



Foxes' Community and Wildlife Conservation

# Mufindi Moments

## YEAR IN REVIEW

December 2015

Happy New Year! We at Foxes' NGO love the excitement and hope that a new year brings, full of possibilities and opportunities. At the NGO, we have coined the term "20-SWEET-16" - as the focus of this year will be focusing on our roots and the work that brings joy to our community. But before we look forward, it is important to reflect on all the wonderful things 2015 had to offer. So now, take a trip down memory lane and read about some of our proudest moments of 2015!

### January 2015

#### New Year sees renewed focus on Child Welfare and Village Policy

The start of a new year provides an opportunity for reflection and rejuvenation. The guardianship department has now started working even more closely with the local and district Social Welfare Office in order to bring more time and attention to vulnerable children in the local villages- particularly those outside of our direct care. Our on-site Social Welfare Officer, Joseph Majembe, and the head of our Guardianship Department, Rehema Mgimwa, led a meeting with the Igoda Village Child Protection and Safety Commit-



*Joseph drafts a letter to Luhunga Officials asking for help with a vulnerable child case.*

tee on January 15th, 2015.

In this meeting, the village officials and our NGO staff identified a list of 20 children who are not attending school regularly. This list included each child's name, age, sub-village, and known guardians. A plan was put into place and a meeting arranged with the parents of the children to establish reasons the children were not in school. Another meeting was conducted in Luhunga Village to identify vulnerable children and their guardians.

Due to limited local resources, follow up on the part of village officials can be untimely. In order to expedite the intervention process on behalf of vulnerable children, Joseph and Rehema are working on establishing direct communication with district and regional government on behalf of the NGO, asking for help with

particularly sensitive or difficult cases. They are hoping that by appealing directly to higher authorities, more will be done to assist local children.



*Head of Guardians Rehema Mgimwa and Child Welfare Officer Joseph Majembe load up the car to take clothing, household supplies, and school supplies to vulnerable children in the village.*

## February 2015

### Candid Camera Around the NGO

*Nache and Steve (dressed in blue) participate in a Cake Walk at their English Medium Primary School! Musical chairs– with cake as the prize!*



*HR Manager, Libe Mlela is hard at work writing contracts for our employees. Contracts expire at the end of February each year.*



*Wednesday is Needs Day at the NGO! Every Tuesday, shopping is done for the Children's Village for weekly fruit, meat, eggs, and vegetables, along with needed household supplies. These items are then distributed to our hard-working House Mamas!*

## March 2015

### Partnering with The Olive Branch for Children to Better Outreach Program

We were so fortunate to host Farajala and Sylvester from the Olive Branch for Children (OBFC) in March for a ten day visit! They arrived the first of March to begin a week of visits, culminating in a seminar at the end of their stay. Starting on Monday, March 2nd, Farajala and Sylvester accompanied Molly and Doricus on a visit to Mlevelwa to visit the first classroom. These visits focused on monitoring the classrooms and evaluating them for areas of improvement as a follow-up to the visits performed in November. Isipii Village was visited on Tuesday, Mkonge on Wednesday, and Ludilo Village on Thursday. After the morning observations during class, the teachers met with Farajala and Sylvester who provided feedback based on their observations. This was also an opportunity for teachers to share their

challenges and frustrations. Many of them consisted of complaints regarding the teachers' relationships with their larger schools and head teachers. It is quite common for Kindergarten teachers to feel overlooked by their colleagues. In order to heal the relationships, it was recommended that follow-up meetings take place between the teachers and their school committees with the NGO as the mediator to help support the respective teachers. These meetings are being planned for April. After the visits, Farajala and Sylvester held a seminar to address some of the suggested changes they saw during their visits and to open up a further dialogue about common challenges. We are so thankful for the continued support of OBFC and their wonderful mentors!



April 2015

## Dr. Bodil Sandin Opens Dental Clinic for Mufindi Community

Dr. Bodil Sandin is no stranger to the challenges of providing dental care to rural populations in Tanzania, having spent many of her professional years as a dentist in Ilembula alongside her long-time friend Dr. Leena Pasaden. Having retired last year, Dr. Bodil decided to bring her talents and much needed services to Mufindi and began building the Dental Clinic at Mbabulo Care and Treatment Center in November of 2014.

