

Dear adoptive parents, friends and supporters of Centrum Narovinu.

Welcome to our first bulletin of 2017. First of all, we would like to wish you all the best in the new year, first of all good health and happiness, and thank you again for all your kind support and great help.

In the previous issue, we started to introduce you our team. This time you will get acquainted with our colleagues responsible for the long distance adoptions. The project, which has already helped to over 4,000 children with their education, is going to celebrate its 15th anniversary in May.

We also thank to all the students who responded to our offer of

internship. We really appreciate this kind of help since it brings great benefits to our organization. A big thanks to Anička for sharing her experience with us. We look forward to other skillful people willing to help, do not hesitate to contact us!

And last but not least, read what our other fellow workers and volunteers say about their experience with our projects.

Enjoy early spring days and stay with us!

Simona Heřtusová

simona.hertusova@adopceafrika.cz



In May we will celebrate

 **15 years**
Distant Adoptions

Thanks to you over than 4000 children had received an opportunity for a better future and began to fulfill their dreams.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We are looking for new people to expand our team of volunteers – especially for programs of “Adoption of African children” and “Community centre of Island of Hope”, as well as translators into English, volunteers helping with organizing exhibitions, promotion of projects, video processing, administration support and specialists for internet promotion and advertising.

WORKSHOP ON DEVELOPMENT : interesting information from our developing cooperation and projects in Kenya, that are focused on permanent sustainability, active approach and engagement of local communities, cultural differences and respect to diversity.

WHO AND WHEN: On Saturday March 25 from 10am to 6 pm in Prague and will be run as a discussion forum sharing the experience, supplemented with videos and games. Workshop will be led by Dana Feminová – the founder and director of Narovinu Centre.

Questions: dana.feminova@adopceafrika.cz - mobile: 777 711 911911

Who is in the team of Center Narovinu? We are introducing Hanka, Lenka, Jitka



Hi, my name is **Hana Jodasová**, I come from Moravia, I am married and I have two children - a boy and a girl. I occasionally helped out Center Narovinu before my arrival to Prague. In 2005 I moved to Prague and since then I work for the Center full time. I really like my job because it is not only about administrative work but also about helping the children. It is nice to see the results behind your work.

How many children successfully graduated. Since 2005 I held thousands of letters, photos, certificates in my hands. I have also my favourites that I like to look at.

Some children are very good at painting. I like to spend my free time by gardening, but I also enjoy sewing, painting, jewelry...all handmade. I am so happy that I can participate in such a meaningful project as helping to the children but the biggest thanks belongs to the adoptive parents because it is them who are helping.

You know me from the e-mails under the signature **Lenka Čapková** and from various events of the Center Narovinu where I am usually at the information and sales stand. I work in the office since April 2013 and I am responsible for all sorts of things from communication with coordinators of adoption, with adoptive parents and with office in Nairobi, controlling the payments, creating tables to the schop. It is very diverse, and every day is so different.

When I am not at work I enjoy being in the woods. I am fascinated by mosses and lichens, and I creat various aerária out ot them. I also teach naturalistic group in Ekodomov where children explore nature around their school. I believe that a deeper understanding of nature and love for it leads to a healthy development in all areas of our lives. I would like to transfer this to the kids in Kenya because protection of nature and ecology have no voice there yet. My next favorite place are old industrial buildings, abandoned factories and their chimneys. I like travelling. The biggest traveler's experience was of course in Kenya. I like to travel also in Europe. I liked the Wales the most so far, or in Czech I like Jeseníky and Novohradské mountains.

When I have some time left I make jewelry, brooches or hanging decorations for example from natural products that I collect during my travels. My favorite topic not only for reading the book is composting, sustainable development, natural diet and I am currently planning to start the ideal of living "without wrap". I live outside of Prague so I am sending greetings to all the adoptive parents from Říčany :)

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Greetings vto all the adoptive parents and other friends of Center Narovinu. My name is **Jitka Motejzíková** and I work in Center from January 2017 as an assistant of the adoption at distance. I am replacing our male colleague :) in our Prague team, Pavel, who was responsible for communication with Kenya, extra payments, health insurance and everything else that was needed. I am something like a bridge that transfers questions from you, adoptive parents to kenya and brings the answers and questions from Kenyan coordinators back to you.

