

Dear adoptive parents, friends and supporters of CenterNarovinu,



Do you remember last year's African festival at the Safari Park DvůrKrálovénad Labem?
The African weekend will take place again this year on 14th-15th of August.

we hope you are enjoying the summer time and we bring you regular news about our work. In this bulletin, you will get to know other Czech volunteers as well as a new employee of our Nairobi-office. We will also give you news about our projects of long-distance adoption and Island of hope, where there are currently university students from Ostrava doing their internships. We will finish the bulletin with a beautiful story from elementary school in Volary about their experience with supporting children in Kenya. If you will be close to the Safari Park DvůrKrálovénad Labem on the weekend of 14th-15th of August, stop by the African festival. You will find our Fair trade shop there as well as fun workshops for the entire family. We look forward to seeing you there! Enjoy the summer and the holidays!

On behalf of Center Narovinu

Simona Heřtusová

simona.heřtusova@adopceafrika.cz

Club of friends of adoption

In the second school trimester of 2021, we helped 36 children who had lost the support of their adoptive parents. We used money from the bank account of the Club of friends of adoption, where people send various amounts of money (on regular or irregular basis) under the variable symbol 800 and where we also send the money left from finished adoptions, donated to us by the adoptive parents. Overall, we used 150.400,- Kč and 1.280 EUR. You can find information about the children we have supported at this link: <https://www.centrumnarovinu.cz/content/klub-pratel-adopce>. We are really grateful to all of you who have donated the money!

Hana Jodasová

We introduce to you the story of Shaban and Peris, for whom we are currently trying to find doptive parents.



We are looking for new adoptive parents for **Shaban Mgodo Baraza (40476)**, who would like to continue his studies at a special high school. Until recently, Shabana had lived with his grandma and his two siblings in a 2-room house. Currently, he is living with his mother that looks after him. Shabana has hemiplegia, a disability that has paralyzed the left part of his body and which also influences his speech. His diagnosis is not curable but medica-

tion helps his condition. In 2020, Shabana started high school. Will you help him complete his high school education? Due to the higher high school fees, we recommend you to support him with the higher amount of money, which is 5.600 Kč/220 EUR per trimester. If you decide to support Shabana, please contact the coordinator Markéta at marketa.zla@adopceafrika.cz.

Peris Wanjiku (40708) is a 20-year old student, whose father passed away when she was little, and therefore she has been brought up by her mother and grandmother. Peris is healthy and has one older brother. Her mom sells groceries, but her income is not high enough to cover both of her children's education. The family lives in a rented place, cooks on fire (on charcoal) and uses an oil lamp for light. Peris should be attending the 3 year of high school, however currently, she cannot continue with her studies due to financial reasons. She only has two years of high school left – would you like to help her complete her education? Her adoption costs 5.600 Kč/220 EUR per trimester. If you would like to support Peris, please contact the coordinator Lucie at lucie.hamackova@adopceafrika.cz.



Thank you for supporting the Club of friends of adoption (the account nb.107-6829480277/0100, variable symbol 800).

Who is in the team of Centrum Narovinu? We would like to introduce our volunteers in the Czech Republic



My name is Pavla Brixí and I come from Velvary. I started working with the Centrum Narovinu three years ago, first as the adoptive parent of a little boy called Kevin, then, I sometimes worked by translating various texts, and finally, I started working as a volunteer coordinator. In my professional life, I teach English and German at Velvary Elementary and Lower-Middle School.

However, as a child, I had always wanted to teach in Africa, so when I read in a magazine about the Centrum Narovinu, I thought it might be the first step to fulfilling my dream of "making contact" with Africa. As part of Erasmus + projects abroad, I have had the opportunity to see education systems in Portugal, Finland, Spain and Iceland. I have tried to teach young children in Italy myself, as well as in the Basque Country too where I taught an immigrant class which was a completely different job from that of our classic primary/lower secondary school. Thanks to this experience, I realised how important education is for children in all parts of the world and how much it affects their future. I like travelling, learning about new cultures through my foreign friends, walking in the mountains, spending time in nature, painting, dancing and practising sports too, especially martial arts. Thanks to all this, one can not only develop one's physical abilities but also one's mental abilities, and to learn to control oneself, respect others, know one's limits and a lot about interesting people too. This is why my husband and I founded a martial arts club (Jiu - Jitsu) almost 10 years ago, and training children and adults became part of our lives. We enjoy observing the developments that children and adults go through under our guidance, and watching their destinies, in the formation of which we often participate. And this is all similar with my connection to African children.

