



Street Children Iringa

October 2019 – Written by Letty McMaster

Latest News!

June 2019 – Welcoming Eliah

We found Eliah during one of our night visits to the streets, where me and the older boys go around the gutters/dumps in Iringa town to find current children living on the streets. After finding them we take them for a meal, build up trust with them and are able to understand their situation more. On one of our night visits in June we came across Eliah. He was the smallest of all the boys on the streets and was just dressed in a big t-shirt when it was the equivalent of winter in Tanzania. Eliah's mum had died two years earlier and his dad was mentally unstable. After speaking with the social welfare office they allowed me to welcome Eliah into our family.

He is now the 11th and youngest member. Below he is pictured on his first day in the house, being welcomed by Fred through making pancakes. He is now very settled in the house, has great behaviour and after getting him enrolled in a local school he is in the top 20 of his year. This is an amazing achievement given all the time he has spent out of school and on the streets. We see a big future ahead for Eliah!



July 2019 – Saving Maggie

In July we received information of a girl who was being followed by older men trying to kidnap her every day on her walk to and from school. These men wanted to kidnap her and sell her to an older man for marriage, in exchange for cows.

This girl is called Maggie, she is 14 years old and was living in fear every day at the idea of being kidnapped and sold into a life of marrying an older man, having lots of children and being a housewife.

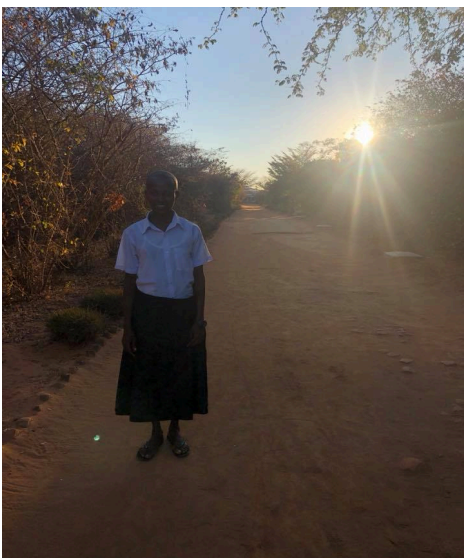
Using donation money, me and the two girls living at the house, (who previously ran from this life when they were 11) went to the village where Maggie was living to save her. Thanks to donation money, we were able to enrol Maggie in a boarding school hours away from her village. She is now safe and very happy, studying in her first year of secondary school.



Maggie (on the left) in her village.



Maggie's first day of boarding school.





September 2019 – Our three year anniversary

The 28th September 2019, we marked three years since me and the children moved into the house. Three years since they escaped the abusive orphanage. Three years of having a place to call home and feel safe and loved. The kids have grown up so much over these years, its been so amazing to see what an impact having a safe, stable place to call home has had on each of them. Starting in 2016 with 9 children and now having a family of 11. Below is the picture taken in 2016, and the picture taken now with everyone in the same place – with the added extras of Pishon (far right) and Fred and Eliah in front of me.





September 2019 – Gosberth's results

Gosberth came home for a two week holiday in September. He loves school so much, but also really enjoys relaxing at home in the holidays. When we took him back to school their yearly results had been released, Gosberth had the top results in the whole year of 158 students. This is beyond amazing as all the students in his year are from very rich families and have studied at private, English speaking schools since nursery. Gosberth, who came from a government primary school, speaking no English, has created history at this school with them regularly saying no one from a government primary school has received results that have come close to the top twenty. The school now want Gosberth to make history again, and are hoping that in his final year next year, he will be able to get the school into the top ten schools in Tanzania due to his results. This is something we are sure Gosberth will be able to achieve. After finishing secondary school next year he will most likely continue with A levels and after that I will search for a scholarship for him to study university abroad.

He really has made the most of this incredible opportunity he has been given. Below are pictures of Gosberth in 2013 and now. He is our genius!!





September 2019 – Simoni's Graduation

At the end of September, Simoni graduated primary school! This is a huge achievement for him and we were so proud. The whole family, including the workers, turned up to support Simoni on his big day. He is starting tuition for secondary school this week and will hopefully start at an English speaking secondary school in January.



October 2019 – A call from social welfare

I recently received a call from the social welfare office asking for help with a case of a little girl who was very ill in hospital with her mum. They were in hospital due to their awful living conditions. The mum had been living with HIV for a long time and as she did not have money for food she could not take her tablets which led to her becoming increasingly sick. The next day I received a call saying her mum had passed away and the little girl aged 9, was left with nobody.

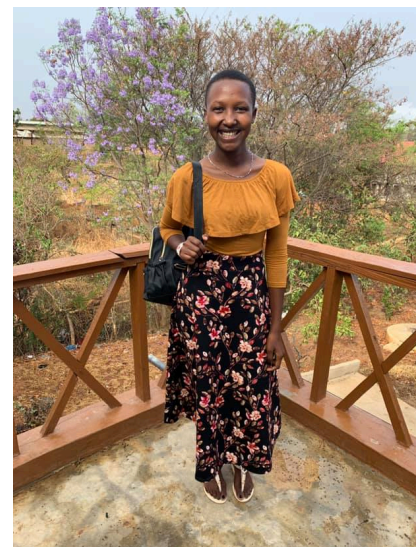
This little girl is Doreen. She has now been given a scholarship at a local boarding school, and thanks to £120 donation money, Street Children Iringa were able to provide her with everything she needs at her new school, making her feel special and equal to all the other students. We will continue to support her and she will come to visit us in school holidays.





October 2019 – Eva starting university

Eva is the first one of the house to start University. She has been accepted into the best university in Iringa to study a one year course in Business administration, which she is very keen on studying. Eva ran away from her village with her twin, Lidia, when they were 11 years old to escape forced child marriage and FGM. Street Children Iringa has supported her since primary school throughout her education and through living at the house. It is such a milestone for Eva to have reached this point in her life as if she had not run away from her village her life would have been so very different.



October 2019 – Baraka & Flygod's graduation

Flygod and Baraka have now graduated secondary school. Next year Baraka is determined on becoming a soldier and joining the army force. Flygod is keen on opening a business that can allow him to become independent and start his life away from the house.





New Project – The Safe House



Earlier this year a house became available just around the corner from where the children's house is. It has huge grounds, 3 bedrooms, another 3 outside bedrooms, a kitchen and a living room. Whilst doing the street visits I always wished to have another place that many more street children could come to and be safe. With there not being enough space in the children's house this house seemed the perfect option. Donation money was used to rent this house for £1,600 for the year - incredible for what it is!

The house will be used as a 'Safe House' in order to help as many children living on the streets as possible. The Safe House plans to provide a place where around 30 street children and youths can come three times a week to gain support and guidance in how to move away from a life on the streets. They will get three meals a day and engage in activities such as football, basketball and music. A middle ground is so important in getting children away from street and gang life, finding out the core reasons why they are on the streets and working in ways for them to gain an education and live in a safe home. This house was opened at the end of October 2019 and is already hugely helping more street children and other vulnerable children in need in a life away from the streets. After the first year, council willing, I am hoping to make this house a temporary home for 6 – 12 street children and youths to live in at a time, whilst adjusting to a life away from the streets and supporting them in their new life.



Below are pictures of some of the children from the Safe House enjoying breakfast, lunch and football games.



Breakfast – tea and savoury donoughs, Lunch – rice, meat and spinach

