

**Dear adoptive parents, dear supporters and friends of the Narovinu Center,**

we greet you in the New Year and look forward to our journey together again this year.

What is in store for us this year? In May, we will celebrate 20 years of the project of remote support „Adoptions of African children“, so we are preparing a family festival for you on Saturday, May 21, full of music, theatre and workshops... We would like to meet you and your children not only at fundraising events, but also at programs in schools... If you are interested, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would be happy to come and support the children of the Is-

land of Hope together.

And what will you find in this newsletter? For example, a little look back and a summary of some of the projects that took place last year. We will introduce you to the new additions to our Nairobi office. And of course, there are contributions from you - adoptive parents and supporters.

We thank you so much for your support and wish you a happy new year.

On behalf of Narovinu Center

**Simona Heřtusová**

[simona.hertusova@adopceafrika.cz](mailto:simona.hertusova@adopceafrika.cz)



## We are looking for new volunteers

**Do you have a thing for Africa and are you interested in global development projects supporting education and health care?**

Can you spare 2 hours a week and dedicate them to volunteer work from home and occasional help at events? Then you are the perfect candidate. If you are interested to join us as a volunteer, send us an e-mail to [info@centrumnarovinu.cz](mailto:info@centrumnarovinu.cz) and we will send you all the necessary information. Thank you and we look forward to cooperating with you!

## Centre Narovinu can be found at the new Prague address

We have moved and now you can find us at Oldřichova 21, 128 00 Prague 2.

We are still moving partly between office and home office, before you come to see us, please check on 777 831 836 or e-mail [info@centrumnarovinu.cz](mailto:info@centrumnarovinu.cz), thank you.

We look forward to more pleasant encounters at the new location.



## Who makes up the Narovinu Centre team? Introducing new support for our Nairobi office



**My name is Esther Wangari.** I am married and a mother of two boys. Currently working at Centrum Narovinu office in Nairobi. I work hand in hand with the coordinators and other duties in the office. My hobbies are traveling, cooking and social working. I enjoy socializing and working with young people because most young people lack direction in life. I believe if they are nurtured and

mentored early enough they are able to become productive members of society. I am glad that Centrum Narovinu is concerned about the well-being of the children and is giving them the greatest weapon they can which is education to transform

their lives. I believe education is the backbone of success for any individual and for the development of any country.

**My name is Pamela Atieno Oloo,** I am the Nairobi office Accountant, My roles includes paying school fees to primary, secondary, college/university students, I also do extra payments and medical bills alongside other general administrative duties as far as Nairobi Office is concerned.

I am also in charge of contacting students directly either through their respective coordinators or directly in instances where clarification is required in matters pertaining school fee payment and other issues.



Prague office: from left Dana Feminová, Hana Jodasová, Simona Heřtusová, Petra Augustová (external accountant), Zdeněk Mocek, Monika Hubičková



Nairobi office: from left Esther Wangari, Linda Flora Odongo, Ken Okongo, Pamela Atieno Oloo

## Health insurance for children in the Long-Distance Adoption Programme

Between August 2021 and May 2022, a total of 784 children are enrolled in the health insurance programme and are progressively receiving initial medical check-ups, which often detect common illnesses. From June to December 2021, a total of 318 health problems were treated. The most commonly diagnosed diseases or problems faced by children include upper respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections, malaria and typhoid fever. Health insurance allows children and their families to seek medical care and to be treated without any delay. Families also do not have to deal with a lack of funding for medical care. Health insurance for children in the Adoption programme is truly the best gift you

can give your child. Thank you for your support and care.

**The health insurance for the next year 2022/2023 can be paid until the end of May by sending 1 500 CZK (60 EUR).** Please indicate the number 6 + the number of "your" child (e.g. 641023) as the variable symbol.

Monika Hubičková



## Club of Friends of Adoption

From the Club of Friends of Adoption account, where people can make regular and irregular contributions and where the overpayments made by "adoptive parents" from completed adoptions go, we supported in the first school term of 2022 a total of 28 children who lost the support of their current "adoptive parent" or are still waiting for their first adoptive parent. This amounts to a total of CZK 89,600 and EUR 1,300.

