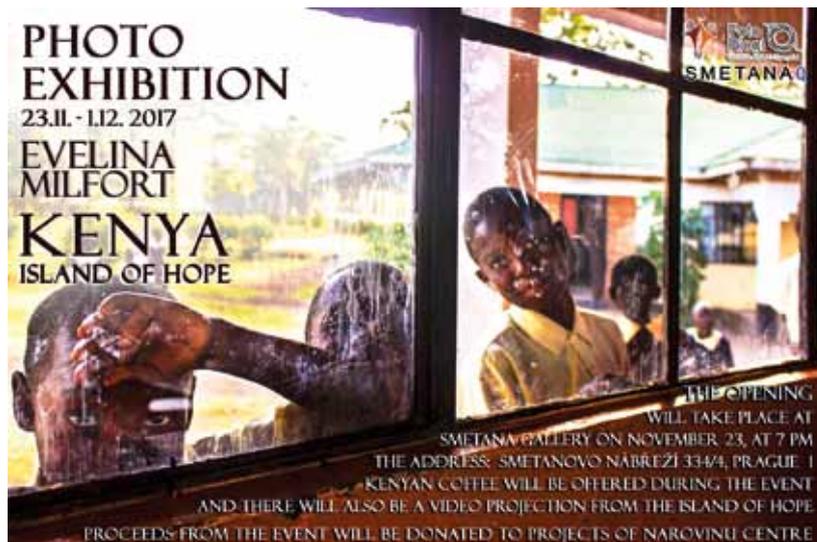
Charity entrance fee will be used to purchase materials for production of montessori aids used by disabled people and children from Island of Hope.

PHOTO EXHIBITION

23.II. - I.II. 2017

EVELINA
MILFORT

KENYA
ISLAND OF HOPE



THE OPENING

WILL TAKE PLACE AT

SMETANOVA GALLERY ON NOVEMBER 23, AT 7 PM

THE ADDRESS: SMETANOVO NABŘEŽÍ 334/4, PRAGUE 1

KENYAN COFFEE WILL BE OFFERED DURING THE EVENT

AND THERE WILL ALSO BE A VIDEO PROJECTION FROM THE ISLAND OF HOPE

PROCEEDS FROM THE EVENT WILL BE DONATED TO PROJECTS OF NAROVINU CENTRE

Beneficent evening Island of Hope

Meet-up
with the
photographer
Regina Jäger,
the author of
beneficent
calendar
Island of Hope
2018

Friday December 8, from 6pm.

Theatre café at Prague 1, Ve smečkách 26

Music- theatre – photo exhibition – beneficent auction

Beneficent concert

for Narovinu Centre
and the hospital at Vimperk

Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 7pm

Civic centre at Vimperk

Concert on waves of folk, chanson and jazz...

You can look forward to songs from Zuzana Navarova,
Hana Hegerova or Katerina Koscova.

Singing: **Veronika Spiegelová**

Backing group:

Guitar and singing: **Václav Dufek**

Piano: **Eva Filipová** Drums: **Honza Košina**

Who is in the team of Center Narovinu? Introducing Ken, Carol, Irene and Mercy

Hi guys, I'm Kennedy ochieng okongo and I'm the director of centrum narovinu in Kenya. I'm married with two children and



I have been with this organization since its inception in the year 2001. As a director my daily routine is more in the management and working on ideas of development projects that we do implement in Kenya. It is been humbling experience working with this organization

and I'm very grateful to the network of friends and sponsor that we have developed over the years. I like spending time with friends and having discussions on different topics that affect our country in terms of politics and development. I'm also technology enthusiast so sometimes I spend my free time checking on the emerging technologies :) I like also reading..



Ahoj! My name is Irene Olali.

I joined Centrum Narovinu in March 2015. I coordinate the Health Programme which is commonly referred to as medical insurance. It caters for the health care needs for the adopted kids. The program entails an annual medical checkup, outpatient and inpatient care. My role involves identifying kids with different health care needs

and ensuring that they get relevant medical attention. I manage this with the assistance from the field coordinators.

Being an outgoing and accommodative individual, I freely interact with all parties involved in the distance adoption. My previous work experience as a teacher also made me develop patience when working with children and also people from different backgrounds. Since I am a part time student, I spend most of my free time in class and doing my school work. I also create time for family and friends and most importantly, alone times. I need to have a connection with my body, mind and soul in order to leave footprints of love and care wherever I go.