In an incredibly short 5 months, she has created a fully functioning dental clinic where she performs cleanings, extractions, fills cavities, and even makes den-

tures- with most services costing less than 5,000 Tsh or just under \$2.50 USD with a sliding pay scale for those who cannot afford services. This sliding pay scale has generated 1,000,000 Tsh (\$500 USD) in revenue for the clinic's operations and maintenance!

Since the clinic's inception in March, she has seen over 200 patients, performed 24 fillings, made 10 dentures, and pulled 193 teeth! She would often arrive to the clinic and work throughout the day with a steady line out her door as patients flooded in. Her commitment to return multiple times each year for the coming

years ensures proper follow-up dental care for all her patients. We can't thank Dr. Bodil enough for her work, improving the quality of life in our community. We can't wait to see this project grow!



## "Pasaka Njema!" - Happy Easter from the Igoda Children's Village



May 2015

## Student Sponsorship- What does education mean to you?



Dismas Mkonye

Form 3

*What do you want to be when you grow up?*

I would like to work in tourism or go to the army.

*-Why is school important?*

School is important because education is the source which brings you from a dark place into the light.

*-What is a challenge that you have overcome that you are proud of?*

Some of the challenges I have faced are not having enough money to pay school fees, not having money at the times when we needed to buy school supplies or pay other contributions, and living very far away from school.

*-In five years, what do you want to be doing?*

In five years, I want to be testing to be qualified to do the work I want to do. And to be helping a community project.

*-If you could tell visitors one thing about your life in Mufindi, what would you tell them?*

I would first congratulate them on the work that's been done here in Mufindi with helping people with HIV. I would tell them that I am living a better life because of the NGO and the help they've given me. I am doing well, sleeping well, eating well and getting treatment.

## June & July 2015

### University of Louisville Medical School Students Engage in Service



*Translators, medical students, and leading doctors meet to discuss cases. This group treated over 1000 patients!*

June and July of 2015 was an exciting time for the Foxes' NGO Health Department. For the second year, University of Louisville Medical School dispatched two service groups to visit Mufindi and deliver medical care to the District's poorest and sickest patients. First year and second year medical students were lead by Dr. Bill Smock, an ER surgeon, Dr. Bethany Hodge, a pediatrician, and Dr. Autumn Loomis, an ER doctor.

In June, 13 second year medical students and their leaders arrived to Mufindi to begin their week of service. The students divided into different

groups to deliver their medical services. On Monday, students and doctors held a large seminar for Home-based Care volunteers about Mossy Foot. The following days, Home-based Cared visits were performed to the neighboring villages of Ibwanzi, Kilosa, Isipii, Lulanda, Nandala, Ilasa, Ikanga, and Mlevelwa.

During the gap between groups, Dr. Bethany Hodge stayed on in Mufindi to offer her services, which included work at our clinic and with home-based care volunteers. She also followed up with "high alert" cases located in the village during the first

round of clinics and visits. She is also responsible for writing Foxes' NGO's first ever Medical Field Guide, a detailed description of the expectations of service for visiting medical co-operants.

In July, 10 first year medical students and Dr. Loomis rejoined Dr. Hodge to begin a second week of clinics and hospital visits. The following days, the students broke up into Home-based Care Groups to the village of Ihanu, Iyegeya, Ludilo, and Kilosa.

Foxes' NGO is so grateful for the life-changing work of the University of Louisville Medical Team! Plans are already in the work for next summer's mission trip. Karibuni tena!

## August 2015

### Iringa Regional Commissioner Visits NGO and Gives High Praise to All!



"We are so grateful you are here and doing such great work!" - Iringa Regional Commissioner Amina Juma Masemza.

