

FOREVER KIDS KENYA



Annual report 2017



Photo: Share A Dream

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IBAN: CH03 8074 0000 0076 4404 3

Imprint:

Publisher: Forever Kids Kenya
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Baden, January 2018

Word of the president



It has been a successful year for Forever Kids Kenya and we can proudly announce that new exciting things have been happening. New collaborations with Swiss schools, companies and NGOs have helped us to raise funds and further increase our popularity.

However, the most exciting stories have been happening at Milele Elimu Center, our Kenyan slum school. Our students participated in a swimming competition for the first time ever and won several medals. During a national cultural competition in the category of French poetry they only lost by an eyelash a performance in front of Kenya's president.

Pen pal friendships with Swiss students were fostered, students bonded with new volunteers, LEGO towers were built, laptops were used to surf the Internet, and a lot of important information was learned about recycling through exciting innovations. You will be finding out more on the following pages of this report.

The most important personal change in 2017 happened for me at the end of the year. My husband and school principal Mark and I have decided to move back to Switzerland. It is still uncertain for how long we will stay but everything has been well prepared. Our best friend Joseph Muli will be taking over as headmaster ad interim. He started his training in June and we are fully confident of his capabilities and integrity. It goes without saying that we will maintain a close relationship with him in order for the school to be continued in the interests of our donors. We will also travel to Kenya regularly to support the school locally.

You will notice at the end of this report that our financial situation has improved steadily. This has allowed us to bring teachers' wages closer to the Kenyan average, to provide training for them and to recruit more qualified staff. These are important steps to maintain motivated and capable employees and to improve the quality of teaching on a long-term basis. With the growing assets of the association we are particularly pursuing a long-term goal: We would like to buy our own school building in Mombasa. This step would allow us to reduce monthly expenses, invest in school infrastructure and protect ourselves from arbitrary rent increases. The search for a suitable building will obviously take its time. In order to make this dream come true we are still dependent on your generous financial support.

On behalf of Forever Kids Kenya & the Milele Elimu Center I wish you a Happy New Year filled with love, peace, happiness & fulfillment in life!

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nadjka Kaufmann'.

Nadjka Kaufmann
President Forever Kids Kenya

Highlights of 2017

January 2017

The beginning of a wonderful cooperation



A promising cooperation has started after members of Share A Dream spent several days at our school last year. The aim of Share A Dream is to connect small, yet powerful NGOs with people and companies that want to get socially involved. As a first initiative, donations are being collected to support the purchase and implementation of two of the so-called Matatus (public minibuses), which should provide our school with an additional continuous source of income. The NGO also arranges online volunteer placements. Discover more on our homepage www.share-a-dream.org/ngo/forever-kids-kenya, where you can also look at the atmospheric video that was filmed at our school.

February- August 2017

Volunteers in the footsteps of Pestalozzi



For the second time in a row, the Milele Elimu Centre was delighted to welcome motivated and ambitious volunteers. The "Online Volunteer" Kevin Boti has developed a new accounting system implemented by our school to monitor school expenses. Andrea Kueng and Céline Kramer decided to create a voluntary service in Mombasa that lasted for several weeks. The two volunteers supported the school staff in countless areas such as mathematics, French, singing, arts and crafts and swimming lessons. Lots of laughs were shared. Also, the kids learned new things, their creativity was sparked and they made new friends. Teacher Andrea sums it up as follows: "I could feel the joy of life and the passion for the work from the pupils as well as from the teachers every day, and that is why I felt very comfortable being at this school." We would like to thank all volunteers for their commitment. Their personal stories can be viewed on our homepage, where you can also find more about the options on your own volunteer service.

March - December 2017

Effort at the flea and annual market in Baden



Just like in previous years, the team of Forever Kids Kenya also regularly participated in flea market sales with their own stand at the Theaterplatz and Royal in Baden (Switzerland). Around 1'400 Swiss francs (1'230 Euros) were raised during a total of seven participations from April to December. We would like to thank all our friends who enriched us with antiques or helped out with staff shortages. For the first time, we dared to attempt an annual market, where we offered colourful aprons, hand carved wooden cutlery, accessories, coat hangers and bags made from recycled kites. The sales of the flea and annual market are the main source of income, besides donations and charity parties.

April 2017

Duel of the dolphins

For the first time, our slum school took place in a swimming competition against other schools. Ten of our pupils, all of them water lovers, put up a good fight.