Hello, my name is Stanislav Švaček and I come from a picturesque village in the Central Bohemian Region. In my life, everything related



to volunteering and helping others fills me with joy. That is why in September 2015 I started cooperating with the Centrum Narovinu. First as an adoptive parent of one of the African children and then from the autumn of 2020 in the role of a voluntary coordinator of our adoption programmes. I'm grateful for the opportunity to be part of this friendly team from the Centrum Narovinu.

I take this as a unique opportunity leading to self-development and I highly recommend this experience to anyone who would be interested in trying it.

I have dedicated my professional life so far to work in education. I teach science at an upper level of a Czech primary school. I consider the immediate joy of knowledge to be the greatest reward, and I consider teaching to be like a mission. In my free time I do a number of extracurricular activities, such as the preparation and implementation of clubs or children's camps. I cannot imagine life without traveling, regular exercise, spending time in nature as well as good food.



My name is Natalie Vipler. I have been cooperating with the Centrum Narovinu for 4 years. In the period before the coronavirus crisis, I was helping out at events related to the sale of Kenyan products at the Centrum Narovinu Fair Trade Store. This year, I became involved as a volunteer coordinator in the 'Distance Adoption of African Children' project. I'm glad I can help people who need it.

In addition to working with CN, in my free time I like reading books, going into nature and painting. I sincerely hope that this coronavirus period will soon end and that charity events in support of Kenya will be possible once again.

Introducing new support for our Nairobi office

Hello, my name is Maren Awuondo Olwa. Am from Kisumu, the Western part of Kenya. I joined Centrum Narovinu in December 2020 coordinating the health program which involves; ensuring



that distance-adopted kids that have medical cover have gone for an annual medical check-up; facilitating outpatient and inpatient medical care.

In addition, I also coordinate all extra payments by ensuring that this payment reaches the adopted kid in the most direct way and that the feedback which is always a photo, receipt, and handwritten letter and

sent to the Nairobi office thereafter sent to Czech to various sponsors.

This is money that various sponsors pay for shopping, other things such as the purchase of the phone, bicycle, etc, or even additional school fees.

Am a graduate in Bachelors degree in ecotourism and hospitality management at Chuka University, this course has been of good help to me since I interact with different people from different background and being a receptionist at my previous work, it has strengthened my skills to interact positively with people from different places. Working at Centrum for the past 5 months has been a great experience and am enjoying it.

During my free time, I love riding a bicycle, taking a nature walk, or visiting national parks and reserves. I love nature wholeheartedly. Besides I also like reading novels. I always and have on so many occasions dream of starting my family and I hope soon my dream will come to pass

The Eighteenth's Adoption Programme of African Children

The Distance Adoption Project celebrated its eighteenth-year anniversary in 2020 - 'beautiful eighteenth' it was named. We were preparing of course for this celebration, but the situation was not so good for a celebration last year... So, we celebrated instead by creating and publishing some beautiful online stories.

Since November 2020, we have gradually published 18 stories of supported children and 18 stories entitled: "Thank you for your support!" You have looked at the places where families live, you have seen what the schools look like, where the children go, what the children do in their free time and how families live... And in eighteen "Thank you for your support" stories, we also introduced the adoptive parents, volunteers and project supporters who have all supported children's education in Kenya.

We select some excerpts from several of them as well as all the stories to be found on our website www.AdopceAfrika.cz or on [facebook.com/CentrumNarovinu](https://www.facebook.com/CentrumNarovinu).