**Do you like the idea of supporting the education of children in Kenya? Join the Club of Friends of Adoption...** You can send a one-time payment or send regular or irregular amounts throughout the year. The collection account number is 107-6829480277/0100, Prague 5. The variable symbol of the Club of Friends of Adoption is 800. Thank you very much for donating to the Club of Friends of Adoption.

Hana Jodasová

**Hazzary John Wandera (ID 41262)** was born in 2002 and has 3 siblings. The family rents one room in the slum where they live. The father repairs shoes and his income is very irregular. Often there is no money for even the basic needs of the family, let alone school fees. Hazzary is a good student, he passed his final high school exams KCSE of 2021, he has a major grade of B-, he has got an admission letter to EMBU University for Bachelor's degree in Economics and Finance. His support costs 16.800 CZK/ 660 EUR per school year.

If you would like to support Hazzary, please contact the coordinator Pavla at pavla.brixi@adopceafrika.cz



Introducing the children you can support in their education:

**Felix Obongo (ID 40563)** has a twin sister Asenath, who is also up for adoption, and one other sibling. All five household members live in one rented room for which they pay a rent of Ksh 2,000. Felix loves football. This year he is studying his 3rd year at Island of Hope Secondary School. As the cost of education is higher at secondary school, an increased payment of Ksh 16,800/ EUR 660 per school year would be appropriate.

If you would like to support Felix, please contact the coordinator Lucia at lucie.valtova@adopceafrika.cz

**Lucy Anyango Okongo (ID 51685)** was born in 2000 and comes from a polygamous famil. Her mum is her dad's second wife and there are 2 children in their house - Lucy and her younger sister. There are 9 other children living in the other house. Mummy sells fish and daddy is a project coordinator. The parents also support other children who are complete orphans. Lucy is in the 3rd grade at Island of Hope High School. As the cost of education is higher at secondary school, the support of 16,800 CZK/660 EUR per school year is appropriate.

If you would like to support Lucy, please contact the coordinator Lucia at lucie.valtova@adopceafrika.cz



## Interview with a student: A month of volunteering in Kenya

Gabriela Morongová from the Faculty of Education at the University of Ostrava helped in Kenya! She provided help to the local orphanage and also taught at school. She went through the OU university program Aid, which offers students of the University of Ostrava trips to developing countries, where they carry out volunteer activities.



### Could you tell us what attracted you to go to Kenya? Weren't you afraid to go to such a dangerous country?

There were a lot of challenges on offer, I could choose Georgia, the Philippines... and Kenya was there. I have always wanted to visit Kenya. From an early age, I have been attracted to Africa, which I generally like. I have already managed to travel to North Africa, so I wanted to get to know the southern one as well. In addition, there was the opportunity to work with children. Since I am studying citizenship and physical education, I wanted to go to a challenge that would fit my field, so I chose Kenya. I wasn't scared when I checked in, but the day before I left, I was a little overwhelmed. But it was such a natural fear of something new. In fact, I wasn't very scared.

### Where have you been? How was your trip to Africa?

I was on Rusinga Island, Island of Hope, on a small island located four hours from the larger city of Kisumu. Otherwise, I was completely in the village. The journey was long. I flew from Prague to Doha (the capital of Qatar) and from Doha to Nairobi (the capital of Kenya). From Nairobi I flew another hour to Kisumu and then four hours by car to the place where I worked.

### We know you helped the orphanage. How was it there? What specifically did you do at the orphanage? How did you provide assistance?

The help was that I spent free time with the children. As I found out, children basically do nothing in their free time. They usually dig with a stick into the ground or roll the tire on the ground. Maybe that's the reason for sending volunteers to entertain the children in some way. I also helped prepare and serve food and drink in the kitchen.