Before I started working at the Center Narovinu I was a teacher at the Czech grammar school. After working for several years I decided to find some calmer job :) My very first job was in nonprofit organizaton providing services to families with hard of hearing or deaf children. I have been in nonprofit area for quite a long time to feel good and I did not want to leave a place, where you do not have to wonder if you are doing meaningful work. Returning to the nonprofit filed was thus fairly obvious choice. I am looking forward to what my new job will bring. Given the fact that I will be in touch with totally different culture every day than I was used to before. I am looking forward to what am I going to learn and to the new people I will get to know.

And outside of work? I am the happiest when I can run around the hills and woods, when I am surrounded by meadows and shiny ponds, when I can listen to gurgling brook and chirping birds. I like watching movies or reading books with a strong story. I feel good with my friends and with other inspirational people. Besides the incredibly diverse of the nature the relationships are the field that never exhaust. Relations form us, enriche us, we learn from them...Without my friends and people around it would not be me.



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Club of Friends of Adoption

Thanks to overpayments that were donated to us by adoptive parents, during the 1. term 2017 we could support in total 44 children who currently do not have an adoptive parent. This time we supported pupils and students from our community centre Island of Hope. A total amount divided among them was 125 000,- CZK. We thank you very much for all the payments. And who did the money help exactly?

The amount of 5 600,- CZK was donated to 4 kids who attend the primary school and at the same time they live in our orphanage (52268, 52271, 52550, 52554).

The amount of 2 400,- supported 7 children at primary school (51330, 51429, 52003, 52064, 52088, 52127, 52204, 52268, 52271) and 30 children at nursery school (52287, 52307, 52330, 52334, 52337, 52563, 52564, 52566, 52567, 52569, 52570, 52571, 52572,

52573, 52574, 52575, 52578, 52579, 52580, 52581, 52582, 52585, 52586, 52587, 52588, 52589, 52590, 52591, 52592, 52594).

The amount of 4 800,- CZK was given to 3 secondary students (51346, 51400, 51743).

We are looking for new adoptive parents for all of them. Look at the stories into our database of children available for adoption. The account of Club of Friends of Adoption collected 31. 12. 2016 1888,- CZK, where you can send money at once or regularly during the whole year. If you want to support this club, the number of a bank account is 107-6829480277/0100 and VS is 800. Thanks for your support.

Lenka Čapková

We are looking for an adoptive parent for Gilack

Gilack (ID 52268) was born as the second oldest from 4 kids. Both parents died and because there was nobody to take care of them they were split up. Gilack and his brother went to their aunt, who cares about her own children. She sells vegetables and her average income was 470,- CZK a month, which was not enough to cover even the basic needs of the family. Furthermore, the situation in the family was not convenient for the development at all. That is why he was placed to the orphanage „Island of Hope“. At first, he was very shy and he did not take part in the interaction with other kids. Now he has drawn the level with them. He enjoys maths at school. He likes playing football, he is always a goalkeeper. He has not got an adoptive parent since January 2017, that is why we are looking a new one for him.



Why have I applied for my internship at Narovinu Centre?

I was aware about this non-profit organization for a long time, especially thanks to the project of Distant adoptions, through which me and my schoolmates financially supported one boy in Kenya during my studies at grammar school. I now have 2 months off before the start of summer semester and I have decided to do something meaningful during my free time. I work as a volunteer in the daily operations of the Centre – I help with the administration of the project of adoptions, I also promote our Kenyan coffee and contact various cafés with the offer to sell Kenyan coffee. I already had several meetings and I hope to be able to start a longer-term cooperation. I will be able to use my experience from this internship also in my professional life, as I learn about project management in non-profit environment. So I highly recommend this internship to everybody interested.



Anna Vondráčková

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. Please send your application to email: info@centrumnarovinu.cz. Thank you.

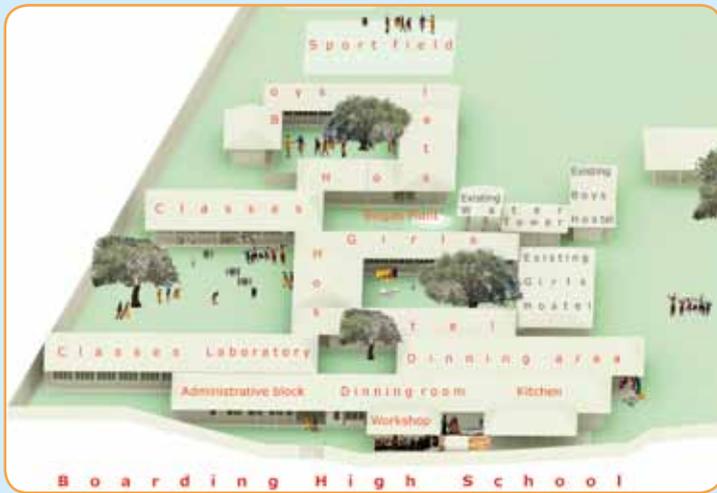
News from the community centre on Rusinga Island, Western Kenya