RC Mrs. Amina Masemza, District Capital Executive Director Lucy Timba, and Geoff and Vicky Fox stand for a picture as the Foxes welcomed over 20 regional and local government leaders to see all the activities at the

## September 2015

### New On-site Clinic Opens to Record Numbers of Patients

Like so many other NGO buildings, the Foxes' NGO clinic has housed numerous projects since its ground-breaking in 2013. But as of July 2015 when ceiling board was placed, walls were painted, and shelves were built- the health department made the final move to call the clinic "home".

As Igoda Village's only dispensary, the clinic is providing medical care for over 40 patients per day, in addition to NGO staff, children, and guests. Popular services include wound care, wellness checks, preliminary diagnoses, gynecological exams, pre-natal and post-natal care, and pediatric care. An innovative schedule has been designed

to allow all branches of our health department team access to clinical space. On Mondays, Finnish Pediatrician Dr. Leena will host pediatric clinics. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, the clinic will operate as normal. On Wednesdays, Swedish Dentist Dr. Bodil will host a satellite dental clinic.

The clinic will also serve as a headquarters for visiting medical doctors, nurses, and co-operants who are

encouraged to bring medicine and supplies with them to contribute to the medical stock. Payment for services will be on a sliding scale, with children under 12 years of age being treated free of charge. For those unable to pay the full cost of treatments, discounts will be given and subsidized from a benevolence fund raised by willing donors.



## October 2015

### Foxes' NGO Celebrates First Form Four Graduate!

The first is undoubtedly the most memorable. This month, Foxes' NGO celebrated the Form Four graduation of Datrai Masonda, the first of our Children's Village children to complete Form Four. (Form Four is the last year of O-level.) Over the years, she has worked steadily through school as a shining example to her peers of the power of education when taken seriously. It should also be noted that as a girl, Datrai's accomplishment is even greater: girls are far less likely to complete their secondary school education nationwide due to unequal gendered policies. On Graduation Day, over 50 people from Foxes' NGO came out to

support Datrai in this exciting day, including our wonderful friends from African Book Box who have helped to raise funds for education initiatives like student sponsorship from which Datrai has benefited. At the Graduation Ceremony, Senior Manager Geoff Knight was the guest of honor on behalf of Chairman of the Foxes' Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust and gave a great speech that reflected on his days as a teacher in Mafinga. He ended with a song, to which all the parents and students sang and danced. Also during the ceremony, the headmaster and school board recognized the achievements of Datrai as the first

vulnerable child (orphan) to complete Form Four at Madisi Secondary School. Donations were collected from attendees that will go towards an education fund for future vulnerable children and their studies. After the ceremony, everyone gathered together in a classroom for a huge feast, complete with soda and beef! This is not the end of the road for Datrai either. After her Form Four exams, she will continue on to her A-level studies (Form 5 GG), and then university! Her plan is to attend Medical School and become a doctor. If she puts her mind to it, there is nothing Datrai can't do!



Former sponsored student, Ngojea, offers congratulations to Datrai.

## November 2015

### Kindergarten Outreach Program hosts Second Week-long Seminar

This month, we had our second week long seminar for our Interactive kindergarten outreach program! We had 24 teachers in attendance from nine villages and twelve classrooms. On the first day, our 24 kindergarten teachers were joined by 12 village leaders, head teachers, representatives of the schools, chairmen of the school committees and the district education officer. They came to learn about our program, see it in action and learn how they can better support their kindergarten teachers. Over the course of the rest of the week, the teachers covered many topics including: the history of Maria Montessori, sensitive periods of a child's development, classroom management, how to create and keep a prepared environment in the class, how to engage their school committees, and how to become a better teacher. They also learned how to make and teach materials for the different subject areas of the classroom. They made materials for teaching sensorial and practical life and learned how to teach 14 math materials and 8 language materials.

We had two wonderful guest lecturers visit from the Olive Branch for Children (OBFC) in Mbeya to lead the seminar- Farajala and Duadi. This was Farajala's third time visiting Mufindi as a leading Kindergarten teacher and Daudi's first! They are both talented and vetted teachers in Mbeya and the OBFC programs. A Finnish university lecturer named Hannele also gave invaluable input during this seminar as she has extensive expertise in early childhood education. Anne and Ruth from our Canadian partner charity, African Book Box, surprised the teachers with a morning seminar. They told wonderful stories and taught how to use books in the classroom, which the teachers loved! It was a very fun and exciting week with lots of ideas being shared.

