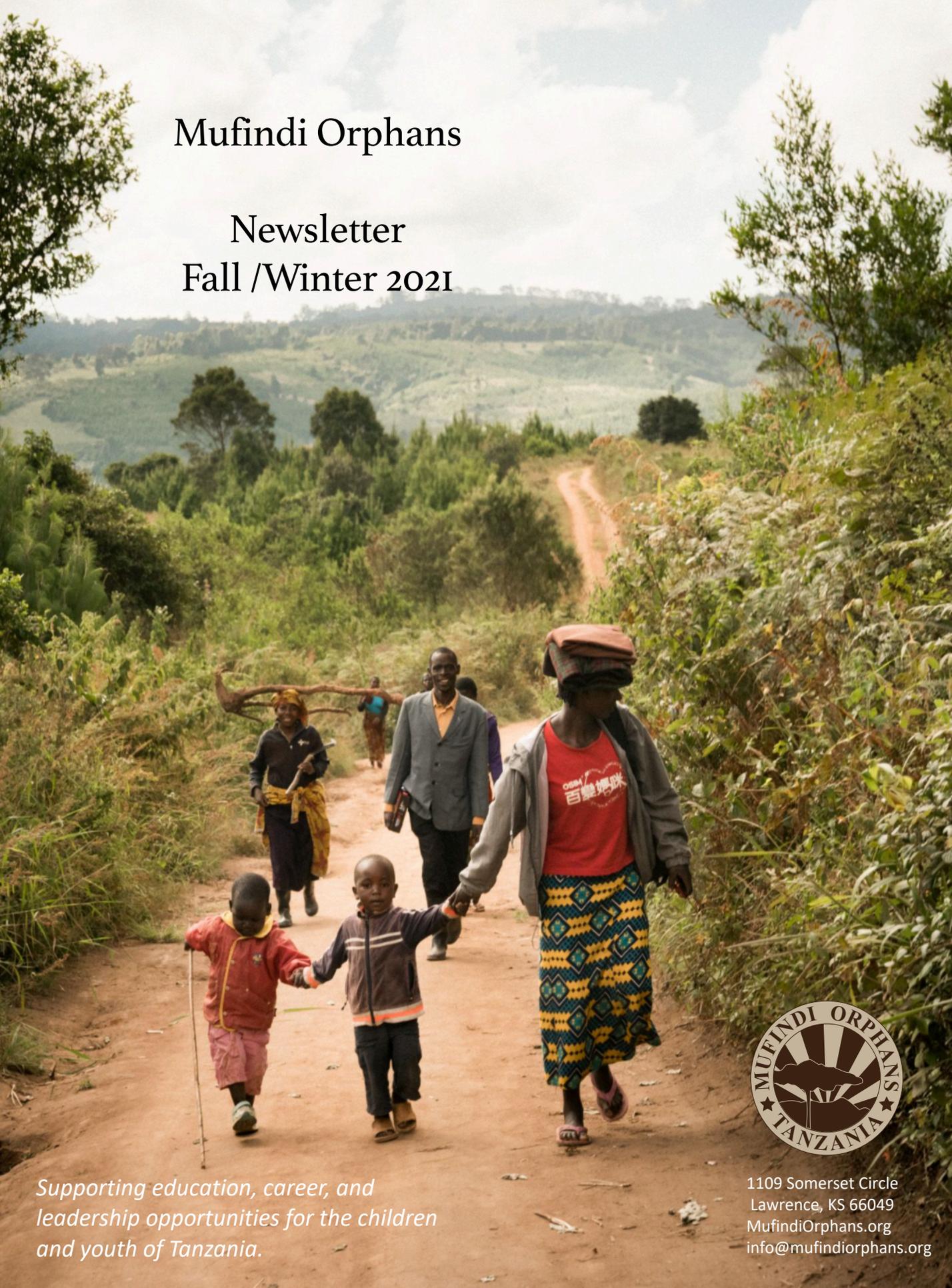


Mufindi Orphans

Newsletter
Fall /Winter 2021



Supporting education, career, and leadership opportunities for the children and youth of Tanzania.

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Executive Letter

Mufindi Orphans would like to extend its most sincere gratitude to all of our supporters. The past few years have been a challenging time for everyone in so many ways, and we are incredibly thankful for your continued contributions.

We can say with our whole hearts that the children in our programs would not be where they are without you. We know that there is need in many places, and we are honored you chose to support us and our work to improve the lives of kids that need it the most. The encouraging words, the phone calls, and the financial support you have shown, especially during this time, has meant the world to our team. The impact you are making by helping a child go to school, attend an educational enrichment camp, or get emergency medical care, have had an enormous impact on their lives already.