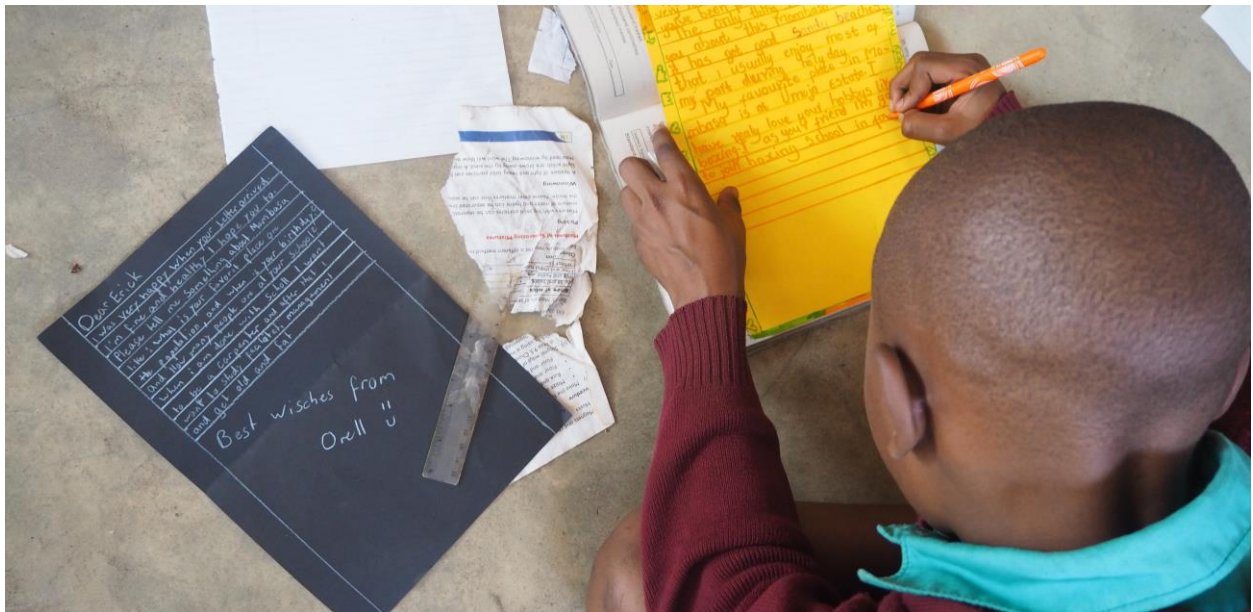
They competed against experienced swimmers in the categories freestyle (with or without board), breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly stroke. Nevertheless, they won several prizes.



The performance of one pupil was particularly impressive, as he won four medals, despite feeling weak after a malaria disease. As part of the Christmas campaign in 2017, generous donors funded 28 swimming lessons. Thanks to their help, the lessons can continue in 2018 and the children can resume to refine their technique. They are very excited to start in the next swimming competitions.

May - November 2017

Message in a bottle from the far east



Within Peter Derks initiative, the Wehntal School has established a lively exchange of letters between pupils from Niederweningen (Switzerland) and Mombasa. About 70 youngsters from the secondary school Schmitenwil and the Milele Elimu Center were assigned and sent each other letters. After they introduced themselves with a picture in the first round, they answered one another's questions about their school life, their hobbies and career aspirations. In addition to the practical use of the English language, the aim was also to raise awareness of cultural differences as well as similarities. The outcome of this exchange are pen friendships, which will hopefully last beyond this cooperation. Also, the youngsters planned and carried out various activities in project lessons on the issue of "Commitment to Others" to support their Kenyan partner school with donations.

Some of the great successes were innovative ideas such as organizing a sponsored swimming competition, baking Christmas cookies with children or the provision of services in the village. We are truly grateful for their commitment and donations.

June 2017

French charm offensive for success



For the second time, our school attended a national cultural competition. Spurred by partial successes from last year, the pupils were forced to step out of their comfort zone. This means that they did not only perform traditional songs & dances, but they also recited poems in Swahili, English and French. In the presence of the club members who were present on this occasion, the children outdid themselves and finished in the third of four rounds in the category "French poems". If they had overcome the last obstacle, they would have been allowed to appear before the Kenyan president. We are incredibly proud of our pupils, who spent hours practicing. The gratification after the performances and interesting excursions to the competitions were reward enough for the happy children.