### How does it look like there?

I lived about 20 meters from the school, so right on the campus. There is beautiful nature, greenery, warmth and animals moving everywhere. However, children live in terrible hygienic conditions. There is a stench in the rooms. The kids had scabies

when I arrived. Children need to be taught how to take care of themselves, which local educators try to do. However, I came to a different culture and one has to reckon with the fact that one will encounter something like this here and that there are no such conveniences as here.

### You also taught at school. What are the students and teachers at the school there? What exactly did you teach? How did your lesson look like?

The educators and in general all were very kind and always helped with the activities. Learning itself was my initiative, no one forced me to do it. Children are very different there. It was difficult to make contact with them at first. Over time, it began to improve. I led the lessons quite spontaneously and did not have them ready. There is not much planned here in Africa. The lesson lasted only 30 minutes, so there was not much to do. I taught environmental education, hygiene and English. By not teaching regularly, but always in my free time, I tried to take the lessons playfully, in the form of a poem or dramatic activity. The textbook they have helped me. Because they don't have enough pieces, one the textbook is shared by five students. The children were fascinated that they were taught by a white person.

### Would you recommend a trip to your classmates? Why?

I would definitely recommend the trip to everyone. It seemed better to me than Erasmus +, which one mainly goes to educate and enjoy. However, it does not serve such a purpose, so we can help someone and learn something at the same time. Man will experience the country not only from the beautiful side, but also from the other, which is beneficial to life. Do you have to be there alone with the locals, which is priceless. The impression would be completely different if I lived in a hotel or spent time at school. One then feels good that one has done something for others. Would you like to brag about something in the end? What worked well?



The children like to dance here and I know a lot of dance groups, so we danced for almost a month and I really liked it. I'm glad I was able to leave something here.

Thank you for the interview and the photographer provided. I wish you well.

*Petra Kravalová, online magazin Ostravské univerzity  
(Editorial abbreviated, you can read the whole interview in the online magazine of the University of Ostrava)*

## ISLAND OF HOPE celebrated a beautiful 18th birthday

At the end of 2021, we celebrated the 18th birthday of the Island of Hope and dedicated 18 symbolic events to support education and healthcare. What events were they and how did it all turn out?

### NEW COLLECTIONS of Fair Trade Shop: BRACELETS, AFRICA and MAMA AFRICA SHIRTS, SOAPSTONE

The bracelets were made by Narovinu Centre volunteers in October 2021, resulting in a collection of 72 bracelets decorated with Kenyan wooden or bone beads. The soapstone products are handmade by Kisi tribal stonemasons - we support local Kenyan producers and giving the proceeds back to the children at the Rusinga Island Community Centre. For a full range of products, please visit the e-shop.



### Fair Trade Shop at FESTIVALS, CULTURAL EVENTS and PARTNER SCHOOLS

Thank you for support from the AROUND THE WORLD and OBZORY festival, which included a Charity Bazaar. Thank you for the invitation to the NABOSO CONCERT. And also for support of VIOLA theatre in the performance of Bára Munzarová and Jaromír Meduna. Big thanks goes also to the Elementary School Stolany, Kladruby, Řečany nad Labem, gymnasium Kojetín and Třeboň and DDM Ostrav Slaný, where the Fair Trade products were also sold.

### CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER CONCERT OF THE SEMAFOR THEATRE BAND

One of our adoptive parents for many years has been the Semafor Theatre, which last year led its sponsored girl to adulthood and to a successful high school graduation. This concert was therefore symbolically dedicated to the children's education.

### PARTNER SCHOOLS and support of ADOPTION AT A DISTANCE

Among adoptive parents are also schools that support the education of children in Kenya. A contribution from one of them can be found on the last page of the newsletter.

### GIVING TUESDAY- World Day of Generosity and Good Deeds.

During November we joined this initiative with the challenge "Buy a soapstone hippo for 80 CZK and support 1 day of 1 child in school". In total 230 hippos were sold. We would like to thank the participating cafes - Pant, Café Práh, Sitting at Andělka, KC Beseda Klánovice, Drama Café, Art-n-coffee and Kaaba Café for their support.

