



August Newsletter



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Letter from the Director

Welcome to our new newsletter!

We are so excited to update you on some of the projects happening at VVS. Our residential program continues to support children from dangerous circumstances, the education program has developed beyond our wildest dreams, and we were honored to present the Sustainable Community Development Seminars with volunteer Nelia Tierny.

I will be back in Canada mid-September and look forward to sharing more details about the seminars.

Please enjoy the August edition!
Lynda Kearns, Project Director of CanaDares.

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Update on the residential and graduate programs.

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School is in session! Catch up with our school construction and meet the teachers.

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Learn about the Sustainable Community Development Seminars created with the guidance of Nelia Tierney, clinical counselor.

Residential Program

Children arrive at the program in many ways. They are brought by Social Welfare officers, police, family members who can no longer care for them, or other community members.

There are currently eleven girls and eleven boys living at VVS. Since January 2019, three groups of siblings and a little girl names Zuleya were accepted into the residential program. When VVS is presented with siblings with one over the intake age (0-12 years), exceptions are made so the siblings may stay together.

There are three full-time caregivers living onsite and two full-time caregivers living off site. The children and staff are kept safe at night by two full time security guards and guard dogs.



As always, we have Ditrick (aka Msemwa) project manager extraordinaire and his wife Stella, who has recently completed nursing school.

The small farm on the residential property is still operating! The children living at VVS gain skills working with chickens, guinea fowl, turkeys, and goats. Eggs from the farm are great for food, as well as some extra income for the program!

Younger children from the residential program now attend the new VVS school, while the older children attend public or boarding school.

With your amazing support, these 22 children are housed, fed, clothed, educated and most importantly, loved. VVS would not exist without YOU!

The Graduate Program

Hamidu, Hussein and Maria Tamba have grown up through the VVS residential program. They are continuing as VVS staff and gaining skills through the graduate program.

Hamidu (16) has successfully finished two years of electrical training and is also on staff helping with groundskeeping. He would like to take driving lessons

Hussein (19) has successfully completed driving lessons, and he has been hired at VVS as a staff member.

Maria Tamba (Pictured left, 19) has been enrolled at a teachers' college in Iringa as of March 19th. She has worked alongside teachers at the VVS educational program for two years and will return to VVS as a qualified ECE teacher.

School is in Session!

The VVS school has come so far since it's humble beginnings with two kindergarten classes in 2017. There are currently 75 students in total, with ten of them coming from the VVS residential program.

Four classrooms have been completed with two more on the way! A dining hall has also been erected for the school's lunch program. It needs some finishing touches but is already in use to feed all 75 students plus staff.

Students and residential children have been enjoying the playground built (see photo below) as well as the new soccer field (there was a great teacher vs. student game!).

The VVS values for both the school and residential programs are honesty, respect and cooperation.

Vija 1 (ages 2-3) has 28 students taught by Teachers Vicky and Medelina

Vija 2 (ages 3-4) has 13 students taught by Teacher Heaven

Vija 3 (ages 4-5) 10 children taught by Teacher Ester

Class One (ages 5-6) has 13 students taught by Teacher Edna

Class Two (ages 6-7) has 11 students taught by Teacher Athumani

- All classes are taught with a combination of Kiswahilli and English
- All classes use combination both the Tanzanian and Canadian required curriculum.
- VVS believes that in order to thrive, one must feel safe. Therefore, there is no corporal punishment.
- Literacy is achieved through textbooks and story books for pleasure
- Learning through play is not commonly used in Tanzania. At VVS school, we see it as essential for cognitive development.
- Students learn critical thinking and application learning



Above: Students, teachers, and director Lynda Kearns testing out the new playground!



Above: New lunch room!



Beside: Teachers vs. students

Volunteer Nelia Tierney

We were thrilled to welcome volunteer Nelia Tierney this summer. She is a clinical counselor with a practice in Vancouver, BC and was the perfect person to lead the creation of the Sustainable Community Development Seminars. The objective is to support positive behavioural awareness to staff, teachers, and parents so they may model positive behaviour for their children. It is our hope that this will instil in children integrity, critical thinking, and respect.

She and Lynda presented several workshops to staff and teachers during her 6 week stay. Lynda hopes to bring these workshops out into the local community as soon as possible.

Below you can see Nelia having fun with the children at a beach in Bagamoyo. Many of the newer children have never seen the ocean, so this is always a treat!

To all our supporters and donors
we sincerely thank you!

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previously living in some truly unimaginable
circumstances.

Monthly donations give true stability for the programs
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