

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

We bring you the Fall edition of our bulletin in a slightly different form. For economical reasons, we have decided to only print 4 pages from now on. More information and bulletins will be sent to you electronically and also shared on our website and social media. And what will you find in this bulletin? Primarily 2 beautiful stories - one from a girl that went through our program and one from an adoptive parent that set out on a visit to Kenya. Thank you for these stories, we appreciate your feedback! Furthermore, as this is the last bulletin of this calendar year, we have included information about the Christmas offer of our Fair trade shop. We will be grateful if you decide to give your loved ones

one of our "gifts with a story". You can also take our products into consignment sale in your school or organise a Christmas day of fair trade shopping at your work place. We will then send the profit to the children on the Island of Hope and support them on their journey to education and dreams.

We wish you a wonderful Fall and a nice rest of the year.

May your dreams come true, not only at Christmas!

On behalf of Narovinu Center

Simona Heřtusová

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GIFTS WITH A STORY

For the 8th year now, we have prepared Christmas "gifts with a story", that will bring joy to your loved ones, employees, company partners... but also children in Kenya. We offer gift packages of different shapes, sizes and prices. The standard package contains the fair trade Kenyan coffee, tea and a soapstone figure. We would also be happy to prepare special packages according to your needs or individual gifts you can add to your already existing packages, company raffles, etc. **Soapstone products** come from a workshop of the Kisi tribe in the Tabaka region where soapstone is mined. **Fair trade coffee** from Kenya is 100% quality arabica coffee with one of the highest possible certifications of the Kenyan Coffee Board. **Fair trade tea** from

Kenya is high quality black tea. Due to the climatic conditions in which it grows, it is considered one of the highest quality teas in the world.

By purchasing a gift with a story from our fair trade shop you will not only support local Kenyan producers but also Kenyan children. 100% of the profit will be used to support the education of children on the Island of Hope.

Organise a consignment sale at your school, café... Or a day of fair trade shopping for your colleagues at your work place.

We would be happy to come and bring our fair trade shop to your Christmas markets, festivals, charity events, etc.

Thank you and we look forward to further cooperation,

Simona Heřtusová

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Fair Trade Shop Gifts with a story



Who forms the team of Centre Narovinu?

We introduce a new employee of our office in Nairobi



My name is Melvin Atieno. I was a beneficiary of Centrum Narovinu for the past 16 years, I had an amazing adoptive parent who supported me in my Education, Health and even livelihood for all these years till I graduated and got a Diploma Certificate in Information Communication and Technology. I am currently working in Centrum Narovinu, Nairobi Office in the administrative department coordinating children in colleges and Universities.



My hobbies are traveling, hiking and reading. I also like participating in feeding programs for the needy in Orphanages and in the streets of Nairobi, seeing how happy the kids usually are when they receive food and clothes donations from well wishers really makes my heart melt with joy.

My interest is in the field of Technology, I want to be a Network administrator in future so that i can ensure smooth functioning required in today's business environment. I also want to travel around the world and experience new culture and also learn some new skills.

Friends of Adoption Club

From the account of the Friends of Adoption Club, we supported a total of 9 children during the 3rd school term of 2023. These pupils have lost the support of their previous "adoptive parents" or are still waiting for their "first adoptive parent". We are very happy that thanks to you we could be a support for them. The amount of CZK 50,400 that was used includes contributions that were credited to the account of the Adoption Friend's Club and also overpayments from "adoptive parents" after the end of their adoption. We greatly appreciate these funds and are grateful for your support.



I would like to take this opportunity to express a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the Adoption Friend's Club. More information on support can be found here www.centrumnarovinu.cz/content/klub-pratel-adopce
Hana Jodasová

Another girl who we are trying to find an adoptive parent for, is Nancy Adhiambo Atieno (ID 53002). Nancy was born in 2006 and has 3 siblings. Her

father is a fisherman and her mother is a housewife. Their income is not enough to cover all the needs. Nancy likes to tell stories and also plays soccer and volleyball. She enjoys geography and biology at school and would like to become a nurse when she graduates. In January 2024, she will enter the last 4th year of our OstrovaNaděje Secondary School, her support is 5,600 CZK/220 EUR per school period (16,800 CZK/660 EUR for the entire school year).

Can you help Nancy get at least a high school education? If you are interested in supporting the girl, do not hesitate to contact the coordinator Lilien by e-mail: lilien.linkova@adopceafrika.cz or by phone at +420 604 995 683. Thank you.

Support the Friends of Adoption and Child Education Club in Kenya

You can send a one-time amount, or send regular or irregular amounts throughout the year. The collection account number is 107-6829480277/0100, Prague 5. The variable symbol of the Friends' Club is 800.

Thank you in advance for your support and help!

Visit of adoptive parents in Kenya

In 2005, the wife found out about the existence of the Centrum Narovinu association quite by chance, when she was interested in a report about the humanitarian activities of the Centrum Narovinu association in Kenya while reading a women's magazine. She was so interested in the report that, still full of emotions, she found the Center's website and selected a six-year-old girl from the list of children registered in the aid program. When Inose learned to write, we started receiving structured, handwritten letters regularly, three times a year, to which we responded only sporadically. In these letters, Inose regularly informed us about the dry and rainy seasons in Kenya, about her successes at school, she had all our children, grandchildren, and grandmother say hello, the letter was always accompanied by a current photograph of Inose and information from the school about the academic results achieved... We learned but also very sad news, when the father of the family died in 2015 after a long, difficult illness (Inose was 16 at the time), Inose's mother tragically died in 2018, and that was not the end of her ordeal. In 2021 Inose's brother also died in a car accident, who after the death of his parents remained the sole breadwinner of the family... After the cascade of these unfortunate events, only three orphans remained from a relatively large family - Inose and her two brothers, the twins Joshua and