Centrum Narovinu was founded in 1995 by Dana and Simona. The first trips to Kenya took place in 2000, and today you can still find them in the office, at discussions, sales booths, seminars in Kenya with a smile on their faces and optimism that MAKES SENSE. Dana is in charge of projects in Kenya, mainly the Island of Hope community center on Rusinga Island, which is visited daily by over 500 children and which also includes the clinic... Simona takes care of the charity events, projects in schools and the Fair Trade. Together they motivate volunteers and look for new sponsors so that projects supporting education and health care can work.



"The Narovinu Center gave me two things. Son Peter and love for African stories, thank you. And I wish us all good end stories." *Justin Svoboda – actor, moderator and storyteller.*



In 2006, the Semafor Theater adopted a little girl named Ashley Wambui and brought her to adulthood. With their help, she graduated not only from the whole elementary school, but also from high school.

"Under the KAWAK brand, I recycle coffee bags, making bags, backpacks and decorations. From the beginning, I wanted to set up the project so that part of the earnings would support the non-profit sector, and I was looking for a project related to the areas where coffee is grown. The Narovinu Center appealed to me with its targeted help, personal contacts directly in Kenya and also the enthusiasm they put into the community center project." *Věra Severinová www.kawak.cz*

"I have always been interested in and appealed by various foundations to help children. When I learned about the Narovinu Center, I immediately knew where to focus my support. African countries are close to me and I really like the handmade products of local women and children." *Monys Monika Blažková www.monys-design.cz*

"I support the Centrum Narovinu because I know how rare and important their work is. Promoting education is the best investment in children in Africa. Having a good education is the



basis of life. I was born there and I know that African children do not have it easy, so I support them the songs." *Papis Nyass, drummer, dancer and composer of West African music*

"Our school has been supporting the LONG distance adoption project since 2007, when we adopted little Muthina from Kenya.

We get funding for the adoption by selling pupils' products, the stand with our Christmas and Easter decorations is regularly in our markets in the town. Muthina is an adult girl, as well as like some former students... I think we have changed not only the live of one "child" from the Kenyan countryside. But we, who have been involved in production and sales, and all those who have bought something from us over the years, have thought at least for a while about the functioning of the world, the things we take for granted, but not everywhere. . " Bohuslava Dusíková, ZŠ Kladruby "Distance adoption is important to me because I think every child has the right and the right to education." Nela, ZŠ Kladruby "I liked the sale at the markets that we can really help someone and make a better life not only for him, but also for his children." Zuzka, ZŠ Kladruby

"I enjoyed selling for a good cause." Klára, ZŠ Kladruby



THANK YOU for your support to all our volunteers All our volunteers in the Czech Republic and Slovakia who help us organize charity events, Fair Trade sales stands, workshops for children, go to help the Island of Hope in Kenya, invent new projects and events with us, translate, they do proofreading, IT support and are also in charge of children in the Distance Adoption program and communication with adoptive parents... Thank you, you are our great support. We really appreciate this cooperation, we wouldn't be able to do it without you. Our organization works in Kenya on the same principle, where we are assisted by 18 volunteer teams from different parts of Kenya...

They are in charge of communicating with children in the Long Distance Adoption program, distributing letters and packages from adoptive parents, extrapayments and distribution of food for children and families, coordination of communication with partner schools, organization of meetings in communities or assistance with the Island of Hope project. Thank you for the common journey, for the inspiration, for the opportunity to overcome prejudices... But above all for the fact that it is not just about economic help, but we managed to create a bond of solidarity, understanding and mutual affection between different cultures in projects.



Two families, two daughters, two continents, two different cultures... And one common path to education. The adoptive family began supporting Maureen in 2002, when she have atten-

ded a primary school. They accompanied her in education until 2020, when she graduated in the University of Nairobi with a degree in journalism and media studies.

"... I enjoyed corresponding with someone who is part of our family, and it didn't matter that she had a different skin color, spoke a foreign language and lived in a completely different country. We learned a lot about each other and about lives in our countries. things, even those that I had no idea about even in geography lessons ...", Zuzka

"... I am so grateful for how far you have accompanied me and my family during the eighteen years of my sponsorship, Words are not enough for me to show you how grateful I am for everything ...", Maureen

We appreciate that we have adoptive parents across all generations... Thanks for the support and beautiful video to Slovak youtuber Peter Expl0ited.