Hello! My Name is Caroline Njoroge, I come from central part of Kenya. I have been working in the Kenyan officesince June 2011. I am responsible of collecting reports cards, letter and photos from our coordinators and sending them to Czech. I ensure that parcels and letters that adoptive parents send to their adoptive children are given to them. I also carry out different distance adoption activities and office administration



duties.Over the years I have gone through many report cards, letters and photos, I have seen adoptive children grow some from being little girls and boys to adults now. The experience has been great and fulfilling. I have learnt to be patient with the students and understand them. Above all am passionate about educating the girl child. I believe thatthe girl child is beyond being a wife and a mother but

can achieve her dreams but without sidelining the boy child. As we say here, an educated woman is an educated family and that transforms the community. When am not working, I like travelling once in a while to new places with friends and trying different types of cuisines. I like watching movies and animations-cartoons this relaxes my mind so much. I also like reading motivational and inspirational books they give hope for a better tomorrow. I love spending time with family,because there is always laughter and wonderful energy.

Hi, my name is Mercy Ndinda Mumo. I have been working at Centrum NarovinuKenya since January 2016 as the Chief Accountant. I'm entirely responsible for all school fees payments, processing of extra payments,preparing annual financial summaries, making monthly submissions of all statutory deductions for our employees to the respective authorities and making any other payments on behalf of the organization. It goes without saying that even before I



process any payment there has to be a lot of communication between our office here in Kenya, the Czech office, our bank, the parents, students, coordinators and ultimately the school. This ensures proper appropriation of the sponsors' funds and compliance with NGO Standards here in Kenya. I manage this communication chain. If not working with numbers at the office I go swimming. Given a chance to build my house anywhere apart from dry land then I would choose deep in the waters. Apart from that I cherish friendships so I see every day as a new opportunity to love people more. Most of all I use my downtime to unwind and recharge my batteries. A minute spend with my family is priceless. I also mentor those who look up to me on different platforms, I love building relationships with friends because I believe that friends are wealth. The sun-set is my favourite stare. It serves as a reminder that a new day is in the pipeline and also that it matters how well I utilize my most valuable resource-Time. Finally, I love travelling as much as eating.

Fish Farming on Lake Victoria

SlovakAid support community center Island of Hope in the period september 2017 - september 2019

In line with the Slovak Republic Strategy for Development Cooperation with the Republic of Kenya for the period 2014-2018 and Agenda 2030, the project promotes sustainable and equitable socio-economic development for inhabitants of the isolated Rusinga Island in western Kenya in agriculture, specifically in the fishery development.



Development problem – Rusinga Island is one of the biggest islands on Lake Victoria with population about 30,000 inhabitants, of whom about half are children under 15 years. This very poor area has one of the highest mortality rates in the county, and therefore a large numbers of orphans. The island is strongly affected by the presence of malaria, HIV/AIDS, typhoid fever, TB, parasitic and other diseases. Fishing is the main economic activity in this region.

The aim of the project is to improve the quality of life of Rusinga Island inhabitants, to strengthen the economic and food security of an existing Community center by promoting economic activities in the fish farming sector. At the same time, the project focuses on the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS, Homa Bay (where the island belongs) has the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS-positive people in Kenya.

The project promotes the sustainability of an existing community center on the island, which has been gradually expanding since the year 2003. The community center has an important role on the island, providing quality education for a total of 400 children and young people, including orphans, providing health care and community awareness. It includes a kindergarten, primary school and new boarding high school, an orphanage and a 24-hour health center. In the community center, a fish farm in Lake Victoria will be established, the center is located directly on the shores of the lake, where floating cages will be housed for a total of 260,000 Tilapia fish. The production profit will financially support the operation of the community center including the clinic, part of the production will support food safety.

County Homa Bay has the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS-positive people in Kenya (up to 26%), HIV prevalence in Kenya is



stable at around 6% over the past 5 years. The main factors supporting the spread of HIV/AIDS in the area are: poverty, cultural and sexual attitude and behavior, the fishing industry networks, lifestyle related factors, health risk behavior and professional related issues. The fishing industry is associated with the phenomenon called "Jaboya". The "Jaboya" concept entails men (fishermen or middlemen) exploiting women traders by only selling fish in exchange for sex. This concept is also used to lure young girls into sex in exchange for free fish that they can sell and get money. There is very high prostitution in the area. Young people lack knowledge of the subject, our school has a few underage mothers. Second part of the project is the organization of a one-year seminar focusing on sex education and family planning for high school students in the community center. The seminar will raise the awareness of the most vulnerable group and the permanent introduction of sex education and parenting topics at a high school into Life Skills.



