



SHANGILIA DEUTSCHLAND E.V.
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2 flats for the employee
are ready



Shangilia Newsletter

May 2017 edition

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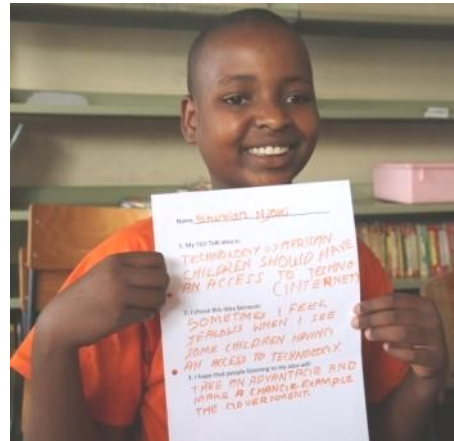
Dear Shangilia Friends,

I made my yearly spring trip in February to Nairobi and visited the project. This time I was accompanied by Brigitte Hausen, our finance expert and Alfons and Josef, who yet again came and supported us with their extensive handiwork knowledge. Again it was a great help. With their specialist knowledge we were able to improve the complete plumbing and water supply. I always find it impressive how dedicated the Kenyans work together with the German craftsmen in finding solutions to problems, developing ideas and ensuring the practical implementation. All of the employees have a deeply rooted desire to maintain what already exists in Shangilia but also to make improvements and thus we worked together to develop a plan of how to save more water. The workshops given by a German teacher in the past few years have also had a lasting effect on the teachers in Shangilia and encouraged a new problem orientated awareness in teaching. Shangilia is continuing to grow in all directions and it is very satisfying to see. Over the years a mutual trust has developed in the knowledge that we all, be it German or Kenyan, are working for the same aim: to attain the best for the children. Without your support this would not be possible. Thank you for your help!

Anja Faber, Shangilia Deutschland e.V. Bonn, May 2017



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Shangilia Children spread Ideas

The first TED Club in Nairobi

What an honor! Shangilia has been officially accepted as a member of TED-Clubs. TED stands for Technology, Entertainment/Education and Design. TED is known through the TED TALKS Website with which every user can watch high quality first class presentations by scientists, businesses, politicians and everyday people with outstanding ideas. The only proviso is: an innovative idea on a well known theme. There is therefore a multitude of videos on various themes: Science, economics, environment e.t.c. Here, ideas are presented that it are worth your attention.

And has been accepted. Some of the students will now be chosen to take part in a workshop. What does this actually mean: On the one hand the TED group watch a TED TALK every week and then discuss the topic and and if applicable how to realize the ideas.

The children learn to carry out research and develop arguments to support their ideas. They also learn to present their thoughts and ideas on the various themes to a group of people. In addition they learn to critically analyze and assess and give factually informed feedback. They gain confidence in their abilities and through the feedback are able to improve. When the ideas have been posted the world will be able to see Shangilia's TED talks. It is an amazing experience for the children and we thank Amy Hughes for her excellent work.

Alvan:
„I would like to talk about how corruption can hurt an entire country.“

Martin:
„My talk will focus on how a person needs a bit of struggle to become great.“

important for them and their aim is then to spread this idea. What do the children learn in this process? In Kenya generally, there is not much value given to discussion in schools and topics are seldom regarded critically. In Shangilia the subject is treated completely differently. TED Workshops support the work done by the teachers in dealing openly with themes for discussion.

Shuvian:
„I would like to dicuss how it is unjust that African students do not have access to technology to make their learning better.“



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Dancing strengthens self confidence

Alex – a very special dance teacher

What better could have happened to the Shangilia children than having Alex as a dance teacher. The long search for a suitable teacher who could connect with the children was worth it.

Alexus Ndagwa, 24 years old, has danced since he was 9 years old. He studied choreography and theater in Uganda. There, he was trained in every style of dance such as ballet, hip hop, African dance, modern, jazz and step dancing. He has participated in the organization of various dance productions. At present he works in different international schools, in the Kenya Dance Academy, at Art Zone Entertainment and in Shangilia. Shangilia is particularly special to him. Alex: „ The children in Shangilia are incredibly concentrated, they learn quickly and show a huge amount of interest. I always have the feeling that they really want to

learn and that is the only way to become a good dancer. I don't find this determination to learn anywhere else.“ The children also appreciate him: „ Alex is a very good teacher, I am always learning new movements and better ways to express myself. He is very patient and always funny“, says Charles. The children have the luxury of being taught by Alex, three times a week. He is strict and expects a lot of discipline. However creativity is also required: The children help to arrange each dance. As a result, all the dances are combinations of elements from the various dance styles (traditional dance, ballet, modern dance). The children don't just appreciate Alex because he is a good dance teacher. They realize that he can give them more, he can influence their lives. „When you really want something there are many possibilities but you have to work hard for them.“ That is Alex' Motto, that he wants to convey

That to the children. Success. Maybe he touches the children because he himself grew up in very poor circumstances in a Slum. „Dance, changed my life. It gives me the possibility to be more aware of myself and to be able to communicate my feelings by opening up and thus inspiring the public.“ Alex' spirit can be felt when you see the children dancing on the stage.