### THE MATERIAL COLLECTIONS

The project is supported by collections of school, sports and teaching aids organized by involved schools, institutions, compa-

nies and individuals. For example, Dino Schools of Prague regularly supports The Island of Hope by sending school uniforms to children. The Municipal Library of Prague and the Book Club contribute books in English to school libraries.

### PERCENTAGE OF SALES

Monys design company donated 30% of the sales to the Island of Hope. Kawak organized a Giving week in which they donated 3 times more of their sales to the project.

### Volunteers for Kenya

How to donate education and health remotely or become a volunteer? This is what you could learn from the presentation about the experience of the participants of the program of the University of Ostrava OU Aid in the Pant café. We are still looking for new volunteers for the project, will you join us?

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Donation of CZK 100 buys one mosquito net, CZK 200 provides one child with the necessary treatment for common illnesses, CZK 300 is for school supplies for the whole year, CZK 400 will cover a specialized examination for one child, CZK 500 is for textbooks and better teaching, a mattress costs CZK 1,000, for 2,000 CZK one can buy classroom furniture for one child.

### PARTNERS of the Island of Hope

Thanks for support to all our partners who contribute to the development of the Island of Hope, e.g. financial support for teachers, methodological seminars, IT classroom operation, etc. One of them is DHL, thanks to which we send letters, photos and report cards to adoptive parents and collections to Kenya every year for free.



### We ended 18 years of ISLAND OF HOPE with ONLINE CONNECTION

with the Island of Hope to convey its atmosphere and also to facilitate meetings between adoptive parents and the children they support in their education. Island of Hope is exceptional in its broad scope - it addresses health, sex education, awareness and prevention, agriculture, artisan cooperatives, sustainable technologies, education with innovative approaches from kindergarten to high school, social welfare, nutrition, position of women in society...

Big thanks to everyone who supported us and participated in the events. In total, we supported the community centre with a wonderful amount of 199,079 CZK, which goes towards the education and health care of the children.

*Simona Heřtsová*

## Extra support adoptive parents children in Kenya

Even in 2021, the support of our adoptive parents continued with extra payments towards their adoptive children. In 2021, 256 extra payments were sent in the total value of CZK 629,383 and EUR 5,244, which together amounted to KSH 3,179,677. The money was used mainly to help in emergencies, when the funds were used in matters of consumption and food (General). Money was also sent for the purchase of six bicycles, 15 electronic devices, mostly laptops and mobile phones, as well as tuition supplements when children did not have enough standard tuition fees, medical payments and money to the beginning of the normal life of students. Many thanks to all our parents who have supported their adopted children in this way.

Zdeněk Mocek



## The adoptive daughter wrote to them that their house was falling down Nový stál 800 eur



My wife and I have had an adopted daughter, Jesca, through the Narovinu Center for several years. We keep in touch with her mainly through letters. Jesca informs us several times a year about how she is doing in school, how her family is doing and how she spends her free time. About a year ago, Jesca mentioned in a letter to us that they had a leak in the roof of the family home and asked if we could help them.

I immediately contacted the coordinator of the Narovinu Center in Kenya to see if he could investigate the condition of the roof and the possibility of repairing it.

Quite quickly we got feedback that the roof was indeed in bad shape, but that replacing it would not help because the walls of the house had also gradually leaked and the only option was to rebuild the house. We had no idea what it means in Kenya, or the amount of funding we were talking about, but we wanted to help Jesca and her family and asked for an indicative price estimate if the house would be built completely. We came back with an indicative price of EUR 1,300. We didn't hesitate for a second and when we confirmed our interest, we were pleasantly surprised by the final amount of EUR 800 to be paid (due to the favourable exchange rates of the shilling vs EUR vs CZK).

The construction of the house started in February 2021 and at the end of 2021 we received the photos with the bill of work and materials. We are extremely happy

that such a small amount as EUR 800 could really help one family of 7 in Kenya. We believe that the house will serve them for many years and that it will contribute not only to the reputation of the Narovinu Centre but also to better living conditions for more people in their community.