Projekt je realizovaný z prostriedkov oficiálnej rozvojevej pomoci Slovenskej republiky, SlovakAid.

Miriam Lišková



We have had a direct experience of 15 years with this project that is helpful and we can honestly say: It has a meaning. Without the support school attendance for poor children is a huge problem, girls often do not finish primary education. The adoptive parents are people, group of friends, families, organisations, companies or schools. Join us and become a part of someone's destiny, we all contribute to tolerant society.

School project of adoption for distance

The primary school of languages Karlovy Vary has supported financially a Kenyan girl Violet Adhiambo since 2004 so that she could study.

The primary school of languages Karlovy Vary has supported financially a Kenyan girl Violet Adhiambo since 2004 so that she could study. We exchange letters about three times a year, where we inform about our lives. It is interesting to follow Violet's development – change of her interests during the years improvements in English, the language of the letters. Whereas the first letters from 2004 included especially pictures and basic vocabulary in English and Swahili, today we have hard work with the translation. We send letters directly to Violet, at the address of school or the name of the coordinator she belongs to. Violet answers via the adoption office where all the letters from Kenyan children are gathered. It sends them to specific parents. There is a fund raising (1-2 times a year) to collect money for tuition fees and school aids, the rest of money pays health insurance and occasional presents (e.g. a bike). Pupils hand in the money to a cashier of the class or to a class teacher, teachers and other school workers take part in the collection, too. That's why it is possible to collect the money needed for the school payments every year. From the rest of the money a preventive health examination is being paid (we get a report about a health condition



once a year). There is a campaign close before fund raising when the pupils of 6th year go to younger school mates to inform about the project of adoption for a distance and the money collection and to inform about the current news of Violet. The pupils are invited to class meetings, especially to 1st and 6th years, where they get a chance to introduce the aims of the project as well as the news from Kenya to parents of our pu-

pils. The news about Violet can be also followed on the boards at school (in the main building and a smaller school) and on school web sites in a form of presentations. During the last years in the time of spring class meetings we organised selling markets where products of our pupils are offered to parents for a symbolic price. The earned money is added to the amount raised during the collection for Violet. On the higher level of school teachers of different subject are responsible for informing

about the current news. Another information source can be used (e.g. www.centrumnarovinu.cz) and children help translate letters from Kenya and create the answer in English. They help to complete information to chronicle of adoption that has registered all the letters, school reports, health reports as well as interesting issues related to the project since the beginning. The specific story of the girl, situation in developing Africa, all these issues can be used in subjects with the aim to support the competences of RVP ZV.

An example of using the project during education:

Social studies 8th year: **global issues**

Presentations on this issue (e.g. lack of water, socially conditioned problems: poverty, illnesses, child mortality, political instability, illiteracy, racism, terrorism, refugees, absence of health and social systems)

Social studies 6th year: **family life and financial skills**

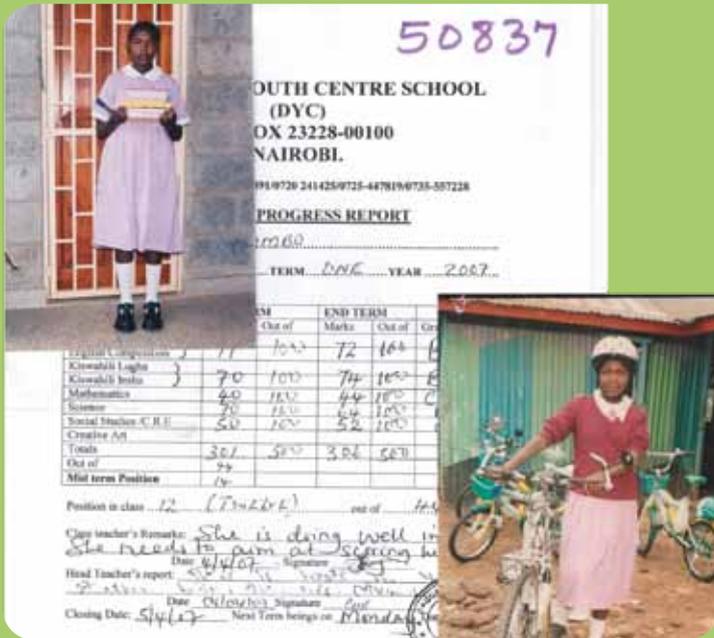
A discussion about family function, complete and incomplete family, adoption, family finance, a budget of family – comparing typical family and life of Czechs and Africans

Czech language 6th year: **communication and style education**

Writing of informative announcement about fund raising about adoption for distance, a report of the process, a personal letter for Violet (as a reaction to the last letter from Kenya), a translation of the letter from Violet to Czech.