Charles, Judy, Monica:
„ I feel strong when I dance and I can tell that my confidence is increasing. I love being on stage and being able to express my feelings in dance. Afterwards I feel relaxed and happy. “



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Our concept shows success

John and Lizah both have degrees

How did Shangilia change your life?

Lizah: for me, Shangilia was the best school in the world. My university degree as a computer scientist is the biggest achievement that I have succeeded in, due to Shangilia. Shangilia taught me that a family is more than just blood. We looked after each other with much love. Being a mother myself now, I am able to look after my family.

John:

Due to Shangilia my life changed in many ways. I didn't just go to school but I learnt many other things including the importance of discipline. Shangilia gave me a home. I learnt to respect others. We grew up in one huge family. We played together, carried out our daily household chores and helped each other when it was necessary.

What would you tell the children today to guide them on their way, that they should be aware of on their journey through life?

Lizah: My thought, for those who still live in Shangilia is: There is always light at the end of the tunnel. It doesn't matter where you come from, we all have the same chances in life. Be positive, concentrate and work hard to be able to reach your goals. And put God above everything.

John: Whenever I have the chance to speak to the Shangilia children, I try and make them understand what an amazing chance they have to be in Shangilia and that the people that support Shangilia make these chances possible. I try and make them believe that everything is possible when they work hard, show respect and do their best.

What is your life like today?

Lizah: I am the proud mother of a wonderful son called Morgan Kamau and have a family. I work as an IT consultant. At the moment I am employed by the company "ICT Clerk" of the Election Body in Kenya. When I am not employed by anyone, I work for myself. I repair and install computers for private individuals or organizations like Shangilia. As well as that I create websites.

John: I completed my degree at the Daystar University. For several months I worked at various production companies. Following an internship at the ARD office in Nairobi I was given a contract for 3 years. In the time that I have been there I have learnt a lot.



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Where would you be today without Shangilia?

Lizah: I think that without Shangilia I would probably be living on the streets, would not have gone to school, have 5 children who would all be sniffing glue or other cheap drugs. I am thankful to all those who take care of everything in Shangilia.

I thank everyone who looks after the children, those who raise and educate them and give them confidence, also those who make the delicious food. My particular thanks go to Mr. Njenga and his co-workers and to all the Friends of Shangilia in and outside of Kenya. May God bless them.

John: Before I came to Shangilia, I lived as a street child in Nairobi. Without the possibilities I was given in Shangilia it would have been very difficult for me to make something of my life and achieve as much as I have. My life would look very different. I would be a different person and would probably be living in a much worse place. I am really thankful for everything I have.



Thanks to DESWOS

The first house for the employees is finished

Finally it is possible for the two teachers Martin and Ken to move into the 50m squared flats with their families. The elation is great. By Kenyan standards, the fixtures of the interior are very special, tiles, taps, sinks have all been brought from Germany, thanks to the company Guldenich. The employees are able to take advantage of these particular fittings. Not only that, but, Alfons Guldenkirch and Josef Brendgens together with the Kenyans, made sure that the water connection was secure and that rooms, door frames

and the window grills were painted. Ken said: "We are so lucky and thankful to be the first to move into the new flats. For our families and us it means a massive improvement in our standard of living. We are so happy to finally be able to stay longer and at weekends at Shangilia and to be able to support the children more, for example helping with homework but also just to be able to play football with them."

The building of the next 4 flats has already started and we hope that they will be finished by the beginning of 2018.





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Volunteering at Shangilia

We regularly receive inquiries from young people who would like to spend some time in Shangilia and get to know the project better. The question is, how best to involve such volunteers so that it is beneficial to both sides. This depends very much on their qualifications, abilities and ideas of each party.

For example, Madleen was in the middle of her social work degree and was able to work very closely with our social worker Tabitha Kioni during her time at Shangilia. It was an enriching time for both in as much as they were able to exchange expertise. Tabitha said, "Madleen gave me good ideas on improving our organization. We organized workshops for the children together from which I benefited from her suggestions." Madleen said of her experiences. "My experience in Kenyan social work gave me a completely new insight into the subject of close proximity and distance, as opposed to what is taught in Germany. I have been

Made aware that individual methods and concepts of social work are embedded enormously in socio-social structures and is difficult to separate them. I will be taking some important findings back to Germany with me. For example it is imperative to always have your target group in mind when preparing work strategies instead of trying to impart your own ideas and concepts – sooner or later that leads to problems. My most important learning experiences were to be able to immerse myself in a situation (including thoughts - and behaviour) without judging it from my perspective or to think that my approach/attitude was better. In addition, to learn to accept every individual as an independent person and not to have a preconceived image of someone."

Our volunteer Lea was able to support the teachers by giving tutorials in smaller groups as she did in Germany. This gave the children the chance to go over their lesson content again. A certain amount of individual initiative is necessary and Lea taught the children

running games or made things with them, which they enjoyed. Lea also helped with reorganizing the library to make it more attractive for the children.

