Bulletin Narovinu 6/2016

Dear adoptive parents, supporters and friends of Centrum Narovinu.

We'd like to share current news about our projects with you again. We really appreciate our cooperation with actress Bara Munzarova who became one of our adoptive mothers at the beginning of this year.

Thanks to her support, another boy from Kenya is able to attend school. What's the point of such help? Read her view on this page. Great news for our organization is our new colleague who has started working in a position of Fundraiser. The last page of this bulletin delivers information about our new campaign as well as invitations for Partner Breakfast. If you know about a company that might be interested, please forward this information to them. Thank you.

There are also a few glimpses back and thanks, e.g. for very successful beneficial events to support children from Island of Hope, our community centre in Kenya. We wish you a lovely summer and nice holidays. Perhaps we'll meet at one of the summer festivals. The invitations can be found on our website or Facebook.

Centrum Narovinu Simona Heřtusová

Actress Barbara Munzarová supports project of the Center Narovinu

I don´t believe in coincidences. I believe, that things and events in our lives happen exactly how they are supposed to. We ourselves are in charge of our own lives through accepting responsibility for our actions. We create our own future through the decisions that we make, through the paths that we choose.

That´s why I know that it wasn´t a coincidence that I came across the idea of long-distance adoption in February this year. At that time I felt a desperate need to resist the continuous populist-political campaign which was spreading the fear of refugees and of everything strange and unknown through all media; I felt a great need to get involved in helping the needy.

The project of Center Narovinu, including the project ISLAND OF HOPE, immediately caught my attention when first searching the internet.

People, who are a part of the project, who shape and conduct it, deserve our support and admiration. These people are the angels of our busy lives who prove with their ACTIONS, not just with empty words, that it is possible, even in today´s busy and often selfish times, to create something unique, beneficial, even miraculous in an almost opposite part of the world.

Let´s create our own islands of hope in each one of us, if only by not allowing ourselves to get scared by loud-mouthed people full of hate. To start with, let´s stop for a moment and for example read about the activities of Center Narovinu. Then nothing will stand in the way of making ourselves feel better through helping others. As it is really beautiful, to feel the joy of belonging together with all the people on the planet, through offering even little help that one is able to offer. Even spreading information about this incredibly unique project can help.

I wish you nothing but pleasant feelings from helping others.

Bára Munzarová
adoptive parent of a boy in Kenya

Communication between children and adoptive parents brings great joy

Anerly Gift Agubasu, who participates in the adoption program, has received a letter together with new felt-tips from her adoptive family. Even small presents bring a lot of joy

The adoptive parent found in the next letter together with the school certificate and photo this beautiful painted picture.

Health Insurance Programme – A Case Study

Chrispine Owino (40852) is a 19 year old boy who has been in our programme of distant adoption for almost 10 years. Thanks to his adoptive parent he has also been covered by our health insurance since 2009. He was born with his left leg being shorter than the right one. He could only crawl but not walk until the age of five when he started using an artificial leg. In 2011, Chrispine underwent a surgery that had his right leg amputated since it was not growing in the normal way hence giving him more complications such as frequent injuries. This procedure was expensive for the family. He also had to stay at home for five months after the surgery which made him join the high school late. The artificial leg was meant to last for nine months. Unfortunately in 2013, he outgrew the first artificial leg and it broke. Since it could not be repaired, Centrum Narovinu got involved in its replacement. Eventually, Chrispine outgrew the artificial leg that was replaced once again. That caused him back pains, a lot of limping and he was not able to walk long distances. In May 2015, he joined Kenyatta University where he is studying for Bachelor degree. However, unlike the boarding secondary school, there is a lot of movement in college. Thanks to being covered by our health insurance, he was able to receive another artificial leg and he has been going for physiotherapy sessions too. Now he can walk longer distances and move around the campus without problems. Were it not for the medical cover, the boy would be largely immobile and facing serious complications during his studies.

Irene Olali / Pavel Prochazka

QUICK FACTS – Health Insurance Programme from June 2015 to April 2016

- Total of 473 cases treated under the programme (446 outpatient/27 inpatient).
- Each person insured went through a routine medical checkup (including urine and blood testing).
- Health insurance covered a wide range of medical procedures, from treatment of epilepsy and asthma to brain surgery, mass treatment for jigger infestation, or purchase of amputee mobility aid and the physiotherapy sessions that followed.
- Most commonly treated diseases included malaria, upper respiratory tract infection, and typhoid.
- The highest inpatient bill paid was KSh 215,260 (EUR 1,925).