You can support the education of children in Kenya in various ways. Another option is to support quality teachers. "For the second year in a row, we have been cooperating with the Centrum Narovinu. As part of the Island of Hope project, we support the operation of the computer room, IT teachers and quality connections.

During these two years, there has been a huge shift, the largest and best-equipped computer room in the country has been built, and the Internet connection enables seamless online communication. Thanks to this, the classroom manager is more independent, can better cooperate with the Centrum Narovinu volunteers and solve technical problems. Primary and secondary school teachers use computers to prepare and search for teaching materials. High school students have also joined the classroom and are in charge of maintaining and developing its use - not only other high school and elementary school students, but even children from kindergarten will gain computer knowledge!

For many of us, these things are a matter of course, there is a lot of work to be done on Rusinga Island and we are very happy to be able to help. *Company OpenWise Solutions*

"First he sent us cute pictures from his life and the letters were written instead of him by a coordinator from Kenya. From the first grade, he learned English and began writing the first letters. Riki's English was getting better and better, and we could use his letters to get a picture of his family's difficult life and the current



situation in Kenya. We were all happier that we were able to support Riki even outside the regular payments. I consider the possibility of supplementary health insurance, which repeatedly helped Riki when he got malaria, to be very important.

He is currently studying very successfully at Kenyatta University in the capital Nairobi at the Faculty of Public Health. He plays football actively, is a big fan of Arsenal, is interested in fashion and is looking forward to starting work after graduating from university. We are very happy to have been able to see how a small, big-eyed black boy grew into a successful, intelligent, responsible and handsome young man. I wish Riki with all my heart that he will be satisfied in life and that he will retain his ability to rejoice in seeming little things." *Jitka Švíglerová*



"The last year of Diana's studies became a bit more complicated, not only for her, but in the end everything turned out well and Diana graduated happily and even has a job offer. And I, her adoptive father, am also overjoyed to bring her to the finish line. We will continue to keep in touch and Diana can still count on my help in case of emergency, she will continue to be my beloved adoptive daughter. And I will follow her footsteps in life as long as I am alive." Ljuben

"Hope and love is what I've found in real life, and I never thought I'd be able to go that far in terms of educational opportunities. It seems to me that my dreams have come true. I am so grateful to you, Ljubene, for your support, it is amazing that some people are so selfless and become an inspiration to others. Every day I am so grateful for the kindness, compassion, and generosity that you have shown me and people like me. Because you care how many families may have a brighter future. People like you make our world a better place to live, and by choosing opportunities, you are really contributing to a dignified solution to poverty. THANK YOU." *Diana*



There are various ways to support the education of children in Kenya. One of the possibilities is a collection of sports,

art, educational and school aids or books in English.

Thank you for your support to all schools, libraries, institutions, companies and individuals for the wonderful cooperation.

Thank you for your support to the singer Marcela Březinová, who has been supporting the girl Susan Atieno in her education for 13 years. Thanks to her, she finished primary school and is now studying at secondary school. "I am grateful to be part of a team that conveys hope. A beautiful message that speaks of unity and our interconnection... And if I can only help a little, it is completely natural and obvious to me."

"Dear Centrum Narovinu, admirable Dano and Simono, dedicated volunteers, all of you who participate... I wish you all that your endless commitment and need to 'do good' and help would never leave you. Thanks to your ideas and unceasing efforts, may other Kenyan children have a chance at a better life with education. With your energy, you help turn for the better and direct a society-wide awareness of what all individuals can bring when they don't just think about themselves and get involved.



