Upendo Foundation Australia

Annual report

2024

Moving House

In November, we left our home in Moshi because it was no longer safe for the children. We moved to a house in Boma N'gombe and, when our six-month lease ended, relocated to Siha. The new home has room for chickens and a small garden. It is further from the children's schools, so we now cover school bus fares as well as higher rent.

Schools

The children settled into English-medium primary and secondary schools. These have proven to be the best quality schools that our children have attended. When the kids started there the teachers conducted a thorough evaluation of each child. This highlighted how far behind many of our children are owing mostly to their problematic backgrounds. The good news is that the schools are dedicated to working hard with these kids to bring them up to standard.

Children

Some will continue to struggle in school, but others are really doing well. We need to work harder in the home to encourage and help the strugglers. In June three students, successfully completed year 10 and were waiting for allocation to new schools for their final two years of high school. One boy hopes to pursue a career in agriculture. Another boy continues at tour guide school and seems to be enjoying that. Our oldest girl is nearly finished first year studying law at the Cooperative University in Moshi getting good marks. One of our younger boys continues to suffer from ill-thrift and is having more medical tests.

Staff Members

During the year, we lost two staff members. Our matron and our cook moved on for family reasons. A lady who had been volunteering with us stepped into those roles and filled them both for some time until a new lady was appointed on a trial as cook. She is now permanently employed and proving a valued member of our team.

Two staff members began sharing overnight care of the older boys. Finding a permanent carer for this role remained a priority.

Sponsors and Donors

Most of our sponsors and monthly donors have continued to support our children, although two have dropped off.

We have had some generous new donors come on board and some drop off. Without naming them we should especially recognise our larger donors who make our larger projects possible.

Monthly donations have increased and these are most welcome for managing our monthly budget.

Fundraising events

Major fundraising activities included:

- Rose street Market continued to generate income for Upendo thanks to the tireless Alison Doery. Alison retired from this in December 2024. Thank you, Alison, for your outstanding contribution to Upendo for over 14 years.
- Great Ocean Road Marathon even organised by Oliver Sim
- Eat Rice campaign organised by Jane Andrews.
- Safari partnership with RAW Africa EcoTours – one safari in Sept 24

Tanzanian NGO

During the year we changed our Tanzanian NGO to an international NGO to be called Upendo Foundation Australia Children's Home. As part of the process, we were able to appoint a more professional board in Tanzania with two Australian representatives.

Board members are:

Anthony Sim	Chair
Faith Mutheu	Secretary
Mr Exaud Mbazi	Treasurer (accountant)
Ms Lia Marrone	(finance)
Mr Munguatosha Mmbando	(academic)
Ms Hawa Swai	(social worker)

Rites of Passage workshops

In October 2024 volunteer Elyjah McLeod organised a Rites of Passage weekend camp for our older boys to help them transition to honourable young men in partnership with Edward Mwendamseke. It was a major event in these young men's lives. Following this, our director Faith partnered with a local woman to run a similar event for our teenage girls and they all benefited from this activity. Thanks to Elyjah for this.