Social studies 6th year: **relationships between people and forms of coexistence**

Creating a presentation and its realization as a part of campaign to support the fund raising for adoption for distance – the presentation in powerpoint, introducing of the project AdoptceAfrika.cz to classes and parents at class meetings – team work.



Social studies 6th year: human rights

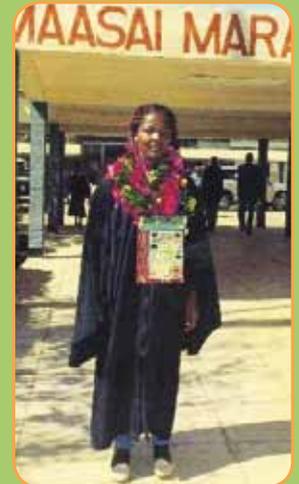
Introduction to human rights: similarities of people, basic human rights, rights of children, their protection, conflict and its solution.

The topic Africa is used by the teachers as an inspiration for arts and working education.

Because of positive feedback to the fund raising of adoption for distance we are planning to continue with the charity projects in the future. Violet is close to finish her university studies and there will be a situation when we decide about the rest of the money and adoption of another child in need. Violet has finished her first phase of university degree and she passed successfully "little state exam" and she expects her last year of sociology.

In her letters, she expresses a wish to pass the studies and work as a humanitarian or social worker for her community. She never forgets to thank with dignity for help from our side. We wish her a lot of success during studies as well as in personal life, lucky entrance to professional life where she has chosen to help people in need, maybe because she was given the help as well. Overall, from long lasting experience of including the project to education and general life of school, we consider it as very successful and helpful event.

Mgr. Jana Táborková, Základní škola jazyků Karlovy Vary



Actress Barbara Munzarová supports the project AdoptceAfrika.cz



We live in a chaotic world. On a daily basis, populist media purposefully feed us with catastrophic news about approaching world disasters, worries about terrorism and fear of Islam.

I made a free, autonomous decision to live in a world without fear and panic. And so I slowly, step by step, started trying to fight chaos, societal fear, and negative atmosphere by doing something good, helpful, and positive.

One of these steps was the decision to take part in long-distance adoption program organized by the wonderful and unique Center Narovinu.

And so about two years ago, I easily and quickly, in few simple administrative steps, adopted an African boy. When I subsequently found out, upon first meeting with employees of

Center Narovinu, that they educate children using the Montessori teaching method, I got even more excited.

My own daughter is just finishing 8th grade in Montessori elementary school Na Beránky, which has been cooperating with Center Narovinu and supporting their wonderful idea and well-functioning project. In this way, my decision to help gained an extra dimension.

With every letter from my adopted son who grows, prospers, is healthy and therefore can experience a little bit of common life happiness that we take for granted here, I get a good feeling full of clear conviction, that each one of us is capable of little help. And if it is not possible financially, then at least by spreading information about this unique and wonderful project.



By doing that, we first and foremost help ourselves, but then maybe even the whole world. Because it is healthier to stay in positive vibrations, resisting fear and hatred.

Let's take little steps towards saving the planet. It is worth it. The planet is beautiful.

Good luck to us.

Bára Munzarová

What can influence the performance of children in Kenyan schools?

Most parents care about their children's school success and they are happy when the children get As or Bs. They see it as a sign that they can continue with their studies, find a job, and make something of their life. In Kenya, grades play a key role as they are the necessary prerequisite for studying at colleges and universities. Despite that, Kenyan children often



get grades such as Cs, Ds or Es. So does it even make sense to support a child who gets such bad grades? From time to time adoptive parents ask this question and sometimes they even decide to terminate the adoption due to poor school performance of their adopted children.

Why is it then, that Kenyan children tend to get such bad grades? Let's take a closer look at what can influence their school performance and how can our European perspective influence the way we see and evaluate the school results of Kenyan students.

Even in the Czech Republic, grades do not necessarily objectively reflect children's knowledge and abilities. Bad grades might reflect the child's lack of interest in a particular subject just as they can be caused by having a bad teacher who uses ineffective teaching methods. Children can also perform poorly because they face some problems at home or at school.

Or maybe they are just lazy. Therefore, grades only partially reflect the children's attitude towards the studies, their talent, or disposition to study. That is the same everywhere.