May the forces not leave you and you will be accompanied by the joy of all children who, thanks to you, got a chance at a better life. All adoptive parents deserve thanks and wishes for all the best. I am happy to be and can continue to be part of such a meaningful, successful project. Happy birthday! I had already the idea of a distance adoption in my head for a while. About 18 years ago, I had an eleven-year-old boy from India adopted for 3 years. During the school year his father suffered fatal injuries while working hard in the woods, and little Ramy had to leave school to start working and support the rest of the family. I was very sad and anxious at the time. Five years ago, I started the distance adoption again. I accidentally clicked on the Centrum Narovinu project on the internet, and when choosing children, I was fascinated by the story of Edward Osochi Uiru, who stood out a bit with age and height. His original adoptive parent could no longer support him at the age of 15, and Edward was in danger of continuing to attend school. Edward's family relationship was and still is also very difficult. He lives only with his mother, who has a physical disability. I felt internally like I was just following my previous adoption up. Edward is now successfully studying at a high school in the Island of Hope on Rusinga Island and has been eager to become a pilot since he was a child. His sincere gratitude in every letter he sends me is endless. We often slightly philosophize about life together in correspondence, and I rejoice as a 15-year-old boy, a bit lost, grows into a healthy, intelligent young man who goes step by step for his dreams. At the same time, I am filled with an unadulterated, immense inner joy of being able to help and give Edward a chance for education and therefore for a free life." *Bára Munzarová, actress*

First impressions of intern Petra in Kenya

After arriving in Nairobi, I acclimatized the first day, arranged a SIM card the next day, exchanged money, and in the afternoon I went on safari to Nairobi national park. The next day, the depar-



ture to the island was supposed to be originally by a hired car driver at 8, but in the end we hired a car, Ken drove and we left after 10 o'clock, so much about Kenyan's perception of time. On the way we drove through the mountains around 2500 meters high and stopped at a lookout point at the Rift Valley (so finally I know where the Rift Valley fever is from). Then we had lunch at the gas station, where I had beans with corn and chicken. OMG it was such a century-old hen, as stiff as a piece of wood. Well, the beans weren't much better. Ken brought me fresh juice and gave me a choice of either mango + avocado or avo + sugar cane. I chose a mango and hoped it wouldn't go the wrong way. It was the best lunch, yummy yummy, and it didn't cause any intestinal problems, so win win. After a few hours, there was another stop for coffee in Nakuru that didn't quite live up to my expectations. The fact that Kenya is the second largest producer of coffee in Africa, the coffee is really "big bad" (as we say back home) here. On the way, Ken suddenly told me that we probably wouldn't have time to reach the island, so we will sleep in Kisumu, OK. Hotel was cool, they also had wifi, for dinner I had dry fish, french fries and cola and in the morning a wake-up call at 6 to leave at 6:30 and catch the ferry at 8. We managed to do it completely calm, because he drove only at 9. So we went to the "port" for breakfast, which



was chapati - a greasy pancake, made in a tin shack on a cauldron with a questionable hygienic level and sweet tea, this combo had to shoot my insulin levels into the sky and probably cortisol too, because I began to pray again, so that I ... I do not, you know what I mean which, fortunately, didn't happen to me so far. The ferry was extra slow, but they let me on the captain's bridge so I could take pictures. After arriving in Mbita we crossed the bridge and voilaaaaa we are finally on the island! Well, after about 20 meters, the asphalt road ends and the dubious dirt road continues, as it was raining, so muddy and with giant craters, come on! Upon arrival, Mrs. Pamela was waiting for us at "my" house. She showed me the room and the kitchen and bathroom, everything ok. In the kitchen I sometimes meet ants, beetles or lizards, so I introduce the technique of taking a few pieces of dishes that I will use and otherwise do not climb into the cabinets so that something does not jump on me. In the afternoon I went with Ilene, a girl who is studying for a fashion designer, shopping in the local "business zone" of Kolunga Beach. At the same time, she showed me Joash's (Ken's brother) restaurant where I could go for lunch, and introduced me to Lydia - she kind of bosses it there, I'd say.

OK, we go back and then I go alone to the other side to Luori, where you can also buy food. I bought 3 tomatoes, took pictures with the kids, who kept waving at me and shouting at MZUNGA (that's white), I filmed a torn boy playing with a tire, and she went home. It was



pouring at night, but in the morning I learned that it means luck when it rained the first night, so everything was fine. The area of the Island of Hope is much larger than I imagined. The clinic is also quite large, there are several rooms - waiting room, examination room, laboratory, small drug store, room for MCH (mother and child health). There is also a room for CCC / TB, where HIV + patients go for check-ups and medicines, and then the ward - maternity ward, women's room, men's room and pediatrics. There are also the toilets, cleaning room and room for pre-sterilization preparation of devices. First impressions are very good, the environment is beautiful and everyone is very nice to me.