"The children fascinate me. I live with them under one roof, know their backgrounds and get to know the different characters. I can really say that I have never had contact with such strong and impressive children. Shangilia is a place where the children can be children. They play, laugh, learn, build a future for themselves. Ideally I would love to put all the small children in my suitcase and take them with me but I know that however much I will miss them, the children here in Shangilia have a home where they are protected and happy. Shangilia is a family that has good and bad times but in the end they all hold together. From my very first day I was warmly welcomed into this family".



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This and that at Shangilia

The German Embassy supports Shangilia



At the end of February two employees from the Germany Embassy visited Shangilia. They were very interested and asked many questions about the running of Shangilia. The children gave a performance at the end of the visit. A few days later Mr Kamau and Mr Njenga, members of the board of Shangilia Kenya and Anja Faber visited Mr Koppel at the Germany Embassy to discuss possibilities of cooperation and exchanging ideas.

We are delighted that Shangilia left such a lasting impression on the embassy and that they have kindly agreed to cover the costs for the desperately needed repairs to the stage and provision of a new stereo system and stage lighting. The materials for the stage floor have already been donated by a Kenyan company.

Alice and Janetmary Graduate



Alice Wachera and Janetmary Kahende have successfully completed their training as hairdressers. They are both very proud of their achievements and we are too.

We wish them all the best and hope that they are able to find employment soon.

Sheila Musera, one of the Shangilia teachers attended the official graduation ceremony..



New education minister takes drastic measures



The new education minister, Fred Matiangi, discovered many cases of fraud and irregularities linked to the centrally controlled end of year exams in primary as well as secondary schools in Kenya, due to spontaneous unannounced inspections. As a consequence he has warned of stricter controls and drastic measures that will be taken in 2017.

At Shangilia the tests are carried out correctly. The best students, Emmanuel and Cyrus achieved 376 and 374 points from 500. We are all proud of these results. The best student in Kenya had 436 points. Following our jointly considered strict criteria, 10 children can now attend secondary school, 2 children will repeat their year. Three children successfully completed secondary school.





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Special Commitment

Our partners

Anja Frerich



Anja Frerich is one of people who work quietly in the background, supporting us. For many years already she has translated the sponsorship letters that we receive from the social worker in Kenya that inform the sponsors about their children. She heard about the project

through Katharina Kiecol, years ago but a presentation by Frank Plasberg inspired her to sponsor a child herself.

"I was immediately drawn to Shangilia from the beginning. I found it fascinating and I liked the fact that it was a small straightforward project. It is easy to understand the organization. Straight away I could imagine getting involved personally. I am lucky enough to be very flexible and looked for a job that I could do when it suited me. I really enjoy writing the annual reports. I learn a lot about the development of the children.

"I already had had sponsorships with a larger organisation and missed the personal touch. Through the letters, we were able to get to know our sponsored child, Benjamin always had a lot to tell us. We were then lucky enough to have Benjamin come and visit us twice in Germany. That was a very emotional experience for all of us. There was an immediate connection between Benjamin and our sons and the experience has had a lasting effect. We continue to follow his progress with interest and are delighted with each of his successes and worry when something maybe doesn't work. Our next aim is to visit him in Kenya and we are sure that we will soon be able to do this"

Konrad Klepping Vocational College in Dortmund



Konrad Klepping Vocational college in Dortmund has been supporting Shangilia since 2012. Their commitment is impressive. Every year the teachers organize an "Africa Day" with different speakers. They give their students the chance to take a look at the African continent and to gain an insight into other cultures and ways of life.

The proceeds of the Christmas bazaar, the Nikolaus Action and the sale of roses on Valentines Day, benefit Shangilia. In 2012 and 2016 several children from Shangilia visited KKB and in 2015, Japheth Njenga the director of the home, was able to take part in "Africa Day" and could give the students and teachers first hand information. In 2016 2 students from KKB took part in the youth exchange and were enthusiastic on their return from Kenya.

However it is not only the students who are active. We are delighted that the teachers have taken on a second apprentice sponsorship. Martha has already completed her training and finished best in her year, and Sammy has just started his second year of training. Silvia Disse, teacher at KKB says: „We are happy to support the young people in Shangilia. My colleagues are convinced that the focus of our work here at KKB is to give young people help in starting their vocational training. Here too it is all about improving the chances in life of the young people by gaining a good vocational qualification."



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Latest news

+
Casper is the new Skateboard teacher at Shangilia – he replaces Robin. We thank Skate Aid for their continuing support!

+
Shangilia has 2 new table tennis tables and bats and thanks to Barnim Gymnasium in Berlin we also have new musical instruments

+
Thanks to Humanitas Activa for the container transport enabling us to get many things delivered to Kenya

+
Thanks to the Elephantsclub and DST Consulting for their financial support

The new children at Shangilia have already settled in well!



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We say a huge thank you for your support and hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter