

FOXES' COMMUNITY & WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Annual Report 2011

2011 was a busy year for us in Tanzania, as we had our most productive year to date!

Orphans Village and Outreach Programme

Our Children's Village has become quite the centre of activity this year. Firstly, we have completed construction of a new house this year, so a total of five children's homes are now in use. We have already started construction on what will be the sixth and final children's home. The initiation of a day care / pre school program as well this year has meant all children have daily routines and the guardians are all acutely aware of their daily responsibilities. We look forward to the completion of the social hall next year, which will house a kindergarten for those children living too far from Igoda primary school. Funds permitting, there are plans to house a day care centre at the social centre complex as well.

We now have 55 children at the children's village, which is actually less than we had at the end of 2010. It appears as though the need is changing over time as more families are becoming able to care for their children in the village. On that note, we had a child reunite this year with her family in the village. Sekela, 3 years old, stayed at the children's village for just over two years while her own family set themselves in a better position to care for her. Shortly after Sekela arrived in July of 2009, several other families started on a similar plan: getting their homes in order while their children stay at the children's village for a temporary time. We foresee this reuniting trend to continue in the coming year, as families get back in an appropriate position to care for their children in their own homes, and with their own relatives and neighbours.

The community outreach program evolved greatly this year with the advent of the home based care program. Previously, the outreach programme consisted of Jenny Peck making house visits herself, and coordinating patients and in-village clinics for each of Dr. Leena Pasanen's visits to Mufindi. Jenny expanded this a bit with the help of a few student workers who would help her to visit more homes, cover a greater area, and more potential patients and vulnerable children.

This year we partnered with the United States Peace Corps, and welcomed a third year volunteer named Meredith Pinto. She had many responsibilities including managing the children's village temporarily, holding conferences and seminars at our Community Hall as well as other duties. But perhaps her most lasting contribution was her management role in spear-heading a home based care training and program. This 21-day training included government facilitators that gave 10 participants from 5 villages in Mdabulo ward the knowledge, and requirements to become government-sanctioned home based care volunteers working out of the Mdabulo Care and Treatment Clinic. The volunteers each visit dozens of homes of HIV patients, as well as homes of families with orphaned or vulnerable children, and they share health related education as well as administer basic first-aid. The volunteers also organize any clinics for Dr. Leena to be held in Mdabulo ward, as well as arranging for her to visit those patients that are unable to get to health facilities and need to be treated in their own homes. The community outreach program has come a long way in the past few years and during this year, has made a substantial push towards having the community care for itself.

The Milk formula program initiated in 2010 has progressed nicely this year with some insight/encouragement given by leading AID experts from Dar es Salaam. It seems this program is playing a welcomed part in the fight for HIV prevention. Funding has been pledged or has come in this year that will sustain the project for the coming years, which is great news as there is no better way to prevent the transmission of HIV to newborns after birth, and the added health benefits of the program have literally saved the lives of dozens of children thus far.

Igoda Community Hall

There have been 56 events held at the Igoda Community Hall so far, as well as an additional handful of events that were sponsored and hosted by the community itself for visits from the district offices, or other purposes. Seminars on women's and children's health, women's rights and improving marital relationships, were held this year as the community used this resource to educate itself about the topics important to them. Anne Pearson and Ruth James produced two plays at the Hall (Princess and the Pea, and On the Way to Market), with the Hall being a hub entertainment in Igoda village this year.

Of course the now perennial World AIDS Day event was a huge success once again. For the third successive year the community came together on this day to both remember those who have passed away from this disease, and educate themselves on how to prevent this disease from expanding its reach. This event seems to cap off each passing year allowing us to reflect on the many events of the previous year, as well as to look forward to the possibilities for community hall use in the coming year.

Luhunga Secondary School Library- Project Completed!

On 17th November 2011 a major event was held at Luhunga Secondary School to help open the school's brand-new library, which was built by the NGO through funds from African Book Box. Anne Pearson and Ruth James were on hand themselves to witness the opening, and the District Executive Director from Mufindi district was there as the dignitary responsible for officiating the event. This coming year, plans are to include computer studies in the library, but the facility is already in daily use as a valued educational resource, and as encouragement for the students to realize the value of books.

Mdabulo Hospital

Significant strides have been made this year on the construction of the Mdabulo Hospital Project. Firstly, we have received important funding for this project, starting with a donation from the late Tony Hodges and his wife Joan of £10,000 plus an additional £1,000 that was collected at his funeral. A Rotary club in Hong Kong with connections to Mufindi through Maureen Boost sent us \$12,500; Gord Bredek, and Evelyn Voigt from Ottawa, Canada, also raised over \$12,000 for this cause, in addition to another \$8000+ sent at the beginning of the year for medical staff wages. Finally, Erik Christensen, and his three friends hiked the Appalachian Trail in the United States to raise another \$18,000!

To date we have roofed the entire functioning wing of the Hospital, and we have refurbished some staff housing meant for Doctor's quarters. We have already started on cement wall plastering, and this year with the funding mentioned above, we feel we will have enough assistance to complete this functioning part of the Hospital. This will enable us to welcome more specialized volunteers to come to perform medical procedures at the facility.

We continue to fund some key members of the staff at Mdabulo, including a groundskeeper, nurse mid-wife (with funds from Andrew Davies and Carlo Palumbo through Orphans in the Wild) and a lab attendant (with funds from G. Bredek and E. Voigt through African Book Box). Our organization is hoping for a bigger contribution from the government this year in terms of staff sponsorship, and so far meetings have been promising. As part of a public private partnership, we hope to have all staff paid for in full by the government while our organization will continually supply specialized medical volunteers from around the world to help bolster the medical services of this rural area.

Mdabulo Care and Treatment Clinic

The Mdabulo Care and Treatment Clinic continue to help the community battle the HIV pandemic that is so prevalent in this area of Mufindi. The biggest development in this struggle occurred this year as a private donation came in from Ruth and Don James to sponsor the purchase of a CD4 Machine. We saw first hand in 2010 what damages can occur with the lack of a comprehensive HIV treatment plan. We are happy that with this CD4 Machine in place, we will not have to see patients fall through the cracks of the system, but instead we will see them receive the quality treatment they need. Along with the CD4 machine purchase, 1,000 reagents were purchased to allow for testing of CD4 counts. The Care and Treatment Clinic now has over 1,500 patients registered in its program, and the home-based care (HBC) program is helping tremendously to keep track of all patients that are in the program. The volunteers make sure to check on patients who have been 'lost to follow-up' as well as give patients educational advice on adherence, and proper nutrition. The overall improvement of HIV/AIDS treatment in just the last three or four years has changed this community from one that had been afraid of this disease, and under-educated about its effects,

to a community that is now stigma free and is taking an active role in preventing the disease from spreading to future generations.

Dr. Leena Pasanen

2011 was Dr. Leena Pasanen's third year in Mufindi with our NGO, and her continued service and medical expertise has continued to be our number one medical contribution to the area. Dr. Leena has continued her program of hosting clinics in villages, and health facilities, visiting people in their homes, and acting as head medical officer of our children's village. Although guests who have helped in the past through volunteering have frequently accompanied her, this year she has brought a plethora of volunteers with various specialties including, paediatric, neurological, orthopaedic, optometric, psychological, and other expertise that has really improved the quality of health care available in our area. Her service has received glowing reviews from across Tanzania and abroad, including the Finnish Ambassador to Tanzania who visited our projects at the beginning of the year! We are extremely lucky to have her with us, and we are delighted to announce that she has committed to move to Mufindi in a full-time role at the end of 2012, and she will be building her house this year at the children's village! Her modest stipend continues to be sponsored by funds from Mufindi Orphans Inc.

Accounts

This year was a banner year for donations from abroad, as well as from within Tanzania! Full details of Annual Accounts can be supplied on application but, briefly, total donations amounted to 587.3M Tzsh (£236,727.88) and expenditure 456.8M Tzsh (184,124.68)

Every year both income and expenditure has exceeded the previous year, and this year we saw an impressive bump! We're excited about the road ahead, but making strides towards long-term sustainability.

Volunteers

NGO benefitted greatly this year by having two long-term volunteers - Meredith Pinto and Justin Dominguez. Justin was with us from the end of 2010, and returned to the U.S. in September, while Meredith was here for the duration of 2011 under her third year of her Peace Corps contract. As mentioned earlier, Meredith was instrumental in her role in initiating the home-based care program, and Justin was a tremendous help with medical and administrative services. Justin helped raise funds for the NGO, and Peace Corps sponsored Meredith, so their stay did not create any financial burden on the NGO.

This year we also had volunteers come in from around the world, including a return from Annie Gibbs from the UK/New Zealand, Holly Harding from the UK, a group of volunteers from the United States, and dozens of volunteers brought in from Finland and Sweden through Dr. Leena Pasanen. We are excited to give this cross-cultural experience to the people of Mufindi, and we believe each volunteer has made his or her own lasting positive impact on the community.

Special thanks

Of course, none of the projects mentioned here could have been accomplished without the incredible support of our donors and volunteer organizations that help sponsor all of these endeavours. Orphans in the Wild in the UK had its most prolific year thus far in raising funds for the projects in Mufindi! Bruce and Jane Fox, Marion Gough, and Simon Shercliff run that organization. Many thanks go to them, and all those who have supported our project from the UK!

In Canada, Anne Pearson and Ruth James have really out-done themselves this year! African Book Box also gave support unlike any other year, and we are forever grateful for their contributions to the people of Mufindi!

Mufindi Orphans Inc., operated by Bob Ellis and Gary Drobnack, has continued to sponsor the modest stipends of our volunteer team of Dr. Leena Pasanen, Geoff Knight, and Jenny Peck. Without this contribution, the projects simply would not be able to continue. Through connections made with various Rotary organizations across the US, and other organizations we are already anticipating next year to be banner year for MOI donations!

We cannot thank every donor in this space, but in addition to those mentioned above and throughout this report; we wanted to thank those who have made significant contributions to the projects in Mufindi this year. Thanks go to the Viller family, Robin and Mariel Vos, Mr & Mrs N Woof (1989 Charitable Trust),

Loe Koppejan from the Dutch foundation: Het Weeshuis der Hervormden te Schiedam, and Tanzanian charitable sources- Goat Races, Corona, and the US Ambassador fund.

We are so very grateful to **all** of our donors, as it seems our family of support grows bigger every year. Asanteni sana!



Orphan House No 5



Orphan House No 6



Vocational Social Centre



Home Base Care Team



Womens' Seminar Community Centre



Luhunga Library Opening Centre



Mdabulo Extension Roof



Side View Mdabulo Extension



CT Centre Waiting Room



laboratory technician, Catherine, and her assistant, Donald with DC4 machine and equipment



Dr Leena Pasenen with patient



Dr Leena Pasenen with patient

