

# TUMAINI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

## Annual General Report - 2019

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## Tumaini Children's Foundation-Canada

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#### Vision of Tumaini Children's Foundation:



1- To provide a safe, stable, nurturing environment for our children where they will learn kindness and respect for themselves and for others through the examples we set before them. A home where they will become confident enough to mourn their losses, dream of their futures and learn that each of us have a voice, and a responsibility about tomorrow.

2-To respect and encourage familial connections and religious affiliations of our children and to work to ensure their spiritual development.

3-To provide the most nutritious menus that we can afford and to maintain a cultural respect for the native foods of Tanzania. To continue providing emergency food to our outreach groups

4-To ensure that the stigmas associated with HIV, disabilities and being an orphan wane so that our children stop carrying these burdens and that the ideology of victimhood, so prevalent in the poor, be eradicated to allow our children the opportunity to look forward with optimism and hope.

5-To provide quality, and proactive, not simply reactive medical care, to our children and staff and to continue to provide emergency medical care to our outreach groups.

6- To work to facilitate the highest academic pursuits for our children, without financial prudence.

7-To ensure that our children are aware that they have rights and to teach them exactly what those rights are.

8-To educate and protect our children from corruption.

9-To foster a 'pay it forward' philosophy in our children so that they will want to give back to Tumaini what they have received.

**Mission -Tumaini:** "With Hope All Things are Possible"

**History:** Tumaini Children's Foundation is a not-for-profit, charitable organization dedicated to the care, support and education of orphaned and needy children in and around Usa River, Tanzania. Tumaini was established in 2009 after Mama Dee travelled to Tanzania, met Oddo and with a common vision, partnered and began providing relief to orphaned and vulnerable children. Mama Dee and Oddo, upon making home visits, assessed needs and began providing emergency medical care, food and immediate support (not use "needs" again) until Tumaini house opened in February 2010 with 24 children invited to reside there. Many of the children were orphans; whilst others had families who were unable to provide care because of their own circumstances and several were handicapped and required special assistance. Additionally, Tumaini began providing outreach services to children and their bibis (grandmothers) around the village, the beginning premise of our Family Support program.

**Greetings from Mama:** 2019 has been indeed a year for the record books! We began with 29 of our (outreach and resident) students entering Form I at Nshupu Secondary School. Having graduated out of english medium schools they experienced quite an adjustment stepping into a more traditional (good and bad) government school. Our support (salaries funded for four math teachers, renovation and provision of water for student toilets, sexual/HIV awareness seminar of Nshupu Secondary) has generated extraordinary results for which we are immensely proud.



We were fortunate to obtain funding again to continue another year of the social welfare program. We have further assisted social welfare in funding home inspections in our area and in return, they helped Tumaini in applying for our license.

The vast majority of our Tumaini children have entered their teens and all that could be expected is beginning to occur: hormones, moods, tempers, and distractions, (did I say hormones?). Enormous thanks to two volunteers who have established

and presented a program on self-awareness and future building, and another on sexuality and hygiene providing important but culturally sensitive information.

We have tightened up our volunteer policies insomuch as each volunteer will come with a self-funded, pre-approved project in order to bring their best skills to Tumaini and our community. Some of these, (in addition to those mentioned above), included “canning” and food preservation, concentrated study on multiples of ten in math, introduction to computers, Boxers4all which not only provided long term employment to three of our mamas, but supplied underwear to male students at five local schools.

We gratefully said our goodbyes to retiring director Bonnie Wardell with thanks for seven years of support and then happily welcomed primary school teacher Leslie Butler and retired social worker Sharon Norrington to the Board. These ladies bring much needed skills to assist with the future growth and advancement of Tumaini Canada!

New B.C. supporters Pam Pasicnyk (pharmacy), Kevin Clarke (sales), Sandie Atkinson (education), and Dolores Simmons (education) have teamed up in Vancouver to become the foundation of our western support branch and we could not be more grateful!

Tumaini has been incredibly blessed with sponsorship and donor support throughout our years and I must say an incredible thank you for the love (and dollars) you give. Tumaini receives no government financial support (neither Canada, nor Tanzania) so without you, we simply would not exist, and I am without words for how to say thank you . . .

Canada remains the primary funder for Tanzania with 55.18% of support coming from us. Long term sponsors continue to bless us with their support, (some as long as ten years ago).