Bethi, interim head teacher of the Interactive Learning Kindergarten, raved about the seminar, saying, "I loved learning how to make stories and change stories to adapt them to our environment here. And how to use easy language when telling stories so that the kids will under-

stand." This sentiment was shared by other teachers as well. Kindergarten teacher Wanini shared her thoughts on storytelling, saying, "I enjoyed learning what the development of a story should be. Even those who don't have access to books can learn to tell stories."



Kindergarten Teachers pose with their new certificates!

The Kindergarten Outreach Program will continue beyond this seminar. Each school and teacher will receive numerous follow-up visits to monitor and evaluate the progress of the teacher and classroom. All participating teachers left with a standing invitation to the monthly seminars. Schools that were new to the program also left with a mobile library book box for use at their school. Also, prizes were given out for performance and participation during the seminar!

## September-November 2015

### African Book Box Friends Arrive On-site!

AFRICAN  
CHILDREN'S  
BOOK  
BOX  
SOCIETY



Each year, Foxes' NGO welcomes members of the board for our Canadian partner charity, African Book Box ([www.africanbookbox.com](http://www.africanbookbox.com)) to visit their Mufindi friends, visit their projects, and plan for the upcoming year. Beginning in September, Foxes' NGO has played host to ABB once again with the arrival of Birgit, a director of the board for ABB, her husband Allan, and their two sisters (and nurses!) Hanne and Donna. Birgit dedicated her time aiding the finance department in identifying more efficient reporting systems and mapping out plans for the voca-

tional school. Allan capitalized on his mechanical prowess, helping to fix anything with an engine! Nurses Hanne and Donna spent many hours working tirelessly in the on-site clinic, bringing a special focus on wound care. This hard-working group was joined by Anne and Ruth, directors of the board for ABB, who worked on some exciting new/expanded project ideas for the NGO. Now with all three directors on-site, exciting meetings between the ABB Board, FCWCT Board, and senior Management have commenced as all look toward making 2016 the most successful year yet!

## December 2015

### Christmas 2015 is Memorable for All!

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night! Santa Claus himself may not visit Mufindi but he might as well have this year! Through the generosity of some wonderful donors, supporters, and friends, this Christmas was unlike any other. Traditionally, a large party is held in the Kindergarten classroom- and this year was no different! The classroom was decorated fabulously, complete with a huge Christmas tree. Everyone came together for a lunch feast at House #4. As the children could barely contain their excitement, soon children and staff sat in front of the Christmas Tree, eagerly awaiting what every child hopes for on Christmas. But before gifts were opened, the children performed their Christmas Nativity Play with renditions of Silent Night and Joy to the World. And finally- the gifts! It was only because of "Team Mufindi", our friends from around the world that came together to provide Christmas gifts for each and every member of the Children's Village.



Our dear friend and tireless warrior Marion Gough spent almost her entire year organizing cargo for a shipping container of donated goods including school uniforms, toys, and school supplies that arrived in Tanzania right before Christmas. These much needed supplies came to make up much of the Christmas gifts; every child living at the Children's Village received a brand new set of clothes including jumpers, wool coats, and cardigans! Staff members also received new suits (both women's and men's!) as well. It was the best dressed Christmas we've ever had! Also sent and distributed as gifts for the pre-school and nursery school

classrooms were children's toys, baby clothing and diapers.

We were fortunate to have more than one Santa this year. Tom Conway, our newest benefactor from Kentucky, USA made a very generous dona-



tion during his visit prior to Christmas which allowed each House Mama, guard, and gardener alike new clothing sewn by our sewing school. Each department received buckets and spouts for hand-washing and drinking water in their respective offices. And most excitingly, every child received a brand new back pack stuffed with new shoes, school supplies, and a toy!

Former volunteers around the world chipped in and came together to provide soccer balls, jerseys, Frisbees, coloring books, and games. These toys were gifted to each of the Children's Village Houses so that each house has a small collection of toys and games to share amongst themselves in their home. We are truly incredibly thankful to everyone that donated their time, money, and energy to make this Christmas the most successful and memorable one yet!