June & July 2017

BVisit from the doctor and the tooth fairy



Just like in previous years, the International Medical Aid provided medical examinations at our school on a voluntary basis. The pupils and their parents took this opportunity with gratitude. In July, the local doctors and volunteers visited again. This time they educated the pupils on hygiene and the proper technique for brushing their teeth. They distributed toothbrushes and toothpastes, which the 300 pupils proudly took home.

June 2017

Happy club members in Mombasa



Beginning of June, the three club members Pia and Kate Kaufmann and Aaron Egolf surprised the pupils of the Milele Elimu (Education) Centre with a visit. With them were not only other friends, but also a well-known magician. He amazed the children with his magic show. But at least as impressive were the performances of the children themselves: On the second day of the visit they returned the favour with acrobatics, dance and poetry. During an exchange of the teaching staff, further expansion and financing possibilities were discussed in order to further improve infrastructure and learning environment of the pupils. In the breaks and after class, there was still enough time to play with the children and to learn Kenyan dances and group games.

June & November 2017

Field day in the new imposing stadium



The kids could not wait for the two field days that were organized this year again. Almost 200 children and about 50 parents and teachers fought a duel in seven groups for the victory of the day. Besides classic sports like soccer and races, there were also more exotic games on the program such as competitive eating, tug of war, sack races and balancing of bottles. The successful format was repeated at the second field day of the year. The location was a surprise: it was held in the new opened stadium. Therefore, the sporting activities were carried out on a beautiful artificial turf and without the usual clouds of dust.

July 2017

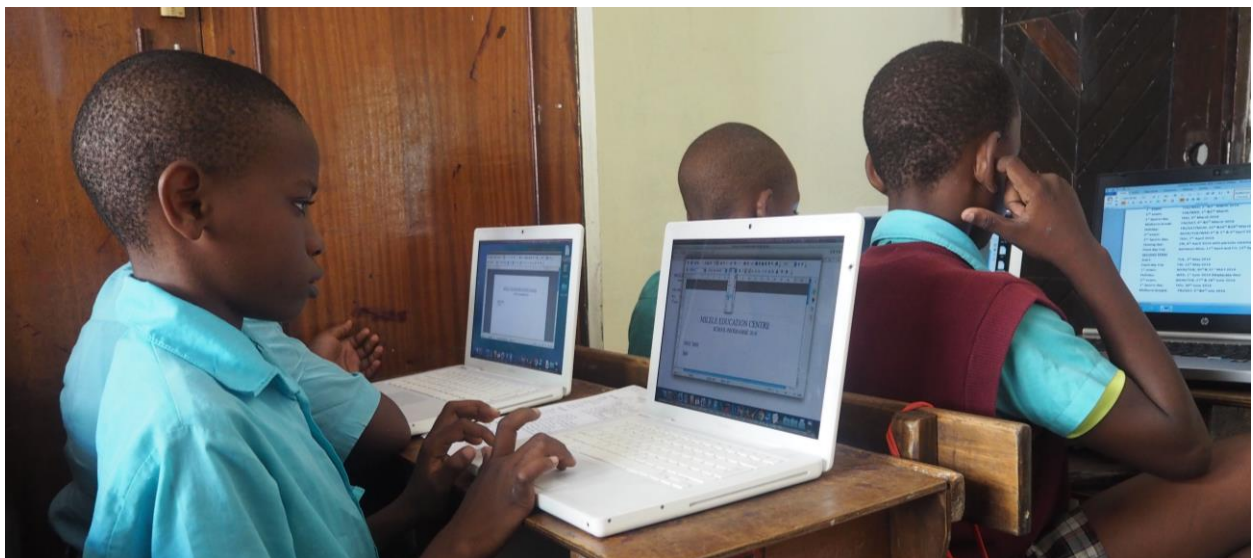
Mania construction in Legoland



Our school has been chosen by SOS Children's Villages Kenya and Lego Denmark for a special pilot project. In July, a delivery of ten huge boxes aroused the curiosity of the pupils. The boxes were filled to the brim with Lego building blocks. The idea was to promote playful learning and creativity under the slogan "learn to play, play to learn". After a workshop for our staff about different possibilities of using the building blocks in class, we finally started playing. The kindergarten children and the younger pupils love it to experiment with the square blocks and show their creative side.

