

# THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Tanzania



## WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 1 Random Acts of Kindness
- 2 Mother & Son Volunteer
- 3 Football Fever
- 4 Meet the President
- 5 Helping Maasai Widows

Follow us on



[www.projects-abroad.net](http://www.projects-abroad.net)

ProjectsAbroad

# Building, Dirt & Donations



Zoe Perkins, an Australian volunteer with the Teaching Project made a special donation to the students at the Maasai School before leaving the country after 3 months. Zoe purchased brand new 2-piece sports jerseys for all the students attending the school. Most of the children come from very poor families and their clothes are often tattered and torn. The clothing donation was greatly appreciated as temperatures in the dry, treeless terrain can drop to the low 20s during the African winter. Meanwhile, just across from the current Maasai School, the progress on the future Projects Abroad Academy is nearing completion. The builders and volunteers were just preparing to complete the floor and roof during our last visit in May.



**Volunteers participated in a viral social project called Random Acts of Kindness last month.**

**Check out the YouTube video to learn how we helped a Maasai village.**

[Random Acts of Kindness Video](#)



## Mother & Son Volunteer for a Year

By Linni Ingemundsen  
(Norway)  
Journalism Volunteer

Gillian (47) and Jacob (12) are a mother and son from Canada, who are travelling the world together. "I travelled when I was young and I know that the best way to learn is by meeting new people and seeing new places. I wanted to do it again and I also wanted Jacob to experience it." Gillian says.

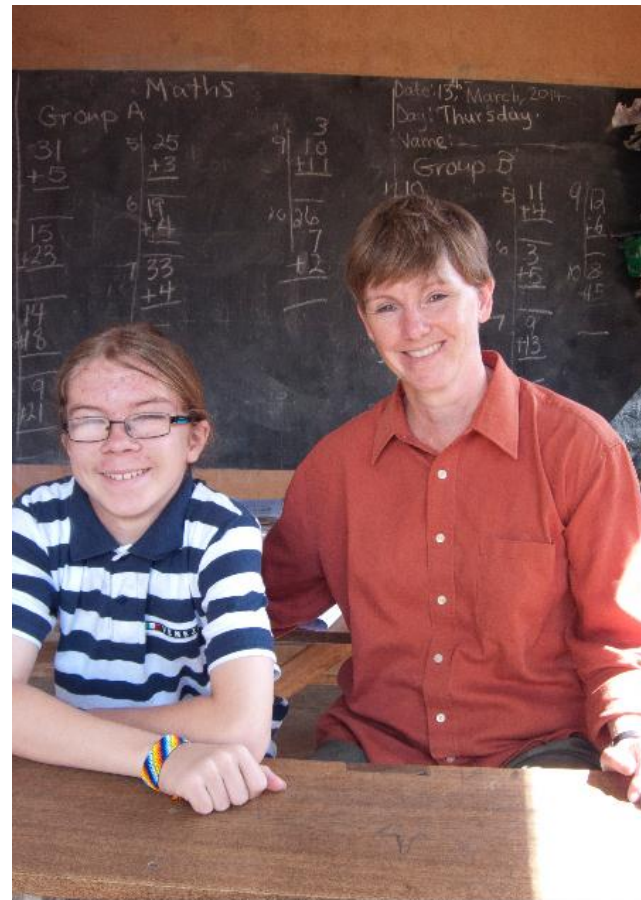
During their trip they spent six weeks in Tanzania volunteering with Projects Abroad. They worked at Hillcrest Nursery School and lived with a local host family. At the school they would serve meals, assist with the teaching, do dishes and supervise on the playground.

Gillian wanted their experience to include giving something back to the communities they visited, and that was how they came to volunteer. Jacob was the one who chose teaching as he wanted to work with people.

Volunteering at Hillcrest has been one of Jacobs's favourite parts of travelling. He enjoyed it so much that he has already made plans to come back. "In my 18th year I want to volunteer at Hillcrest again and stay with the same family." He also found it very easy to adapt to the culture in Tanzania. "I like that it is slow and relaxed and not fast-paced.

For Gillian the favourite part hasn't been a place, but the experience in general. "Jacob and I have grown so much closer on this trip. We are always together and we talk a lot about what we are experiencing. Jacob is an extremely good travel companion because he is really easy to be with. It has just been the best way to travel and learn."

Jacob feels very lucky to be a part of this: "I haven't heard about a lot of people who have travelled the world as a child or even as an adult. I loved meeting new people and seeing different lifestyles" Gillian says: "What surprises me is that throughout the trip he has turned to me and said thank you a lot. That shows me that he really appreciates what's happening this year."