In Kenya, however, there are many more factors at play, which are unimaginable for most Europeans. In most Czech households, children have their own room or corner, where they have a table, book shelves and so on - basically a place where they can do their homework and study. However, something like that is very unusual in Kenya. Kenyan families often share just one room and therefore children can be seen writing their homework on a stone in front of their house, for example. Sometimes children live far away from school and therefore they spend a lot of time and energy on walking there and back every day. During their free time, they must help their parents with doing chores and watching younger siblings, which cuts their study time even shorter. And when the evening comes, most children cannot lit a lamp in order to read a textbook before going to sleep because most households do not even have electricity.



Furthermore, Kenyan education system is often based on rote learning of information, which is not a suitable teaching method for all children. In most classrooms there are over 50 children, which highly limits the possibility of personal approach. At the end of each trimester, children take exams. Kenyan schools often buy tests from other institutions and therefore it can happen that the tests contain questions which had not been covered by the teachers. However, no one takes that into account. We have rejected this practice in our school on the Island of Hope and we insist that our tests and progress reports give the students high quality feedback about their understanding of the individual subjects. Most schools, however, have not implemented such a practice, despite it being a hot topic within the Kenyan education system.

Dear parents of older children. Have you experienced that your children's school results got worse during their puberty? That during that time, your children found everything more attractive than school? Age therefore also needs to be taken into consideration because it can influence the children's grades. During the sensitive years of puberty, children often do not fully realize how important it is for them to get good grades in order to get a good job and make something of their life.

In Kenya, there is about 40% unemployment. Therefore it often happens, that children finish a specific study program, only to end up working in a completely different field, sometimes even below their level of qualification. And so we come back to the big question raised above: Does it then make sense to keep supporting children in such circumstances?

Going to school presents the children with many opportunities. They would otherwise be at home, helping their parents, having a hard time trying to make money to survive. Girls would probably get pregnant at a really low age and give birth to one and eventually more children... When children go to school, they learn more than just to read, write, and count. They gain a much broader range of knowledge about different subjects and they become more independent. At school, they can make friends, enjoy a little bit of real childhood, and develop themselves together with their peers. They learn to better understand the world they live in, their chances of finding a future job rise significantly (though it might be a job below their level of qualification) and most importantly, they become able to take care of themselves and their families. What is also important to realize is that educated girls and boys raise their children differently from those who have not gone to school. And isn't that what matters the most? Education presents a permanent value, which nobody can take from the children and which they can draw from in many situations during different periods of their lives. Education simply does MAKE SENSE!

Examples of interesting extra payments

Extra payments are extra one-off payments outside of tuition fees that can be sent to children by adoptive parents. It can be used as an aid for family in a difficult life situation, e.g. by buying food, buying a bicycle, if a child lives far away from school, buying a laptop that students will use for their studies, support in starting a business for those who have completed their studies etc. The number of extra payments is limited due to organizational and staffing reasons (max. one payment per child per trimester) and also the severity of need is checked.

Jeremiah Sitaka Opande (ID 40259) studied at Kenya Institute of Professional Studies (Computer and Software Engineering) but did not have a chance to complete the study because his condition did not allow regular attendance at school. The boy suffers from haemophilia and must be repeatedly hospitalized. He would like to study but

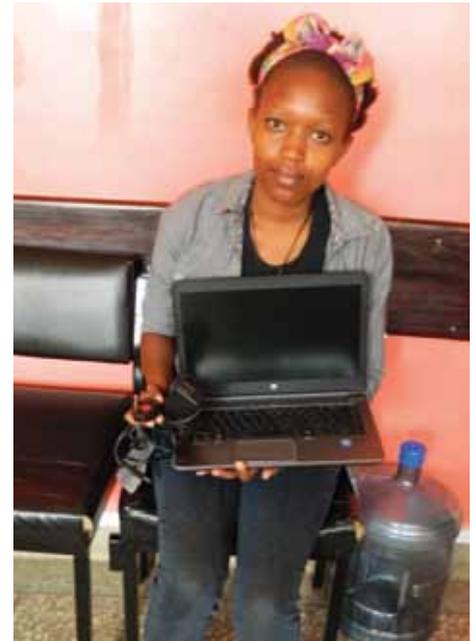


that was not possible under these conditions therefore adoption was terminated. That is why he asked an adoptive parent for support of his business. Because he can not do hard work he decided to sale shoes on the street. Jeremiah now sells

women's and men's leather boots. He is doing well, demand for his shoes is stable and trade is slowly growing. He also uses the WhatsApp mobile app to boost his business. Thanks to the support of an adoptive parent he is now able to take care of himself and make a living.