2019 was a year of growth and change. Many of our students did not perform as hoped and we did struggle with some attitude issues, but for the most part, our children are growing into incredibly independent, self-monitoring young adults. Our goal is to support them through this challenging period of development focusing on personal goals, self-dignity and kindness and respect for others. Asante Sana!

**Ten Years Later** -Tumaini Children’s Foundation from its humble beginnings has grown into a vibrant, socially responsible and conscientious organization that is helping and supporting children, families, extended families, schools and the local community.

**How does Tumaini Children’s Foundation make a difference in the lives of children, families and communities in Tanzania:**

- Tumaini supports more than 100 needy children living in and around Ngyani Village, Usa River. We ensure the safety, medical, educational, emotional and social needs of the children are met. About half of our children reside at Tumaini and the balance are cared for in an outreach capacity. Wherever possible, Tumaini attempts to provide aid to a needy child in their home, unless circumstances preclude the opportunity to do so. Where able and appropriate, children are supported in maintaining relationships with family members and siblings.
- **Family Support Program-** Tumaini Children’s Foundation supports children to reside within their family of origin, including mothers, bibis and babus. Support includes assisting with schooling, housing, medical care and meeting the basic needs of living such as food. Norah, for example, (right) required brain surgery to relieve pressure from hydrocephalus which allowed her to attend school. Tumaini assisted in the costs of the surgery and provides ongoing support for her school fees. Additionally, Tumaini provides financial support by means of ongoing food supply. Winnie, a multi-handicapped teen living with her grandmother and brother Colin, is assisted with school fees.
- **Health-** The importance of meeting the health needs of our children is paramount to ensure their wellbeing. We proactively address the medical and dental needs of our children. This includes ongoing physiotherapy, HIV support and corrective surgeries, (ie. Esther, Latifa, Harriri) as needed.
- **Education-** Tumaini’s objective is to take our children as far, educationally, as they are capable of achieving. Following their anticipated dreams and performance levels, Tumaini finds funding which enables our children to attend the most suitable schools possible. Godlove, with our support, graduated his first level of secondary school with





the highest marks achievable. Francis attended a top neighbourhood school and finished his primary education #1 *in our entire District*, outperforming thousands of other children and earning a position at the most prestigious government secondary school in the country.



A Canadian volunteer (retired teacher and librarian) led the fundraising campaign for a new library. Working together with village parents, a girls' hostel was constructed and together with access to the new library generated the first scenario (2018) where every girl passed their national exam and in 2019 resulted in the first, ever, Division 1 (highest grade possible) at our local Nshupu Secondary School.

Tumaini's support has also resulted in tremendous success for Angel, Neema and Francis who earned top marks in their Form II (similar to Grade 10) national exams.



**Education continued**-Two Tumaini volunteers (Canadian teachers) spearheaded a fundraising program to provide food to poorer students at Ngyani Primary School which eliminated the barriers preventing them from attending school. Further support prevented a 15-year-old Maasai girl in secondary school from being withdrawn and married off by her parents.



- **Community Outreach**- Tumaini helps individual citizens within the community to access services and supports to meet critical needs. For example, Timotheo, (shown) a poor, local villager required a special surgery in order to give him any measure of a quality of life. At 50 years of age, he had waited his entire life for an opportunity to be more like other men. The results of his surgery allowed him to wear trousers for the first time and we were proud to provide him with a few new pairs! Tumaini provides, on an ongoing basis, assistance with food for needy families and several students who live alone. We've contributed to the improvement of local roads, planting trees, collecting garbage, hosted an HIV

awareness seminar at a local secondary school, organized and taught our second teach the teacher seminar, and hosted a volunteer run, kindness rocks program where hand painted rocks were placed within the community to encourage village cohesiveness and peace.

- **Social Welfare** - Tumaini funds the salary of one additional social worker for our District Social Welfare Department who in turn, tends to the varied needs of the citizens of Meru District. Imagine having 3 social workers servicing a population of 243,000 without transportation and having to meet all of the community's social welfare and health related needs.



## A YEAR OF TUMAINI HIGHLIGHTS

### January 2019

- Boy Scouts from Belgium raised the needed funding, came to Tumaini and built a new chicken house for us and then went on safari with [www.bingwasafaris.com](http://www.bingwasafaris.com) (Big brother Reward). This is allowing us to gather our own eggs and save money.



- Two young men have temporarily joined us at Tumaini in order to advance their studies. Both were outstanding students in the previous schools but both lacked math teachers, so we have invited Dennis to attend Form III and IV, and Alex to attend Form I through IV at Nshupu Secondary School!