## Kindergarten Korner- A Graduation Celebration!

There is no site more universally adorable than a Kindergarten Graduation! This year, the on-site Interactive Learning Kindergarten boasted 24 successful graduates from the program-the highest number yet! The ceremony



of the FCWCT Board.

Jam-packed with proud parents, the ceremony kicked off with a songs and dancing performed by the graduates themselves. Teacher Wanini read the

school's official report to the attendees with detailed the program's many accomplishments, including a 100% pass rate into Standard I (Grade 1). This is particularly impressive as 75% of the graduates

are students from the local Igoda Village who were new to the program just this year. As this fact was read, the audience burst into applause. Next, Mr. Nyaganilwa spoke as the honored guest about the importance of supporting early childhood education by both parents and local government. Each student and their parents were then called up to accept their Kindergarten certificate and a gift of



school supplies for continuing their primary school education. The day concluded with a huge feast prepared by the parents and shared by all at the NGO.



## Simultaneous Seminars- Early Childhood Education and Home-based Care

It is always exciting to see people come together to better their own skills and improve their knowledge. On Tuesday, December 7th, both the Home-based Care Volunteers and the Kindergarten Outreach teachers gathered at the Ukumbi to participate in separate, but equally important, seminars.



The Home-based Care Program continued their monthly seminar schedule with a informational session about family planning led by former Tanzanian Peace Corp volunteer and family doctor Gail Lester and Medical Officer Assistant Rashid Mnembwe. Covered in the seminar was a range of topics aimed at educating Home-based Care Volunteers on different family planning options, which the volunteers can in turn use to education their own community members. The seminar began with a quick "quiz" on general medical knowledge that HBC initial training covers. This quiz will be given at the start of each seminar to help volunteers keep their

information accurate and up-to-date. Next, volunteers reviewed the different contraceptive options available locally. This naturally led to clarifying questions and a session on myth dispelling: there are many local beliefs that prevent women and men from using family planning options correctly and effectively. It is important that HBC volunteers are armed with thorough knowledge of why such myths are incorrect as they are the first line of education for their communities. Finally, HBC volunteers helped to plan a series of family planning clinics that will be held by Marie Stopes in Mufindi during the month of February 2016.



Just across the street, the teachers of the Kindergarten Outreach Program met for their monthly seminar, lead by local Tinga Tinga artist Chasaki and American artist Jean Lester. The seminar aimed to educate the teachers on the importance of art in

early childhood education by giving teachers tools for



planning art sessions in their own classrooms. Together Chasaki and Jean, with the guidance of volunteer Molly and interim head teacher Bethi, the teachers learned about how art education enriches a child's mind and aids in the acquisition of language and math skills. The teachers then had an opportunity to paint their own color wheel to learn about colors and color mixing. This was especially exciting for for the teachers as for many it was their first time painting or learning about color mixing themselves. After a break for a lunch, teachers learned an art activity that they could do with their own students. Using just tissue paper and watercolor paints, the teachers crafted abstract art that put to practice color mixing and challenged their perceptions of what art "should" look like. It was a wonderfully educational day for everyone!

## World AIDS Day Soccer Tournament Engages Youth like Never Before!

Each year, World AIDS Day is celebrated on December 1st around the world. Traditionally, World AIDS Day is a major NGO event where the local community comes together to celebrate the progress that has been made in the fight against HIV. For example, Dec. 1, 2009 saw the opening of the Igoda Community Hall and the



first community-wide celebration. This year's global theme, "Engaging Youth Voices", pushed the event even further as the NGO was inspired to engage the community like never before.



With the help of our CIEE student-interns who spent the month of November living six local villages and NGO staff, Foxes' NGO turned the Community Hall into a carnival space, with face-painting, field games, a

performance hall, a soccer tournament, and free HIV testing for all. The day began at 9 am with the kick-off of the soccer tournament where 12 village teams reported to show off their



selves!