Construction of the secondary school funded from official development assistance of the Slovakia Slovak Aid funds continues. In January 2017 new class was opened and new students were accepted. Completion of construction is scheduled for summer 2017.

Date of the opening ceremony will be specified later (September 2017, you are all invited).

After several years of waiting, the community centre was successfully connected to the electricity network at the end of 2016.

All secondary school students stay at the boarding school. They are all satisfied with rooms, which are light, not too hot and offer enough space for individual study.



Secondary boarding school is under construction, new kitchen and dining room included. Although the school is not finished yet, since January 2016 new class has been opened every year. Separate courtyards of individual parts (boarding school for girls, boarding school for boys, yard with classes etc.) will be completed with greenery at the end.



Dining room and kitchen are before completion. Glazing windows is in progress.



Main part of the new dining room will be sheltered exterior and even now is used for various events such as enrolment of new students, kid's performances, music parties, community meetings etc.



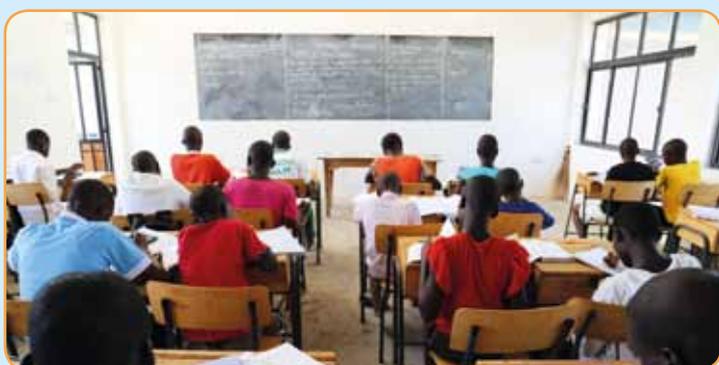
Laboratory is a few hours before the final cleaning and putting into operation.



Within the project funded through SlovakAid is secured the operation of health centre which is the part of the community centre. Operation is now restricted because of national strike of doctors (since 5th December 2016). Strike is causing state of emergency, more patients and increasing number of new born babies. Clinic has secured funds only until the September 2017. We are working hard on gaining new funds and new sponsors who would be able to finance the operation of the clinic. Patient fees are not sufficient enough.

Fish farming in Victoria Lake continues. First breeding was not successful. But the second breeding seems very promising only after the two months. Fish farming is also funded by SlovakAid.

Teaching takes place in new classes of the secondary school.



Community centre project is very complex. Our main goal is sustainability. We gladly welcome anyone interested in helping us with implementation and development of our project. Thank you.

25th January 201
Miriam Lišková



Community centre in the background on the left side, fishing farm in the foreground

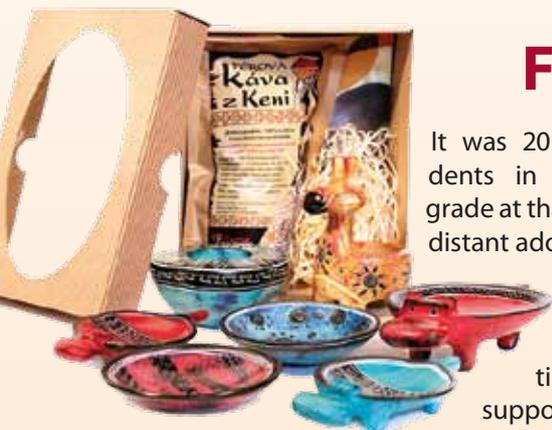


What is new in fundraising?