Juraj Sasko

You can also read another interesting sharing of an adoptive parent in this article <https://www.forbes.sk/adoptivna-dcera-im--napisala-ze-sa-im-ruca-dom-novy-stal-800-eur/>

## Fair shop of the Narovinu Center

**Why?** The Fair Shop has been operating since 2015 to support our projects in Kenya so that our activities do not depend only on donors - adoptive parents. We send all proceeds from the sale to the Island of Hope project on Rusinga Island. Thanks to the shop, we also support small African entrepreneurs who produce goods and therefore have a secure sale and thus a livelihood.



**How does it work?** The goods are usually bought for us in Nairobi by the employees of our office, according to instructions from Prague. Then, they send them to the Czech Republic thanks to DHL, which allows us to send a certain number of kilograms every year for free. We also thank the volunteers who sometimes bring small goods themselves when they return home from Kenya.

**What's next?** We take over everything in the office, calculate, price, stock, take photos and then offer them for sale.



**Where do we sell?** Wherever possible. We like to go to various markets, festivals and fairs. We earned about 46% of the total earnings at such events. We thank the festivals Obzory, Around the World, Semafor and Viola Theater, O2, Brno Zoo, Safari Park Dvůr Králové and others. They help us a lot.

We also relate partner schools and so we thank the elementary school Stolany, Kladruby, Řečany nad Labem, the grammar school Kojetín and Třeboň and DDM Ostrov Slaný. We sold about 30% through the e-shop.

Our colleague Simča processed about 120 orders last year and she is looking forward to the next one!

**When do we sell?** Most goods are traditionally sold before Christmas and last year we collected about 53% during November and December. However, it is of course possible to shop all year round and if no events are planned at the moment, you can use the e-shop at any time or come and see us and shop in the new offices at 21 Oldřichova Street in Nusle.

**What do we sell?** The evergreen product of our store is talcum goods - especially animals. We mostly sold hippos - 545 pieces, also thanks to the "Buy a hippo - support the child's educa-



tion in Kenya" event. We thank the cafes that took part in the event - Pant Café, Café Prague, Sitting at Andělka, KC Beseda Klánovice, Drama Café, Art-n-coffee, Kaaba Café. We are glad that you still like Kenyan coffee and tea and last year we sold about 88 kg of coffee and 35 kg of tea. Other goods that also sold well - wooden bowls, jewellery, gift packages and new T-shirts at the end of the year! Do you already have them in your wardrobe?

**For how much?** Even in the difficult pandemic situation of 2021, we managed to increase sales to 320,000 CZK (compared to last year's sales: 238 000 CZK). We believe that all the presents you have bought from us - for you and your loved ones - made you happy as well as the children at Rusinga for sure!

Petra Augustová

## Jambo Africa Project with Narovinu Centre



In the first half of the school year, our school lived with the project "Jambo Africa", which we prepared in cooperation with the organization Narovinu Centre. In the preparatory phase, the children learned the Jambo Kenya song, made teaching aids and poster designs for the African meeting of pupils, teachers and parents. At the beginning of September, we hung the Kenyan flag and an exhibition of photos from Kenya in the school, which we enjoyed all September. During the week of 20 September to 24 September we lived Africa very intensely, with African workshops led by the Narovinu Centre in each classroom, with African themes covered in all subjects. The highlight of the week was Friday's online link-up of each second grade class with African children on Rusinga Island. The online linking was also included in the program for the final African session. At this meeting, our children sang a song to their African friends and talked with them about various topics. There was no end to the questions. No one wanted to go home. In

the last week of September, the Kenyan flag was still flying in the school premises and African rhythms were still ringing through the school in the morning. Our pupils finished making teaching aids which were handed over to the Narovinu Centre.

We are all most happy about the adoption of an African girl, Evaline, who we managed to adopt thanks to the voluntary contributions of our pupils parents. What to say in conclusion? The project was beautiful, the cooperation with the Narovinu Centre was perfect and the feedback from pupils, teachers and parents was very positive. Thank you so much to everyone at the Narovinu Centre and the coordinators in Kenya, it makes a difference!

*Gabriela Šmerdová, Victoria School*