Supporting families in Kenya, from child education to business start-ups (The story of Rolex)

Three year old Rolex Otieno lives with his parents and two siblings on Rusinga Island where he joined our Island of Hope nursery school in January 2016. His father, the sole breadwinner of the family, tried to make a living as fisherman. Having to rent his fishing nets, he could only ever make KSh 1,500 (around EUR 13) per month at best. Last year in July we managed to find a new sponsor, or adoptive parent, for Rolex. Besides paying his school fees and allowing the boy to start attending the school, the adoptive parent also wanted to support the family in another way that could eventually help them become self-sufficient. Originally, purchase of fishing nets was considered, as to cut down on expenses incurred by renting them. Our coordinator in Kenya visited the family to discuss the possibility. The boy's father, Mr Evans Otieno Odhiambo, however voiced his concerns about the worsening conditions for fishing in the area; recently there had been too many days that would go without a single catch. After a lot of thinking, he came up with a completely different idea...

On Rusinga Island, most people still use kerosene lamps for lighting. Mr Otieno's idea was therefore very straightforward: he would open a small shop where he could sell kerosene to people in the neighbourhood. He had no previous business experience but he did not lack in enthusiasm, and so upon discussing the issue with the adoptive parent we decided to go through with his business plan.

The adoptive parent sent an extra payment of KSh 60,000 (around EUR 540) to start up the business. Our coordinator helped the family to arrange a purchase of 45 jerrycans of kerosene oil, as well as to rent a small space where the family would set up their new shop. Let's hope that their business will be successful and help the family improve their difficult living conditions!

Pavel Prochazka

Adoption Friends' Club

In the fund of Adoption Friends' Club has been gathered 5 486 Kč from January till April 2016. From this money one student Steven Junio Ochieng (ID 50683) had been supported for one trimestr, total sum was 4800 Kč. The boy has started the first year of new high school in „Island of Hope Humanist Mixed Borading School", but unfortunately he lost his adoptive parent. For his mother, who is a widow, it is impossible to manage to pay a school fee. Steven is a really good student, he is fond of chemistry, biology, physics and business studies. He would like to go to the University and become an engineer.

From an amount of money that has been overpaid from adoptive parents, we supported him with an amount 4 800 Kč. And we supported two more first-year students from our high school. The first one is Jack Johnson Onyango (ID 51411), who would like to become a builder and he most likes geography. The second one is Wrey Onyango Ogweno (ID 51962), who has lived 8 years in our orphanage.

With a sum of 2 400 Kč we supported more 16 children, who are this year in the last grade of basic school (ID 40788, 40962, 41101, 41263, 41295, 41411, 41436, 41725, 41818, 51410, 51470, 51743, 51747, 51878, 51955, 50520) and 15 children, who attend the last year of secondary school (ID 40398, 40453, 40556, 40866, 40877, 50323, 50392, 50794, 50798, 51321, 51540, 51553, 51580, 51607, 51899). You can find their stories at our wesite in the database of children free for adoption.

Thank you very much for your donation to the fund of Adoption Friends' Club.

News from the Island of Hope - the community centre at the Rusinga Island in Kenya

Island of Hope in numbers:
– Total number of employees: 47
- Children in orphanage: 65
- Vacancies at orphanage: 12
- Children in nursery school: 93
- Children in primary school: 272
- Students in high school: 31
- Total number of adopted children for regular amount: 231
- Total number of adopted children for double amount: 67
- Registered patients: 15 120
- Children born in 2015: 58
- Children born since the beginning of 2016: 31
- Hens kept on the farm: 197
- Eggs laid on average per month: 1 986
- Fish fished out from the breeding ponds for 2015: 238
- Fish put into breeding cages: 15 000

High School

Currently we have completed the first phase of the construction – two buildings with dormitories for girls with 8 rooms and sanitary facilities, 2 buildings with dormitories for boys with 8 rooms and sanitary facilities, 1 school building with two classrooms and laboratories.