The end of the year and its beginning was all about grants. Either I wrote the applications or I was waiting for their results. We filed for example request to the International Foundation „The Global Innovation Fund“, which primarily supports social innovation in the world. The project was focused on establishment of Fishing co-operative, which would be for the whole local community on the Rusinga Island a major break to a better future (stable income, favourable negotiating and purchasing conditions, reduction of prostitution and overall improvement of socio-economic conditions). We are still waiting for result of the application for The Island of Hope in Kenya submitted to The Christensen Fund. During the last weeks of the year we keenly awaited the announcement of ČRA tender results. We submitted two applications (project for strengthening the capacities of small and medium-sized organizations and project for raising of public awareness). Results were delayed so we could enjoy

the New Year's Eve still with hope. Just after the New Year we found out that only one project was supported within the frame of raising of public awareness (our project was second in the evaluation). And within the frame of capacities were supported big and well-established NGO's rather than small and medium-sized NGO's for which the call was primarily announced. But we did not give up. We started to work on project application within the new call of humanitarian assistance from MFA ČR where Kenya is included. We also submitted request for inclusion in the project "Reading Helps" and request for doubling of earnings from beneficent event held in April / May at Wild Geese Foundation. Grants are like Lottery but one thing is sure – "Who plays, wins" – so we keep trying! Happy New Year and plenty of energy for new adventures!

Helena Andrejová



From adoption to FairTrade Shop

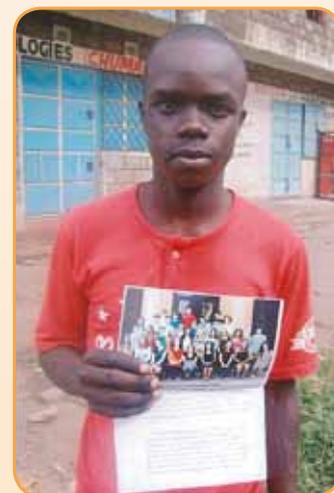
It was 2013. Parents of students in my class (second grade at that time) took over of distant adoption of Wycliff Migiro from Kenya for the period of three years. Until 2013 Wycliff was supported by students who graduated that year.

I would like to use the opportunity and say thank you to all of them. Collection of contribution was always smooth. But I am also grateful that all of us realized that there are places around the globe where education is not granted and available for everybody. In 2016 contract about adoption was terminated upon agreement. Confirmation letter about termination contained (as "reward") a sample of Kenyan coffee and link to the FairTrade e-shop. I was not able to share the coffee with all parents but I at least forwarded the link. I was enthusiastic about

tempting offer of the e-shop and just before Christmas I made my first order. My delight was even bigger when the package arrived and all statues from soapstone, earrings, bowls and candlesticks smells like coffee and tea.

Wycliff finished high school in 2016 and did not continue to college so we got the information about overpaid in our adoption. Here I have to thank to all the parents again because they all agreed to donate the overpaid (4800 CZK) to The Island of Hope. So let the money help on the right place again!

Milena Hyklová



Fair-trade shop helps children from the community centre Island of Hope in Kenya.



your donation. We are very glad that you keep coming back, you like our tea and coffee and enjoy the products we import

We would like to thank all of you who have purchased products from our fair-trade shop and thus support children from the project Island of Hope at Rusinga Island, who receive

from Kenya producers. During November and December our gift parcels are particularly popular by companies as presents for their employees or business partners. The total number of orders in 2015 was 82, it increased to 192 in 2016. In 2015 we used the earnings from the fair-trade shop for finishing the construction of the dining room at the Island of Hope and its equipment. It daily caters over 500 diners.

Thank you very much and we look forward to further orders during the whole year.

Simona Heřtusová

Journey to Island of Hope and visiting my adoptive son Cindy

It's been a year and a half since I decided to go through with my long-time dream to adopt an African child. I started to search for organizations which offer long-distance adoptions and find out what are their overall goals. That's when I discovered Center Narovinu and I had no doubt it was the right choice. Adoption itself can change the life of an individual, but it's also important for that individual to be a part of a well-functioning community consisting of people who will provide the right environment and means for a person's self-realization as well as confidence in that school education is only the first step towards an adult life with all the opportunities one can hope for. The community center Island of Hope, built by Center Narovinu on Rusinga Island in Kenya, provides exactly that. The passion and skills of the members of the organization gained my trust and I started to look for an orphaned child that I could help.



It was a fast "jump" into the local culture – traditional dancing, festive clothes, pure joy and excitement.