*Cathy Knight,
President*

*Mark Ewing,
Vice President*

Board Members
*Joanne Ewing
Rachel Miller
Amari Alexander
Mary Cronemeyer
Sarah Crangle*

Jenny was lucky enough to travel to Tanzania this past August to see most of the kids and follow up on their schooling, living situations, health and overall wellness. We were all very concerned on how COVID-19 was going to impact the physical health of the children we support, but from the visit, we learned that the secondary impacts of the pandemic, such as massive job loss and schools closing, hit the communities we serve hardest. Despite the challenges our students faced, your support allowed us to meet these obstacles head-on, and in turn, we got to see the beauty and creativity of how a community truly supports each other. There was pure joy being together again- to talk, hug, study, and catch up on how the last year's experience was. We are happy to report that our kids not only love school, but are AMAZING at it. They are all at the top of their classes and thriving.

So many people stopped Jenny on her visit to tell her to thank everyone who supported these kids, so we wanted to make sure all of you received their message of thanks!

With gratitude,

Jenny Peck and Geoff Knight





Student Updates



Over the past years, Mufindi Orphans has been able to support a number of students with the Student Sponsorship program. Students living at Foxes' NGO Children's Village in Mufindi, as well as children from the community at large have benefitted from your support, and have been able to continue their schooling. We wanted to highlight two older children who have received support as a result of your generous contributions.



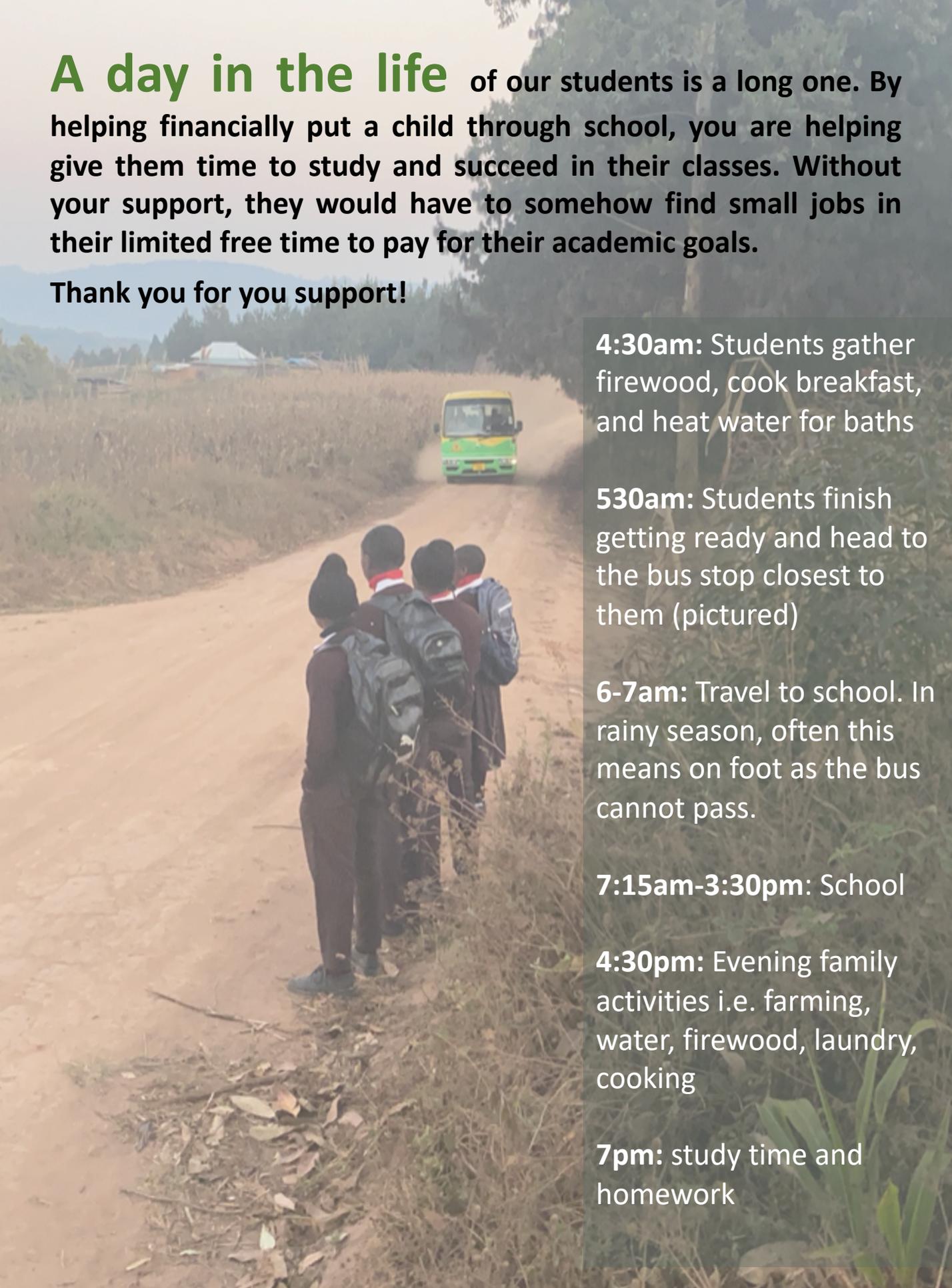
Hosea, a quiet, shy, 16 year old boy interested in space and the stars, has done amazing in his last year of primary school, and is very excited to start secondary school this January. Right now, he is taking a 3 month English training course prior to high school, called Pre-Form, to make sure his English skills are the best they can be and he can perform at his best from the start of the new school year. His national exam results from primary school showed that he has an average of a B in all his courses- quite an accomplishment! His best subjects were Swahili, English, Math and Science, and when he grows up he says he wants to be an astronomist.