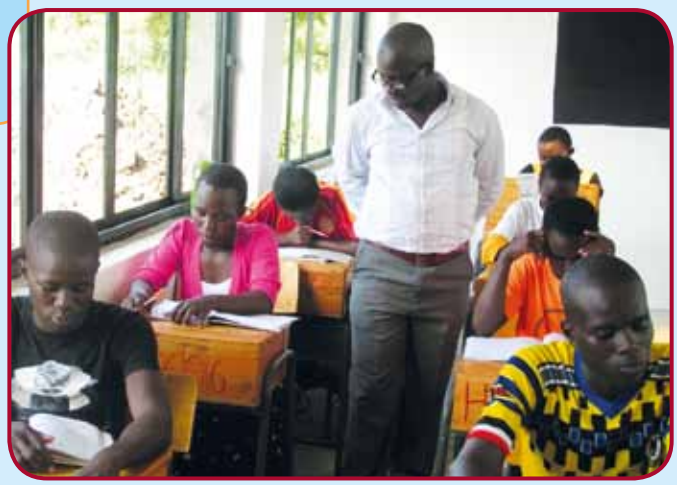
The whole preparation of the school philosophy and content of the education was manage according to the plan. It is necessary to further elaborate in detail the parts of the teaching that are the key to our philosophy and they don´t exist in Kenya in the suitable form to be applied. For example "Life skills" with elements of teaching nonviolence and self-knowledge. Therefore we create an international team that will assist in developing the content of "humanistic school". The education is in individual subjects but we would like to include some projects throughout the individual subjects and also the system of the "block" education. There has been thought only the IT subject in the computer lab but we have programs for other subjects as well. The Island of Hope is not connected to the electricity yet, therefore the classes in the computer lab must be limited due to the high cost of the generator.

Professional Training of the director of High School at the Island of Hope

The director Philip spent two weeks in January in Prague Park Lane International School. The Emphasis had been placed on experiential learning methods and attitude towards the children, experience with the school management and the need of training for the teachers. The aim was to convey the experience with interactive teaching methods and create the idea of the arising school and humanistic philosophy (nonviolence, respectful approach, freedom of choice, intrinsic motivation, trust and responsibility…).

The seminar for the teachers of the Island of Hope within the project

SlovakAid – The intensive seminar for all the teachers and education workers of Island of Hope took place from 29.1. to 5.2.2016. There were few teachers from other schools in the area invited as well. The seminar was attended by 30 people. The seminar was divided into 3 parts: Common part on the theme of philosophy of humanist school and our vision of educational institution with nonviolent and respectful approach (4 days). The practical part with children – all day game for children from the orphanage (1 day). Practical part of the education work with computers and work with a new educational software (3 days). We



are still working on a very strong themes, one of them is the evaluation. The complete abolition of the grades wasn´t even suggested but for example we don't participate in comparisons at the regional level. Another big issue is the obligation to wear the school uniforms. The students don´t have them in High school which still generates a debate in the community and surrounding schools as well.

Construction of the new kitchen with a lunch room

Construction was delayed due to the priority of completing the high school, finance and weather. It was launched in January. The plan is to complete the construction in July 2016 and start using it from September.

Computer lab and library

The building is finished. There is 19 fully functional computers and 5 laptops from our collection so far. Donated books are in their places on the shelves and students use the library for their further studies. It is also planned to borrow the books to the public from the local community.

Clinic

Overall, the clinic has 11 employees. Clinical officer Chris, who leads the clinic since November 2015 cooperates very closely with Czech doctor Marie and Zuzka, our long-term volunteers. Funding for the clinic is from the grant and it will last only until September 2017, therefore we are looking for sponsors who would take over the cost and the clinic could still operate. People from this poor region are unable to pay for the services such amounts to cover the costs of the clinic.

Farm

There was a reorganization and staff reduction on the farm. The big goal is to connect the teaching of an agriculture with practical lessons and projects to improve our farming. There are practical lessons even for the children from the primary school. We try to involve the whole community for example by regular volunteer days. Currently we don´t have the leased land for corn and beans. We didn´t extend the lease after last year´s floods. The chicken farm is loss-making in this current form. We consider changing their feed (using insect farm and leftovers from the kitchen), purchasing of different kind of hens etc. The breeding ponds work stably. Caught fish are used in the lunch room of the orphanage. Breeding cages in the lake – the entire fish out is planned for July 2016. The first testing fish out was on 6.4.2016 and it made 53 fish and the second fish out from 11.5.2016 made 218 fish.