August 2017

iMilele new on the grid



In the past months, several donors have provided us with older yet still functional laptops for the Milele Elimu Centre. The school in Niederrohrdorf (Switzerland) was particularly generous. They sponsored 14 discarded MacBooks on the initiative of teacher Marco Erni. The precious good was brought to Mombasa in the luggage of visitors and could be put into operation in the meantime. For the first time, computer lessons were included on a large scale in the timetable of the upper primary school. Teachers and students are particularly pleased that WLAN internet has now been installed at our school. This opens completely new possibilities for using teaching materials online.

September 2017

Excursion to the international agricultural exhibition



The commitment of the members of the Milele Elimu Centre Agriculture Club was rewarded with a visit to the annual Mombasa international agriculture show. At the huge exhibition, you could learn interesting facts at countless stands and showcases about exotic animals, plants and other organisms. This visit was an instructive experience for everyone involved – teachers and pupils alike.

September 2017

Pencils shooting like mushrooms out of the ground



Thanks to Julia Marte from KW open Ltd, the children received a special lesson in recycling. The sponsored "sprout"-seed pencils were first used in class for writing exercises. Then the pencil stubs were planted in the school's own hanging garden from recycled PET bottles. Finally, they were observed while growing. The results are fragrant herbs such as thyme, basil and coriander, which can be used for lunch. Simply magical!

October 2017

Party Safari V in Baden



The Safari Party series led once again to the thicket in the factory in Baden. For the 5th edition, we tracked down 5 magnificent specimens of the party jungle in Baden. Erwo, Suede & Criip – three beasts on the Mic – hunt in a pack and let the furs fly with biting punchlines. Alpha animal DJ BIG hammered less on the own big chest and more massive party tunes out of the boxes. The crawling party tunes from DJane Mary Jane unfolded their hypnotic effect after only a short drone. Three guests were rewarded with trophies from the Globetrotter travel agency. The price will fully be donated to our school. By the way, the animal masks that were worn at the party were made in a handicraft lesson by the pupils under the direction of volunteer Andrea Kueng.

October 2017

Last day of school – off to the long holidays



Due to the repetition of the presidential elections in Kenya, the last trimester of 2017 ended at the end of October. A small passing-out ceremony was held on the last day of school for the kindergarten class 3, followed by shows by the pupils for parents and an award ceremony for the best student of each class. Right in the middle of it was our club member Sandra Senn, who visited the school for the first time. The final exams of the 8th grade primary school took place a few days later, with a small ceremony that was organized beforehand. It included a motivational coach, pastor, teachers, parents and pupils. The injected motivation was working: the final grade point average of our pupils was higher than in previous years. Based on an evaluation of the pupils' performance and their financial situation, we are now determining which pupils should be supported with a scholarship to attend secondary school.

December 2017

Creative pupils on a donation hunt



Thanks to a schoolgirl, the Class 5A of the Tannegg Primary School in Baden organised a very special Christmas campaign. The pupils offered their support in their family environment and in the neighbourhood, like for example working at home, shopping or walking dogs. In return, they received donations which were generously handed over to us to support our school in Mombasa. At the request of class teacher Gregory Schmid, two club members visited the primary school in Tannegg. They showed them a video of our school and answered the children's questions about everyday school life in Kenya. We would like to thank class 5A very much for this warmhearted initiative and their great commitment.

December 2017

The big Christmas feast



The Christmas party with all children, parents and teachers has become an annual tradition. A day full of joy, laughter, entertainment, games and of course the "big feast". Curious children from the neighbourhood became also part of the party. The opulent feast was generously sponsored by Sandro Steimer, Gerardo Palmisano, Nicolas Kleiner and Jonas Brauen. It was an unforgettable party for all involved and the children thanked the sponsors with a hearty laugh, full bellies and homemade posters.