Evaneth just recently moved out of the Foxes' NGO Children's Village back into the surrounding community with her grandmother due to her age (In Tanzania, children cannot live in Children's Centers past the age of 16). Evaneth has just finished an intense national exam year at school, where she worked very hard and will get her results in late December. We are all wishing her luck! She is attending an academic enrichment camp hosted by Every Child Tanzania during this long 6-week school break. At this camp, she and a group of girls her same age will review the materials they learned in Form 1 and 2, as well as participate in opportunities for growth and leadership, with the goal of boosting self confidence and advocacy skills in young women.



A day in the life of our students is a long one. By helping financially put a child through school, you are helping give them time to study and succeed in their classes. Without your support, they would have to somehow find small jobs in their limited free time to pay for their academic goals.

Thank you for your support!



4:30am: Students gather firewood, cook breakfast, and heat water for baths

530am: Students finish getting ready and head to the bus stop closest to them (pictured)

6-7am: Travel to school. In rainy season, often this means on foot as the bus cannot pass.

7:15am-3:30pm: School

4:30pm: Evening family activities i.e. farming, water, firewood, laundry, cooking

7pm: study time and homework

In Remembrance



Mufindi Orphans has had some heart-breaking losses this year as two of our students in the sponsorship program have passed away. Ahazi Mtilega, 13, passed away in November from complications with pneumonia. He had a congenital heart disease, but had been in good health for years, and was doing great in school- in fact, he was head boy and top of his class. MOI was able to send emergency money to help with treatment during the stay at the hospital and cover the expenses at the funeral. Our deepest condolences to the Mtilega Family.



This year we also lost 17-year old Meshack Kalinga. Meshack, a young man who lived with HIV, had moved back to the community with his adult siblings a few years ago. Meshack needed a lot of support and encouragement for adherence to daily medicine and was unfortunately unable to receive such help. We will all miss his goofy smile, amazing jokes and his curiosity. Jenny was able to send our condolences as she attended Meshack's funeral while she was in Tanzania.



Mufindi Orphans was profoundly saddened this year by the loss of Tom Conway. Mr. Conway has generously supported projects in Tanzania since 2015. His major contributions helped install electricity and water at the Foxes' Children's Village, provide transport for students getting to school daily, equip a computer room with laptops, sponsor students through advanced schooling, and he helped host a fundraising event in Louisville, Kentucky for on the ground efforts in Mufindi.



Beyond that however, Mr. Conway was an ardent advocate for the programs in Tanzania. His care, empathy, and compassion for the people of Tanzania was deeply felt by everyone he met in Tanzania. He will be missed by so many, but forgotten by no one. All of our love to his family during this time.

Presenting the future with: PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

Mufindi Orphans seeks to create a safe environment for our students to learn and find success in school, and enable all students to curate their own success in their careers and life.

One of the challenges that has come to light over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic is the support that is lacking for young adults during this crucial point in their lives. Traditional children's centers are not permitted to house children over the age of 16, and this is creating an enormous gap in the care of children as they approach adulthood.

A nuanced approach is required to keep children from falling through the cracks, and in response to these challenges, Mufindi Orphans is supporting a multi-organizational project named "Project Opportunity" that will act as a fellowship for the young adults all aiming to embark on a successful career and life.

Project Opportunity includes:

- A camp experience during school breaks- games, activities and experiences to help cultivate a sense of confidence and self worth
- Mental and physical health support for young adults, including menstrual health hygiene, counseling for HIV+ young adults, and trauma support for those who have been through sexual and physical violence.
- Academic training from teachers invited from some of the best schools in Tanzania, using a curriculum developed by education experts.
- Access to job placement opportunities via internships
- Provision of a 'home away from home' and a safe place to anchor down and sculpt their own futures

We have a lot of work to do, including finalizing the purchase of the farm where this will take place. But, due to some amazing support from our donors, and due to the extreme need of the children we sponsor, we were able to meet the need and we were able to provide a mini-camp experience for a small group of vulnerable girls. We cannot wait to share updates as plans continue.

“Haba na haba hujaza kibaba”

#GivingTuesday



There are many great causes to support and we appreciate your choice to continue helping bolster our activities in Tanzania. Your support makes a significant impact in the life of a child!

This is how far your dollar can go:

\$660 (\$55/month) – Full Sponsorship of one child’s educational fees, school supplies, school lunch, exam fees, uniform and transport costs.

\$300 (\$25/month) – Full sponsorship of one child through a 6 week Academic Enrichment Camp during school holidays

This year has been tough for everyone. We hope you will join our efforts to keep children in school with any amount you can.

In Swahili, ***“Haba na haba hujaza kibaba”*** is a common expression meaning ‘Drop by drop, fills the jug’.