- This is *Dada Tumaini* and family above. It is uncustomary for a “step” parent to care at all about the offspring of another person’s child, but this young lady has a special heart. She came together with her common-law husband (father of Junior and Aloise, abandoned at Tumaini by their mother, but reunited with their father in 2017) and got pregnant with her first biological child in 2016 (Vanessa). Stanley followed in 2018 to join a growing family of now four children. Junior, having been unstable health wise, was living with us at Tumaini and we assisted the rest of the family with food, rent and occasionally medical care. Baba (Dad) attempted to abandon Aloise one day, miles from home and *Dada Tumaini* found him and returned him home. *Dada Tumaini* fell sick and soon discovered she had been infected with HIV. She, and the four children were abandoned and soon ran out of options. They came to join us at Tumaini as a family. *Dada Tumaini* volunteers her time to help us out!

- Nshupu Secondary School (the local government school we support) welcomed 29 of our children!!! We are so very proud to have brought water (imagine no water) and renovations to the student toilets. We also renovated five classrooms.





- Volunteers Mama Shelley and Mama Minke hosted a self-awareness seminar for our children on healthy relationships and sexual awareness.
- Outstanding students at Nshupu Secondary School attended a career planning seminar sponsored by Tumaini.

## February 2019

- A shipping container from Canada arrived containing bicycles for our children, solar panels and much needed supplies. The container then became a computer lab.



**April 2019**

- Returning volunteer Dada Lauren spent her time providing swimming lessons and teaching about water safety.



**May 2019-** The Kindness Rock Project, whose purpose is to promote respect and consideration of others by cultivating connections within communities through random acts of kindness, began at Tumaini.



-Volunteers Tegan and Riley taught gymnastics and volleyball to the children.



**June 2019-** Volunteer Mama Sharon offered therapeutic groups to the children at Tumaini.



**July 2019-** Through the generosity of our supporters, a much-needed water filtration system is installed.

-Sports Day at Nshupu Secondary School supported by Tumaini.



-Mery and Frank- had their third child- 'Dee'.



-Rosie (one of our former youth) continues her teaching career at Ngyani Primary School and is the only math teacher in the school.



-Educators Leslie Butler and Beth McCallum offered teaching seminars to local educators and became aware of the desperate situation for the students where they were needing help to eat at school. These volunteers spearheaded a fundraising drive and successfully raised enough money to feed 106+ children.

-Shared our Tumaini story with members of the Avondale United Church in Tillsonburg.

### **August 2019**

-Through the generous support from a young Belgian start up (Boxers4all) three of our Mama's were trained in sewing and completed 1092 pairs of boxer underwear that were distributed throughout the village.





-Volunteers from Belgium created a computer study room including the availability of 10 computers for our children as well as the community to assist with their learning.



### September 2019

- Due to the generosity of our supporters, a local man from our community, Timotheo, had surgery that he desperately needed. As a result of the surgery, this man now experiences a quality of life that he has never had.

-Tumaini volunteer and supporters Pam, Kevin and Maddy, along with Mama Dee and Kelvin, shared the Tumaini story with 3 schools in British Columbia.



- Leslie Butler and Sharon Norrington were appointed to the Board of Director of Tumaini Children's Foundation- Canada.

-With gratitude and appreciation for all of her support and caring, long standing Board Member Bonnie Wardell tendered her resignation from the Board of Directors. Bonnie was an original member of the Board of Directors and brought so much compassion and we cannot thank her enough for all that she has done on behalf of Tumaini. She will be deeply missed.

- Volunteer Nicole taught canning to the Mama's.



## November 2019

- The drafting of a Serious Incident policy and the creation of updated forms began. Ongoing work is underway to create several new and enhanced policies.

-Canadian 1st time volunteer Mama Milly (certified nurse's assistant), joined Tumaini and updated the children's' health records.

## Fundraising

### **DID YOU KNOW THAT 96 CENTS OF EVERY DOLLAR RAISED GOES DIRECTLY TO CARING FOR AND SUPPORTING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN TANZANIA!**

Tumaini Children’s Foundation relies on the support of ongoing and continual fundraising efforts to help meet the needs of our children and families as well as our local community. It is through the generosity of our sponsors, businesses, local service clubs, churches, community organizations, on-line donations, peer to peer fundraising, specific project requests and fundraising through events, that Tumaini continues to work to support and change the lives of people in Tanzania.