Moses. When we received another mandatory letter at the end of last year, with the usual information about the weather and study results, from which, however, this time it appeared that Inose will finish her high school studies in 2023 and become a certified Montessori teacher for children aged 3-6. We suddenly found out that maybe now is the right (and maybe the last dream) to travel and meet our adopted daughter in person, because finishing her studies and starting a job would probably end our relationship. And so we planned this year, a summer vacation in Kenya. On the very first evening after arriving in Nairobi, we met with the director of the Nairobi office of the NarovinuCenter, Ken Okongo. Ken accepted our invitation to dinner, so we could personally thank him for the Center's many years of exemplary care in providing living and study needs for our Inos.

D-day awaited us in the morning, the first meeting with our adopted daughter Inose... Immediately after breakfast, we waited impatiently at the hotel reception. The taxi arrived on time exactly for the appointed time, where the porter opened the door of the car, from which she ran to the rope, and ran straight to her husband and hugged him with tears in her eyes... It took a while for both of them to realize that I was also standing there, wait-



ing! After a while, when we all came to our senses, we got into a taxi together and moved to the centre of Mombasa, to the school, where we had an arranged tour and a meeting with the principal. After a tour of the school and the premises of the boarding school, we sat briefly in the principal's office, where she shared with us her opinion of Inose's personality, evaluated her academic results and her potential for further professional growth (we were quite proud when we learned that our Inose is among the ten best students of the year) After lunch, the principal and I said goodbye, on the way we also visited the house where Inose lives with her brothers, who were waiting for us there. We sat at their house for a while, had tea together and went on the final stage to our resort on Diani beach, where we spent a few days together in a very friendly atmosphere. Then we made Inosa's big dream come true, who wanted us to invite her brothers to dinner and eat together in the evening as one big family. It was a pleasant meeting, we laughed a lot and we all felt very comfortable. Finally, our last day together came... It wasn't easy, but in the end, we managed it quite well.

Epilogue: Since our meeting in Kenya, we have practically been in daily contact. Sometimes Inose would just say good morning or good night to us via WhatsApp, or she would call to share her experiences or moods, at other times for some advice... Sometimes it is difficult, but the feeling that someone far away is thinking of you and unconsciously needs you, she is grateful that she has someone with whom she can consult or just talk to, that she has someone who is interested in her fate, it's definitely worthwhile.



Island of Hope became my newhome

Tabitha's story



My name is Tabitha Wanjiru. I come from a family that has three members, my mom, my sister and me. Only my mother raised me because my father died in 2004. It was not easy for my mother, because she did not have a permanent job and depended only on casual work, so not always she was able to put bread in front of us. And also pay our school fees. When we ran out of money, we had to

to stay at home with my sister and forget about going to school. But I found out that it is in Kasarani a school that provides free uniforms, textbooks, food and quality education. It was fun to get back to school activities and after a short time I also had the privilege of getting a sponsor.

Then I was supposed to advance to the 6th grade, but our school no longer provided the second level of education. Suddenly we couldn't afford to go to school again. My mother went to work on the farms and my sister and I also tried to help as much as we could so that we would have something to eat. But our life was still very rough, so we were forced to move in with my mother's aunt.

A bright star shone in our hearts when the meeting took place in the humanist office. But only I had an adoptive parent, not my sister. So I had to deal with not seeing my sister. He and his mother went back to their grandmother and I stayed with my aunt. I went to school, but it was difficult because my aunt's harshness was endless. I felt a lot of frustration because my sister became a street girl who lives by what she finds in the garbage, collects plastic and sells it to earn living.

The situation became unbearable for me. I looked for my sister and together we met with Dana and Ken and I explained everything to them. They felt very sorry for me and my sister.

Therefore, our journey to Rusinga began at the beginning of 2010. My joy was accompanied by the knowledge that I was going to a completely different environment, that I would start a new life there, meet new friends and be far from the cruel Nairobi. The only thing that made the situation a little more difficult was that we came from a different tribe. We are Kikuyu and met people from the Luo tribe for the first time in our lives.

To my astonishment, I discovered that corporal punishment is not allowed in the humanistic "Island of Hope" because they treat people the way they want to be treated. Thanks to the good environment and also the wise teachers, my school performance improved and I was among the top five students after every exam. After finishing elementary school, I was called to one of the best secondary schools.

Four years later, I finished high school and passed the national exam. I got a C grade. That's why I was looking for a high vocational school and there I signed up for the Business Organization and Information Technology course. I studied the course for two years and successfully completed it.

When I was in Nairobi once, I met this old friend, and she told me about the possibilities of working abroad. I got a contract for a two-year job as a caregiver in Saudi Arabia. Everything went well, so I flew there in 2020. I had a job in a very nice family. When my contract expired after two years, they negotiated another two-year contract.

And then the big day came when I flew home and was reliving all the joy of being on Rusinga and eating fish and swimming in Lake Victoria and seeing my family and siblings. After arriving at the airport, I was greeted by my mother, whom I was so happy to see. She was doing well now, thanks to the financial support I sent her from abroad. And then I immediately had to go to Rusinga, to my home. I met my "daddy and mommy", Mr. and Mrs. Joash, at which I will never forget.

I am very grateful to Dana and Ken, as well as to the entire Center Narovinu, and I am most grateful to Ms. Vařeková Ludmila. May God bless her!

Editorially shortened, you can find the full version at www.AdopceAfrika.cz

