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gofisch.org

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TO WITNESS THE LOVE OF
JESUS CHRIST TO THE
STREET CHILDREN
OF IRINGA BY STRIVING TO
MEET THEIR NEEDS
THAT THEY MAY EXPERIENCE
LIFE IN ALL ITS
GOODNESS

Welcome to the December edition of FISCH Bites!

Ho Ho Ho! It's nearly Christmas! Are you ready?

Christmas is a wonderful time to celebrate Jesus, the reason for the season. The beginning of God's rescue mission, Jesus came as a baby not to rule, but to serve, and to minister, and to love. Let's remember the real meaning of Christmas, amongst the glitz and festive fun – love for the world. As we draw together to celebrate Christmas in all its forms, let us give thanks for another year at FISCH – a year witnessing to and serving the Children in the name of Christ, that they may have a hope and a future.

Thank you for another year of your support! Have a wonderful Christmas, and a happy New Year!

VETA Graduations



For some Students at FISCH, **Vocational Training** is an important avenue following on from early formal Education. It is a source of **skill and character development**, and many Vocational Students who complete their courses go on to **gainful employment**. In April we shared how four of our young men from FISCH were enrolled at VETA (Vocational Education and Training Authority) College, and how they were progressing in their courses. Well, we are thrilled to share that they have **completed their studies** and have **graduated!** **Salimu** graduated from his Carpentry course, **Bahati** and **Daniel** both completed their studies in Welding and Fabrication, and **Haruni** in Mechanics. Each young man was provided with a **suit tailored for them** by the FISCH Sewing Team, and they attended their graduation ceremony at the end of November, joined by their teachers. Then after the FISCH Church service, the Team and Children at FISCH **celebrated their success** at the Drop-in-Centre, sharing specially-prepared cake, and a word of encouragement from Erasto, FISCH Operations Manager.

Here you can see the young graduates in their suits ready for graduation, and afterwards at the FISCH celebrations.



To **Salimu, Bahati, Daniel, and Haruni**, we say a huge congratulations for their hard work and success, and to our Sponsors of these young men, a huge thank you for your support!



Gloria's Story

We'd love to share with you Gloria's story. **Gloria** was registered with FISCH back in 2009 when she was only 7 years old. Coming from a poor background, life was tough for her and her family, and so she was often found on the streets of Iringa. With FISCH's help and counselling, Gloria **returned home** and **back into school**, and with ongoing support she completed both her Primary and eventually Secondary Education.

Gloria is a caring individual; through her church she was involved with a **women's unity programme** which supported women with advice and social support; and she wanted to pursue a career in **nursing and midwifery** in order to serve the health needs of the vulnerable citizens in her community.

A Sponsor was found, and in 2021 Gloria was able to begin her **diploma** at a Nursing and Midwifery College over 200km away from Iringa. She studied for several years and after a lot of hard work, we are so happy to share that she **graduated in 2024!** Despite some health setbacks of her own, she went on to take the government nurse-accreditation exam, and although she didn't pass the first time, with extra graft and determination she pushed through and **attained her licence in May 2025. Congratulations Gloria!**

Gloria is now **working as an intern at a local hospital**. She is **happy** and enjoying work, giving back to the community. Wonderfully, she has job security, and with an income, she can now be **self-sufficient**; the mission of FISCH for all the Children we support, and it is a wonderful mission!

We must say a big **thank you** to Gloria's Sponsors, for her ongoing support, providing Gloria with more than a hope, but a future as well. **Thank you!**



Wanted! Fundraiser Co-Ordinator

Do you have a desire to get more involved with FISCH, and to make a difference to Children's lives? Are you somebody with good communication and organisational skills? Do you enjoy fundraising for good causes?

Then you might be our person! If you are interested in the role of Fundraiser Co-ordinator, please let us know! The Fundraiser coordinator will provide essential support to FISCH's fundraising efforts, helping to secure the vital funds needed to deliver our mission of helping FISCH Kids to become self-sufficient.

If this is you, please contact Rich Gercke at office@gofisch.org. We look forward to hearing from you!



Back To School...

Did you know? The academic year in Tanzania doesn't start in September like it does in the UK, but in **January**? Yes! We are coming to the end of one academic year, ready for the next one to begin in the New Year. This means that our Sewing Team are hard at work **creating hundreds of items of school uniform** to provide to our Children who are in Primary and Secondary Education.

Did you know? Although Primary Education is free in Tanzania, each pupil must provide their own uniform, school shoes, writing books, pens, pencils and school bags. If a child cannot procure this, they cannot go to school. This means that many FISCH Children whose families are living on the edge of poverty **simply cannot afford to send their Children to school**, because they do not have the finances to pay for these things.

Did you know? FISCH runs a **School Uniform Fund**. And it does exactly what it sounds like it does – it funds the provision of hundreds of school uniform items each year so that so many more Children can go to school and get an education. The Fund purchases **reams of fabric** so that the FISCH Sewing Class can create uniforms economically; it **buys shoes** for Children who would otherwise be barefoot and banned from school buildings; it **purchases books, bags and stationery** so that Children can receive an education, further themselves in life, and hopefully go on to additional training and one day **become self-sufficient**, the mission of FISCH.

Did you know? Every year we have superbly kind donations towards the School Uniform Fund (**thank you!!**), and we are so grateful for them – yet every year we utilise **every last penny of the donations**, because frankly we have *that* many Children going to School that have needs! So whilst it is wonderful to know that we are helping Children to get back into and to stay in School, and we rightly celebrate this, it is a huge challenge to provide for them all, every year. To supply each Child with everything they need costs **£32**. If you would like to get involved and make a donation towards the Uniform Fund, we'd be hugely grateful. A one-off donation or a monthly gift, either way we at FISCH would so appreciate it. We are expecting to provide for 180 Children the year alone!

Nelson Mandela is quoted as saying **"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."** He is right! The success stories you read above, of Salimu, Bahati, Daniel, Haruni and of Gloria, all started at Primary School and they worked their way up and out of the poverty that life had for them. If you want to be part of change in this world, consider this an **open invitation** to partner with us, and with the Children of FISCH. Be assured that every penny donated to FISCH is spent on the Children. **Asante sana!**



Want to get involved?

If you'd like to contribute regularly and start supporting a Child or Children with their School Uniform, our bank

details are;

77518462

60-09-21

"FISCH"

Reference:

School Uniform Fund

Thank You!!



The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out.

Proverbs 18:15

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