Amren Elizabeth Hussein (ID 51033)

is sophomore at Law bachelor's degree program at University of Nairobi. Thanks to an extra payment from an adoptive parent she got the notebook she needed for making notes while studying and for looking up the information. We hope she will succeed in her studies (note: extra payment for buying laptop we send only to students who have completed secondary education and who continue to college or university).



Jitka Motežíková

Club of Friends of Adoption

Thanks to the contributions sent to our account under the variable symbol 800 that is intended for The Club of Friends of Adoption, and thanks to the contributions donated by adoptive parents from their overpayments (accumulated from terminated adoptions) we, in the second trimester of 2017, supported 48 children with a total sum of CZK 134,400 and another 38 children with a total sum of CZK 118,600 in the final trimester of 2017. We chose pupils and students from our Isle of Hope Community Center and also those who are in the last year of primary or secondary school and have lost their adoptive parents.

We thank you for all your payments and donated gifts because these help particular children to complete their studies.

Lenka Čumpelíková



Gift certificates „Pay it forward" help children in Kenya

The Narovinu Center started in 2014 a campaign 'Pay it forward' to support its development projects in Kenya. In this campaign, it is possible to contribute with one-time donation to specific items for Adoption of African children – long distance support project or community centre of 'Hope Island' on Rusinga Island.

The fair trade shop of Narovinu Centre (www.adoptceafrika.cz) offers many gift certificates of different value in three main categories:

- 1) Donate education (school bag, school things, school books, school fee ...)
- 2) Donate health (regular medical treatment, specialized treatment, birth ...)
- 3) Donate hope (for children in orphanage in Hope Island: mosquito-curtain, food, books, chickens, mattress...)

Anyone can support with what makes the most sense to him or her and meets his/ her idea of 'real' help. For example, you can buy school books and in this campaign you can 'pay it forward' – which means to send them directly to child in need in African Kenya. You then get a gift certificate with photo of the school books which confirms your purchase of the given value. As thank you, you will also get an original African good luck bracelet directly from Kenya. These gift certificates have such an interesting graphic design they are also very nice present for your beloved ones or your friends. And it is always very good to have such an option if you want to make someone happy and do not want to spend money on silly things and support consumerism, but you want to do a nice gesture and support someone else on the other side of the world in a meaningful way.

Since the beginning of the campaign 'Pay it forward' until the end of 2016, the following amounts have been collected and used for those who needed them most during this period of time in Kenya:

1) Donate education - 60 150,- CZK

This amount was used for purchase of school books and school things for primary and secondary school of Hope Island.

2) Donate health - 26 200,- CZK

This program covers medical treatment costs for those who have no other way of paying for urgent medical care. Unfortunately, as these medical care costs are always very high, this amount was just a small contribution to save 2 very small patients – small Emmanuel from Mombasa and new born baby Marie Kitha from Rusinga Island. We are very happy that also thanks to this contribution, we could literally save life of these

two children and today, they are both doing well.

Emanuel from Mombasa – this handsome boy was found as new born baby by the dust bins in Mombasa in January 2016. Our volunteer coordinator Doris is taking care of him since then as she found him by coincidence and saved his life with her fast reaction and help. Unfortunately, at the end of 2016 Emanuel got sick with very serious inflammation of intestines. After several rounds of antibiotics and incorrect treatment he was dehydrated, undernourished and with strong inflammations in his body. His serious health issues required immediate hospitalization and long medication on dropping funnel and alimentation artificial.

Marie Kitha from Rusinga Island –this baby girl was born on our clinic and everything seemed to be fine. Nevertheless, after few days, it was obvious she is losing weight as she is not able to ingest food. Her digestive system was not developed



enough and was not working well and she needed an immediate operation. Our doctor diagnosed her and confirmed intestinal atresia. She was hospitalized in specialized hospital in Kisumu and well-timed operation saved life of little Marie Kitha – small sister of one of our long term 'adopted' students.

3) Donate hope - 21 580,- CZK

This amount was used for purchase of equipment needed for the orphanage of the Island Hope – mattresses and mosquito-curtains. Since the island on Victoria Lake is highly malarious area, the new impregnated mosquito-curtains are very important for health protection of our children. Sleeping under mosquito-curtain is 'must do' in this area.

Thank you for supporting children in Kenya.

Dana Feminová