**March 2019-** The Third Annual St. Paddy’s Primer Fundraiser in Canada was a huge success once again.

**March 2019-** A presentation of our Tumaini story to the Kitchener Conestoga Rotary Club took place.

**June/August 2019** – ‘The Best Seat in the House’ was a successful fundraiser held at The Burning Kiln in Simcoe ON.



**July 2019**—The Simcoe Foot Care Clinic donated much needed school and athletic shoes for our children.

**August 2019**-- Partnering with doTerra Healing Hands and spearheaded by Lauren Fulton and Bobbi-Jo Griffin, \$10,000.00 was raised by us and matched by doTerra, totaling \$20,000.00 for the purchase of a much-needed new pick-up truck!



**September 2019**--Our seventh annual Tumaini Tournament of Hope was held at Springview Golf Club in Simcoe, ON.



**September 2019** -Our Tumiani story was shared with members of the Avondale United Church in Tillsonburg. (Sponsors of Esther).

**September 2019**-HES PV's- The third annual BC Tumaini Tournament of Hope was held in Victoria BC, organized and hosted by Dave Egles, Jackie Spaens and friends!



**October 2019**- The Retired Teachers of Ontario District 12-Norfolk generously supported Tumaini for the purchase of solar batteries to bring electricity to our new computer lab!

**October 2019-** Baba Oddo participated in a 5km walk for Polio through the local Rotary Club.



**November 2019-** A very successful online auction was spearheaded by Becky Pow.

**November 2019-** Kelvin and Mama Becky shared the Tumaini story at St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church Port Dover.

**December 2019-** Simcoe Panorama of Lights- Thank you to the many volunteers who staffed our Hot Apple Cider and Hot Apple Cinnamon Booth in the park, braving the weather to share our story, serve refreshments and raise much needed funds!



**Asante sana to all of our donors and supporters who help improve the lives of the children and families in Tanzania!**

**Staff- Names and Roles**

Mama Dee- Founder, Executive Director

Oddo Ndonde- Founder, Executive Director

Mery Minja- Administration

Frank- Project Manager

Lohai - Garden and Maintenance Manager

Lawrence and Mzee - Security Guards

Mamas/Dadas- Assists to help care for the children and the general upkeep of the house and grounds:

Dada Margie  
Dada Eva  
Mama Baraka  
Mama Chi

Mama Ismael  
Mama Tumaini  
Mama Bryan

**Volunteers-** Volunteers are an important part of Tumaini Children’s Foundation both in Tanzania and here in Canada. Every volunteer comes to Tumaini with a defined project and in 2019, 36 volunteers from Canada, Belgium, Holland and the United States gave of their time and their talents to work to enhance the lives of our children as well as support community and educational projects. Projects included Belgian Boy Scouts building a chicken coop, teaching swimming lessons, gymnastics and volleyball, teaching the Mama’s canning and long term storage of food, the building of a computer lab and teaching computer skills; the creation of Thom boxers which were donated to school children and resulted in an employment opportunity for three mamas, educational seminars to local educators, seminars with the children on Healthy Relationships and Human Sexuality, the ongoing creation and support of libraries within local schools, the delivery of therapeutic groups to the children; provision of training to several staff on communication and child management, the introduction of the Kindness Rocks project; ensuring the ongoing maintenance of our solar panels and bicycles, and the updating of the health status of our children.

Volunteering does not occur in Tanzania only. In Canada we have countless volunteers who donate their time to help with and attend fundraising events, help with donations at the Tumaini barn as well as volunteer their skills and talents.

#### **Tumaini Children’s Foundation Canada Board of Directors**

in alphabetical order

Sydney Buis - Director

Leslie Butler - Newly Elected in 2019 - Director

Charlene Cleland - Director

John Davies -Treasurer

Lisa Engelhardt Robinson - Director

Bobbie Jo Griffin - Director

Sharon Norrington -Newly elected in 2019 - Director

Becky Pow -Director

Cherie Tiffin-Szucs - Founder - Executive Director

Bonnie Wardell - Retired in 2019 Director

**Tumaini International**- It does not only take a 'village to raise a child' in fact, it takes the caring of people throughout the world to do so. Thank you to the dedication, commitment and support from volunteers, sponsors and Boards of Directors from Belgium, Holland and the United States in supporting the vision of Tumaini.