Petra Macounová

Petra is the first student at the University of Ostrava (OU) from the Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Faculty of Medicine, who went on a mission within the OU Aid university program. The university allows its students to travel as a volunteer to developing countries for at least a month's stay, which they also financially support. During the summer and autumn of 2021, another eight volunteers from the OU will help out on the Island of Hope on Rusinga Island, not only at the clinic, but also at the school and the orphanage. You can look forward to Petra's further experiences in the clinic in the next bulletin.

Health insurance - second wave



This is the thirteenth year you have the opportunity to enrol your adopted child in the Health Insurance Program. The first wave of insurance has already taken place, but it is still possible to insure your child for the period

from August 2021 to May 2022 by sending the amount of 1500 CZK (60 EUR) to our account by 28 July 2021. Czech account in CZK: 19-1460510217/0100 (Czech account in EUR: 35-3076360217/0100, IBAN: CZ50 01000000353076360217, BIC: KOMBCZPP, Slovak account in EUR: 4001055909/7500, IBAN: SK137500000004001055909, BIC/SWIFT: CEKOSKBX).

Insurance for children provided:

- 1) a complete preventive examination including blood tests for HIV (provided that the family agrees to the tests);
- 2) monitoring of the HIV-positive patient (provision of medicines and all necessary information);
- 3) information on prevention of common diseases;

4) reimbursement of the cost of treatment and medicines in the case of hospitalisation (for the provision of medical care for more serious conditions requiring hospitalisation, including in the case of accidents and accidents, up to a maximum of KES 150,000 per year);

5) reimbursement of the cost of treatment and medicines in the case of outpatient treatment with a doctor up to a maximum of KES 10,000 per year (also applies to specialised examinations such as dental and eye examinations).

Thank you in advance for supporting the children medically as well, because health insurance is the best gift for them!

Malaria is one of the most common diseases that people in Kenya suffer from. Around 3.5 million people contract malaria in Kenya each year and over 10,500 people succumb to the disease. It is an infectious disease caused by parasitic protozoa and is transmitted to humans by the mosquito. Therefore, prevention is very important, especially the use of mosquito nets or long-sleeved clothing. Malaria is manifested by headache, fever, chills, joint pain or vomiting. It is very important to treat the disease early. Malaria accounts for about one-fifth of all medical cases we see every month in insured children. Thanks to health insurance, these children are treated early and can thus avoid severe or permanent consequences. Thank you for that too!

Monika Hubičková

Extra payments to children in 2021

It can be said that the trend in aid through extra payments is similar to last year. In the first five months of this year, adoptive parents have opted for more than 100 extra payments. Almost 300 thousand CZK and almost 3 thousand EUR were sent. With these payments, the adoptive parents supported their children directly in their studies, using the extra payments to pay for courses in schools, and one coaching course, for example. Parents also sent payments to buy two laptops, eight mobile phones, two cows, one bicycle, a baking oven, and even money was sent to buy a motorcycle. We will write a little more about this payment in the next newsletter. Our adoptive parents also help their children by, for example, sending a childcare allowance so that their mother can continue going to school and finish school. Payments for hospital treatment, either for the child or a family member, are no exception. And in the saddest case, the adoptive parent supported the family with his payment after the mother's death. We are all going through a difficult time at the moment. Therefore, first of all, we should thank these adoptive parents who, while overcoming their own difficulties, try to help others.

Zdeněk Mocek



Extra payments are one-off payments that adoptive parents can send to their children outside of tuition payments. This could be the purchase of a bicycle if the children have a long walk to school, the purchase of a laptop for university students, support in starting a business for those who have already finished their studies and want to stand on their own feet, but also, for example, support for a family that has found itself in a difficult life situation. The extra payments should especially support children in their studies - the number of payments is limited for organisational and staffing reasons (maximum one payment per child per trimester) and we always verify the need for them in Kenya.