The soccer tournament proved to be the biggest draw of the day. The teams competed in a single-

elimination tournament, playing 30 minute games. Many games ended at a tie and went to penalty kicks. The final winner of the tournament was the team from Mkonge and they took him their goat proudly!

elimination tournament, playing 30 minute games. Many games ended at a tie and went to penalty kicks. The final winner of the tournament was the team from Mkonge and they took him their goat proudly!



But most importantly, the day allowed us to offer no-cost, stigma-free testing and counseling to everyone in attendance. At the end of the day, we totaled 310 people tested- the highest number of tests ever performed at an NGO event!



## NGO Hosts Clean-Up Day Following Presidential Example

Newly-elected President Magufuli unprecedentedly canceled the Independence Day holiday this year (Dec. 9th) and instead, took to the streets of Dar es Salaam to lead a clean-up initiative. Around the country, local government and organizations followed his example- and we are no different! A group of House Mamas, children, and staff took to our streets to clean up trash in the dusty heat. In just a few hours, the once-littered street looked sparkling as neighbors



passed and congratulated the children on their hard work. More clean-up days are in the works for 2016!

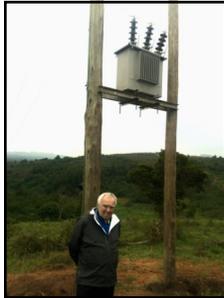


**Foxes' Community and Wildlife Conservation Trust was established in 2005 to support projects aimed at combating the devastating effects of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Mufindi district of Tanzania in East Africa. This project came to be known as Foxes' NGO. We aim to provide shelter, sustenance, education, and medical care for orphans, other vulnerable children, and people living with HIV/AIDS within the project area. This work is made possible through the partnership of our sister charities all around the world— Orphans in the Wild (UK), Mufindi Orphans (USA), African Book Box (CA), Mufindin Ystavat (FN).**



## Kentucky Proves Once Again that Mufindi Is Not Far From Their Hearts!

In the beginning of December, Tom Conway, retired mal-practice lawyer, and Dr. Bill Smock, Louisville Police Surgeon, arrived to see Mufindi in all its pre-Christmas glory! Over the past two years, Kentucky has become the new capital for US charitable giving to Foxes' NGO after unprecedented donations came pouring forward from the generous heart of Mr. Conway. His donations gave enabled the Children's Village something it has never seen— full-time electricity and a working water system. Mr. Conway and Dr. Smock arrived just in time to see the electrical poles raised up and the first



switches flipped! During this trip, Mr. Conway visited the Children's Village, had dinner with the steering committee Kamati Kuu, and attended the Kindergarten Graduation! Mr. and Mrs. Fox gave Mr. Conway a full Mufindi tour, showing him the many beautiful corners of our home.

At the culmination of the trip, our friends from Kentucky showed once again that this project means more to them than they could ever express. Mr. Conway pledged and delivered on a promise to solve the NGO's biggest challenge— transport! With no transport

vehicles of our own, the NGO has been paying hand over fist to bring children to school each day. Mr. Conway's gift has enabled one Toyota Hiace to be purchased, with another one on the way! This will enable the NGO to transport its 30+ students each day to school and help in visiting the many projects and programs being carried out in the village. We can't express our gratitude enough to this kind man and our many friends that made this all possible! Thank you, thank you, thank you!



## Artist Jean Lester Trains Teachers on Art Education

We are always so fortunate to receive visits from those who are professionals in their field! Mother-in-law of former volunteers Gail Norton and Andy Lester, Jean Lester arrived for a three week volunteer stint with her daughter-in-law Gail to work local Kindergarten teachers on art education in their classroom and curriculum. In Mufindi, art education is a low priority topic, with very little resources or understanding to support sustainable engagement. Jean

worked with the teachers to break down the barriers of what art "should" look like and encourage creativity in the teachers. Jean led the teachers in short workshops and a seminar that discussed different types of art, why art is important, and how the teachers could use their skills to create art projects in their own classrooms with the resources they have. And the teachers shone remarkably, surprising even themselves! Thank you Jean for all your hard work! Karibu tena!