Craft Workshop – soapstone products

The second part of the workshop was implemented. The earnings from the first workshop has purchased an additional 5000 pieces of soapstone goods and 8 best women were chosen for this small collective.

After completion there were selected only the top 3 women who will remain in this collective. Other women will help out in case of larger orders. The space of the craft workshop is a part of the kitchen and the lunch room. We need to find another sales place for the goods in Europe so that everything could work in the long term.

Further development of the craft activities

Within the last year´s collections there were imported several sewing machines and knitting machine. We are preparing an

opening of a small tailoring workshop for production of school uniforms and other clothing. We also plan to include practical activities for girls in the orphanage and the high school. Another plan is a production of the handmade paper from a water hyacinth and products made out of it, such as envelopes and cards.

The playground (not only) for the smallest

Within the collection we also got two big swings from the TR Antoš. We made a wooden structure in February 2016 and the swings were installed. Children are very happy. The collection also brought bicycles, scooters, mini trampoline and a slide. We hope to be able to add more equipment such as monkey bars, sandpit, carousel or slide.

The project is very complex, therefore we are looking for volunteers to help with its implementation and development!

Come to the meeting of the Friends of the Island of Hope in Prague 23.6. at 18pm or call, write, follow our facebook or website. We plan another regular meeting. Thank you and I look forward to working with you.

Dana Feminová,
dana.feminova@adopceafrika.cz, phone 777 711 911

My first trip to Kenya

In the office of the Centre Narovinu I have been working for three years now and I've had a chance to look to Africa for the first time and see our projects directly in Kenya. Dana Feminová, director of our organization, we are in mid-January went on a three-week business trip, whose main objective was to organize a weekend meeting for Kenyan voluntary coordinators adoptions and seminar for teachers in our community center Island of Hope.

Dana had split filled with various meetings, such as James, who leads the production of talc for our e-shop, the employees of the Nairobi office or Slovak embassy with the ambassador. After crossing into our community center, for example, then we dealt with things around the building secondary schools and educational curriculum had meetings with all employees, with the first students of our high school and the community. I had prepared an art and photography workshop for children, I coordinated the distribution of art supplies and toys from last year's collections, and above all I photographed and filmed. In total I have for those three weeks took pictures of almost 7,000 images, but you have it now, when children are moving constantly and before the camera like to wave. Capture a snapshot without blurred faces and without foreign arms and legs sticking out is not so simple. Not for a moment did

not stop, and although I did no slept more than six hours a day, I was still full of energy. If I were your feelings briefly summarize, the whole trip was one great experience. The whole time I felt like I stepped into the picture, where I'm from Kenya and our project community center seen countless. It suddenly but it was me who was driving along the road where it is just hard-packed clay, donkeys standing in the middle of the road, stands on the verge of mini shops with fruit, everywhere is full of garbage and between threads full of people and children. I went to school in a slum built of metal, with narrow benches where my children sang a song of welcome, and I do return recited a poem - although not understand English, but they came very funny. The strongest impression, however, left me on the first morning of our community center, where we arrived in the dark after a ten-hour journey from Nairobi. In the morning I could take a nap, so I jumped out of bed, therefore, better to say, I stumbled out of the mosquito, and opened the door to the house where we were staying. In front of me showed the building of our school, Lake Victoria and the children's voices were heard ... so I just stood for a moment believe that I was really there. That alone would be enough to make the trip an unforgettable experience, but of course the people who make up our project. Meeting with all those that I knew the story, and I respect for their tremendous work, was even more incredible: my Kenyan colleague with whom you each week exchanging several emails and messages our coordinators adoptions, Joash, our project manager Isle of Hope , reunion with Ken, director of the Nairobi office, Kevin and Vincent, teachers of our elementary schools, who were a year ago in the Czech Republic and, of course, meeting with children, and not only those that I knew the photos from our database and knew their stories: David, who are looking for new adoptive parents, Regan, who is on many of our photos, or Jovientu I remember from the database by name. A lot more and more.

Sometimes it is difficult to sit in an office with a computer over tables and administrations, when children are hidden beneath their identification numbers, but the feeling that I'm working on something, what I believe and what makes sense, and now the memories of what I experienced, my every day It adds new energy to work.

