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STØTTEFORENINGEN FOR USA RIVER . TANZANIA

Letter of the month from URCC

March 2010

The volunteers' report...

This month has been marked by a lot of visitors, a beginning rain season and a more straight line when it comes to bad behavior.

Staff and volunteers have agreed upon some consequences for the children, if they have bad behavior or are disrespecting someone. After some weeks with the new system everybody seems to understand the message, and the atmosphere at the center has changed to the better. Everybody is now helping and respecting each other.

Visitors

In the beginning of the month we had some visitors from the Egmont Højskole in Denmark. It is a school, where some of the students are disabled, and the others students are helpers for the handicapped. It was a great experience for the children to meet the students and talk to them, one of them communicated not by talking, but by pointing at a board that was in front of his wheelchair. This was a big attraction and all the children were very interested. We also hope that it was a good experience for the students, it seemed to be so.

In this month Irene also got a sponsor, her name is Roselyn and she is a member of Mr. Geert's Rotary Club in Arusha. Irene has been to visit her and her family, and she is very happy to have a sponsor, especially one who is living so near to the center.

Visit at Secondary Schools

On the 9th Mama Kisanga and Eline went around to visit the Secondary schools around Usa River, where some of the kids are going. The reason why, was to tell the teachers and headmasters about our kids and the centre. It was a good day for us and many of the teachers were very happy to hear

about the children's situation. We also talked with the teacher about having a good contact, and writing notes if the children need anything for school.

Tooth brushing

This month, we have also had focus on tooth brushing! We have made a tooth brushing schedule, for the volunteers to check, if the children have brushed their teeth. If they have brushed their teeth for a week, every morning and evening, they are rewarded with two stickers. It has been a fun and nice way of doing it and everybody are very focused on remembering to brush. And it is a big thing to come up at the volunteer balcony, and be rewarded with two stickers.

Consoling

Mama Mpeku, a counsellor from Tengeru Hospital, has been visiting the centre a couple of Sundays, to talk with the older kids about sex and HIV. It has been some good meetings where the kids have had the chance to ask questions, and also hear something about things that usually are difficult to talk about. We are very happy that Mama Mpeku has the time to help, and the consulting will continue with the big children.

Goodbye Oddo

Unfortunately March has also been the month where we had to say goodbye to one of the staff members. On the 1st Oddo resigned his job at the centre. He has started his own orphanage and this is why he no longer has the time to be at the centre. But he will still be working as the chairman of the Tanzanian board.

The big moving day

On a nice Sunday afternoon, all the children helped the volunteer Bibi Julie to move her things to her new place. She is going to live at Mama Kisanga's place – where Bibi Hanne and Babu Mogens also lived. When all the things were moved, Julie had a big moving party, with juice and fruits for all the children at her new place.

All in all it has been a good month with less rain than feared. But we do not know what April brings. Otherwise we are looking forward to welcoming new volunteers, but we will also have to say goodbye to some of the old ones.