## Celebrating Football & World Cup

by Seleman Pharles (Tanzania)  
Communications Intern



Football is one of the most liked games in the world. We have a lot of sports in Tanzania but some are only played depending on, the area, whereas other games are determined by people's economic status or education. However, football is the game for all, no matter if you're poor or rich, male or female.

In Tanzania the game is both a business and a leisure activity. Most of the children play football for leisure. Those with special talent, play every evening after school or during the weekend.

Children use open spaces in the street or school grounds with no fence where they can play football freely..

Football has made changes to peoples' lives in Tanzania, especially those playing for big teams. Children start being interested in this sport at an early age, when they find themselves interacting with fellow children. Some children are interested in the game with the hopes of being sponsored by a school where children with such talents obtain their studies for free such as Makongo Secondary School in Dar es Salaam. Football in Tanzania brings people together to share happiness, while others learn from watching international matches.

Due to poverty children find themselves with no ability to buy professional footballs, hence they create their own out of plastic bags, sewing it with ropes to make it into a real football.

This year people are very much aware of the World cup in Brazil. Business people have prepared football viewing huts (local pubs) to attract more patrons. The old pubs which were used for watching the Premier League, the European Cup and other matches are now ready for the World Cup. Most people relax when the matches are played in the evening.

Football fans, especially men, are well prepared and you can see young people with drums when their teams win. People celebrate through a drum beating style called *ChinjaChinja* (slaughtering).

Drums beating in the streets with people running from one place to another is mostly seen or heard when the teams win, especially Brazil and Spain which are the most liked teams in Tanzania.

## Medical Volunteer meets the President during International Nurses Day



President Jakaya Kikwete, along with other important government officials, joined hundreds of local nurses, residents and school children to celebrate International Nurses Day at the Shiek Stadium in Arusha, Tanzania on May the 12<sup>th</sup> 2014.

In the early morning, just as the sun was rising, the nurses led a march from Mt. Meru Hospital, one of the largest government hospitals in Arusha to the stadium.

Thousands of spectators gathered in the stands of the stadium to witness the event, which included several song and dance performances from the local youth. The nurses also marched through the arena with banners and sang songs of cheer.

Georgina Tenga, a medical coordinator for Projects Abroad Tanzania and Dutch volunteer, Marielle Voskamp, attended the event in collaboration with Ngarenaro Hospital, where Marielle is volunteering for 3 months. Marielle was fortunate to have the chance to shake hands with the President of Tanzania, an experience she won't soon forget.

In Arusha, Projects Abroad offers medical placements at Mt. Meru Hospital, Nagarenaro Hospital, St. Elizabeth and West Meru Hospital. In Dar Es Salaam, volunteers work at Mwanayamala, a teaching hospital which provides learning opportunities for pre-med students.



# Helping Maasai Widows & Children

By Linni Ingemundsen (Norway)  
Journalism Project Volunteer



Inherit Your Rights is an NGO that helps widows and vulnerable women in Tanzania, concerning their property and inheritance rights. They have three different aspects: education empowerment and representation.

They educate the women by letting them know what their rights are. They empower them through micro-enterprise projects that will provide them with a source of income and the representation part involves giving them advice and connecting them with lawyers if they need to go to court.

Gwyneth Hesser is a lawyer from the US who is currently volunteering at the NGO as a program coordinator. She says that they train and help several groups of women in different Maasai villages. A lot of them are widows, but not all of them. "The idea is to prevent problems before they occur. We focus on will writing and on educating them before they become widows".

When it comes to the representation, one of the things they help the women with is explaining the differences between customary and statutory law. "When a woman becomes a widow her husband's family might try to take the land from her but according to constitutional and statutory law she has a right to that land. We explain to them what the process is and then connect them to representation, if they want to proceed through that process. A lot of the time they don't realize that there is free representation available to them."

Gwyneth further explains how they help the widows make an income. "We have a group of women who make greeting cards that we sell for them. We are also teaching some of the women how to take care of chickens and gradually we will give them some chickens that can provide them with eggs to sell."

Inherit Your Rights has also sent a few women to sewing school recently. When they are done with their training they will open a shop. Those who helped with this project were Lise Van Ingen (23) and Lotte Peeters (25) from the Netherlands who are currently volunteering at the NGO. Last year someone donated a sewing machine to one of the groups, but none of the women knew how to sew.

Read more about IYR by [clicking here...](#)