Lenka Čapková

We would like to thank to „Divadlo SEMAFOR“ for a benefit performance for children from community centre the Island of Hope.

3 artists from „Divadlo Semafor“ got together on 12th May to support children in Kenya. „Divadlo SEMAFOR“ has been supporting education of Kenyan girl Ashley Wambui within the programme "Adoption of African children – project of distant help" since 2007. Part of the performance were: Jiří Suchý, Jitka Molavcová, Jiří J. N. Svoboda, Olina Patková, Jolana Smyčková, Adéla Zejfartová, Irena Musilová, Lucie Černíková, Michal Stejskal and the SEMAFOR orchestra. All above mentioned artists performed without a right for remunaration to support children from community centre the Island of Hope on Rusinga Island in Kenya. The proceeds from benefit performance (28,200 CZK) will be used for completion of the construction of high school which is part of the project of community centre the Island of Hope.

We would also like to thank to all sponsors - for publishing invitations in the media and on social networks, Company For Dreams for audio, management of “Divadlo SEMAFOR” for being able to organized the performance for symbolic 1 CZK, Czech Television for internet broadcasting of the performance, which is available online on www.ceskatelevize.cz/ivysilani and last but not least to all of you who have purchased ticket and support the perfomance in person. THANK YOU.

Simona Heřtusová

Fashion show in Gask ADO Narovinu

On Friday 27. May at 16.00 a beneficial fashion show took place in baroque area of Gallery of Central Bohemian region and its profit went to support a project of Centre Narovinu, Island of Hope. During this event a fair-trade shop was opened, where visitors could buy products direct from Kenya, for instance coffee, tea or products of soapstone. Money from the purchase is also dedicated to the Island of Hope.

Six young designers from atelier Design of Clothes in Zlín presented their collections here, namely Mirka Cucová, Lucia Sládečková, Hana Prchalová, Ilona Fojtíková, Barbora Mrňáková and Anežka Berecková. The collections were made on individual issues during the winter semester of this school year.

All afternoon was introduced by Václav Veselý, who presented the whole collection as well as fashion designers and after that Simona Heřtusová from Centre Narovinu continued, she described the project that has been supported by this event. Then the fashion show started and later a refreshment was prepared for the visitors.

4002,- CZK was sent to children from community centre Island of Hope. Thank you.

Barbora Mrňáková

Campaign

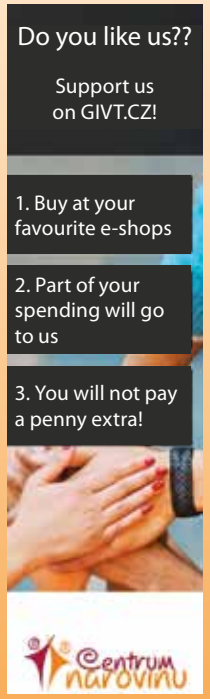
Since the project Island of Hope, a community center on Rusinga Island in Kenya, continues to grow it is necessary to look for a new partners with whom we could gradually build up the self-sufficiency and sustainability of the community which will in the end lead to full self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Therefore we came to decision of addressing 5000 companies with an offer to cooperate on our project Island of Hope. Thanks to a grant from the Czech Development Agency we can address the companies through the corporate mailing. We would like to invite representatives of the compnies to the breakfast where they wil be served with Kenyan coffee and tea, will be able to meet with the representatives of other companies and will be introduced to our project and possibilities to cooperate.

We would be very grateful if you could provide us with contacts to any company that you happen to know would like to become our partner. You can contact us with the contact info of the company or provide the representatives of the company with a link to our web pages that contains a Business Partnership benner on the main page – they can find all the necessary information there. Please invite them also to our breakfast that will be held in September in the center of Prague in a beautiful Art-n-Coffee gallery café.

Thank you very much in advence. We are looking forwart to cooperating with you.

Helena Andrejová



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It´s easy. You do your shopping and Givt sends money to non-profit organizations. You can choose from 339 e-shops, e.g. Mall, Booking.com, Zoot, Baťa, Dáme jídlo, Čedok, Tescoma, Tchibo, Dormeo. You won´t be paying a single penny more and at the same time will support those who you like.

For more information see Givt.cz, where you can also download a smart application for your mobile phones.

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