My adoptive son's name is Cindy Tonny Omondy, he is now 15 years old, lives close to Kisumu city, and attends the 8th grade in Ogada Primary school. Supporting Cindy as well as my growing interest in Center Narovinu motivated me to become an active part of the organization. Ever since childhood, I have been fascinated by the power of photography and so I decided to take photos of authentic Kenyan products and update the organization's e-shop. But soon, long-distance participation didn't satisfy me anymore. I longed to feel and experience the atmosphere of the Island and to meet people doing the amazing work there. My wish was to use the photos from my trip to organize exhibitions in selected cities of the Czech Republic and potentially raise more money in support of the organization. I arrived at Island of Hope together with Dana Feminová on January 12th and spent 3,5 days there. The day after our arrival, a festive graduation for kindergarten children, who were about to start their first year of elementary school, took place along with some accompanying program.



Teaching takes place from Monday to Friday and children have single or double desks which open in order to provide space for the student's notebooks and other teaching aids. Weekends are calm, the students study, clean their rooms, wash their clothes, do crafts. On Sundays, they usually attend masses in churches located in near villages, where a lot of dancing and singing take place. The Island becomes home to the students for 3 months, then they have short holidays before the next semester starts. They use their free days to visit their relatives. On Monday, January 16th, I left Rusinga Island and set out to visit Cindy and his family. They were really hospitable despite their poverty, and every minute of my visit, I was aware of the privilege of being born in Europe and to be able to radically influence not just one life, but the life of the whole family, which can have a chance for a better future thanks to the money I send them. Cindy also showed me his school and so I had a chance to see the place, which he writes about in his letters.

The Island of Hope is a unique project creating a well-functioning fully-fledged environment for children that need it the most. It is truly an island of hope, improving harsh living conditions of many. During my journey, I also visited a slum in Nairobi, seeing the lives of people who have not been given a better opportunity. I am grateful to both the Czech and Kenyan office of Center Narovinu for their efforts and wonderful work, and to Dana Feminová, for keeping me company during my journey. It is beautiful to be a part of such a spectacular project. Also thank you for being interested in it.



Evelína Milfortová

Partnership between Czech and Kenyan schools

Into the partner program, which ran from January 2014 to December 2016, were involving in total 11 schools across the Czech Republic and 11 schools in Kenya. Within two years, partner schools communicated together the themes of the planet Earth in which we live and my school, my family and who I am, Wishes for the partner school. In the second year it was Leisure, Cycle of the year, Customs and traditions. Schools had a simple methodology to assist with tips on workshops, games and processing issues. In the third year of the partnership, in January 2016, we have offered schools a common processing of themes Health, Music, and Transportation. Because of limited working and financial capacities of the Centrum Narovinu, we were forced to make some changes into the program. Communication took place directly between the schools, the schools determined often their own topics, accompanying activities and timetable.

And how some czech schools evaluate the partnership?

Elementary School Mlada Boleslav, Mrs. Pilvovsková: "All the consignments which have been sent to Kenya, arrived



safely, because the partner school always responded. They thanked us for teaching materials that we had sent (pairs, cards, etc.) as well as drawings. We are receiving from Kenya videos, posters, drawings, letters and photos. Our children are always looking forward for the new package."

Elementary School Řečany nad Labem, Mrs. Doubravová: "Last year we sent two packages to the partner school and we got two as well. We have tried to write about current topics; partner school sent us a themed pictures - children's hobbies, musical instruments and celebrities; we have sent manufactured flying kites, pictures of animals, Christmas cards. We were pleased by a letter from the partner school, where the school says how much, for them and especially for children, means our cooperation and hope that somewhere far across the sea they have friends. We all send greetings in Kenya and look forward to working within this school year again."

Elementary School Odolená Voda, Mrs. Netiková: "With children, for example, we painted pictures with the theme of our health care, added the picture of a teddy bear and everything was laminated and cut to the puzzle. Another theme was the music. And so we came up with a production of musical instruments from commonly available things such as plastic spoons, containers from Kinder eggs, boxes of cheese, rice. We have added pictures of violin keys, instruments and a CD with Czech folk songs."



Soběslav Kindergarten, Mrs. Krejcová: "We attended all specified topics, held an exchange of processed themes and workshops on the themes. There was a risk for understanding and continuity within the time horizon as the project passed from one school year to another, and there was no trace, as



a group of children who had prepared the topic have been already then in elementary school."

Vlkava kindergarten, Mrs. Čadilová: "Children are always pleased when they get photos from Kenya and sees their products and letters which they have sent to Kenyan friends."

Simona Heřtusová