The story of Peter and the Volary Primary School

Visitors to Volary Primary School cannot help but notice a large colour panel in the entrance of the building with a map of Kenya and a photograph of a tiny black boy holding a letter. And probably every pupil would be able to inform the uninformed visitor that this boy is called Peter and our school pays for his studies by organising a Christmas market every year, the proceeds of which go to adoption in Africa. First of all, we should clarify that Peter Odhiambo Kipasi is no longer that little barefoot boy. A lot of time has passed since June 2007, almost 14 grades of students have graduated from the Volary school and Peter has grown into a twenty-six year old young man. He has finished high school and is studying for a degree in transport logistics at the Thika Institute of Business Studies. The photographs charting the boy's life from the age of twelve to the present day already make for a fine album. Unfortunately, all the pictures of our adopted Peter have one common feature - a serious, sad face, on which the hard fate had a significant impact.



The Volary School took over the patronage of Peter at a time when the original adoptive parent had to give up care of Peter and the Narovinu Center sought help for the boy. The school's management at the time suggested Peter for adoption precisely because of the difficult situation he was in. He was living with his stepmother at the time, his birth mother had died in 2005 and his father was too old to work. His stepmother had to support the family. She sold firewood and they earned about Ksh 6,000 (about CZK 1,500) per month at that time.

The family of four lived in a small mud house with three rooms. They cooked with firewood, lit kerosene lamps and took water from the lake. Fortunately, Peter's education was not interrupted and since 2007 we have been receiving his letters regularly. They are written in neat, decorative handwriting and without exception are always full of thanks and blessings for the school and the town. We have tried to make him happy with photographs, arranged for the purchase of a bicycle, sent a T-shirt with the emblem of his favourite football club, Chelsea, and carefully packed two balls. In 2013, Peter started high school (Wang'Apala High School). Between the lines, it dawned then that he was not feeling well at school, complaining about the cold climate. We thought he probably meant the weather, but who knows what it was like back then. Peter's academic results were mediocre, but his desire for education never left him, which was important to us. In 2017, he was admitted to Thika Institute of Business Studies, a higher vocational school. The letters suddenly sounded in a completely

different vein. Peter had chosen the field of transport logistics, and we were very pleased to hear from the head of his professional practice after a few semesters of study. He described Peter as an independent and very reliable young man, who is able to handle many tasks in his field without any problems. We had already decided to support him in his studies by buying him a laptop. The death of Peter's dad also fell around this time. Although his father was already very old, he was still the male element in a family full of women and children. The burden of responsibility which



we cannot well imagine in our circumstances shifted to Peter. To make matters worse, the situation was complicated by the crisis surrounding Covid-19. He wrote to us about his business plans, and it became clear that this time our help had to be in the practical sphere. Peter had clear plans and without much hesitation we decided to make an extraordinary financial donation. Thanks to the excellent cooperation with the Narovinu Centre, in a few months we were able to rejoice with Peter due to the house he had built for his family on the shores of the lake for only 20,000 CZK. All the purchases, without our expecting or demanding it, came with bills and receipts. To give you an idea, the sum of twenty thousand crowns was on average only a third or a quarter of one of our usual sales before Christmas. The contrast between life here and in Africa was almost absurd on the receipts.

Peter has the opportunity to connect to the internet now and then, so we can quote his last email from 26 March 2021: "It has been a difficult year, but we are trying our best to make a living from what little we have, conditions have not changed yet and we have had more deaths, especially in my home area, friends and relatives have died and are still dying. Life is now harsher than usual. I hope you are all okay where you are and God has taken good care of you. I would like to send greetings to all the students at school and let them know that I am always thinking of them and love them so much. I am trying to take care of a few things at home now, although it is not easy for me. I am happy now because I have a house where I can sleep with the permission of the school. Please also accept the greetings from my family and friends, we wish you all the best in everything you do and may God always bless you. I love you all." What can I say? The story we began writing thanks to the Narovinu Center in June 2007 is still alive, powerful and relevant.

Mgr. Jana Fistrová, deputy principal of Volary Primary School