December 2017

Teambuilding over the weekend

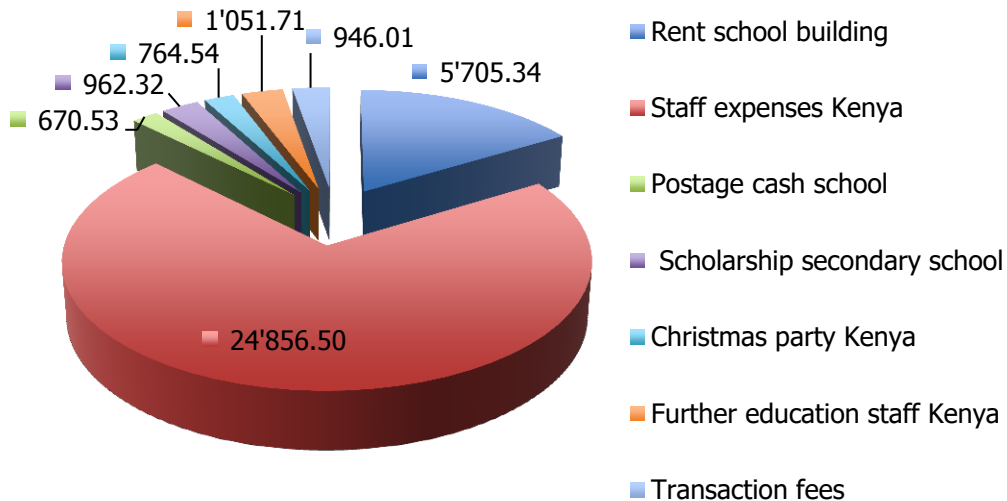


We would like to thank those who ensure the school to always run so smoothly; that the 300 children are well educated and get their daily food; that they love to come to school. We came up with a special reward for our school staff and invited them to Eagle Camp Mida Creek for a weekend. The two days at the edge of Watamu Marine National Park north-east of Mombasa were filled with fun, activities, a boat trip and good food. For once, there was no work that needed to be done, so the employees could sit back, relax and enjoy.

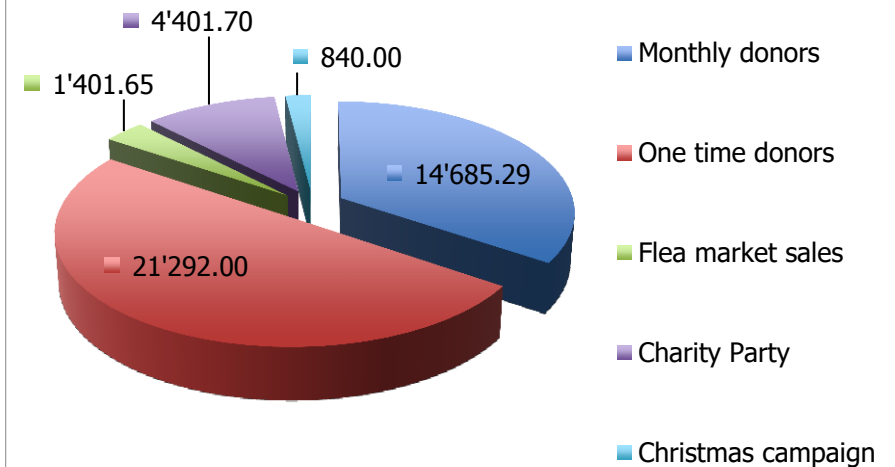
Financial overview 2017

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Earnings in CHF													
Monthly donations	1'232.66	1'179.33	1'249.33	1'269.33	1'199.33	1'249.33	1'229.33	1'149.33	1'239.33	1'209.33	1'239.33	1'239.33	14'685.29
One-time donations	1'000.00	25.00	525.00	3'310.00	2'000.00	500.00	1'025.00	500.00	335.00	1'880.00	2'295.00	7'897.00	21'292.00
Flea- und Christmas market sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	176.50	316.20	0.00	269.55	0.00	0.00	239.40	0.00	400.00	1'401.65
Charity-Party	2'711.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1'690.65	4'401.70
Christmas campaign	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	840.00	840.00
Total	4'943.71	1'204.33	1'774.33	4'755.83	3'515.53	1'749.33	2'523.88	1'649.33	1'574.33	3'328.73	3'534.33	12'066.98	42'620.64
Expenses in CHF													
Rent school building	481.42	488.20	485.88	481.05	471.98	462.98	465.93	463.31	471.13	481.16	474.46	477.84	5'705.34
Staff expenses	1'925.69	1'952.82	1'943.52	1'924.19	1'887.91	2'129.71	2'316.59	2'145.11	2'055.07	2'309.58	2'125.60	2'140.71	24'856.50
School petty cash	48.14	48.82	48.59	48.10	47.20	46.30	46.59	46.33	47.11	48.12	47.45	147.78	670.53
Scholarship Secondary School	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	962.32	0.00	0.00	962.32
Christmas event	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	764.54	764.54
Further education staff Kenya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	430.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	621.19	1'051.71
Transaction fees / rate fluctuations	47.75	50.16	52.01	46.66	45.91	51.01	60.37	49.25	48.69	52.12	74.19	367.89	946.01
Total	2'503.00	2'540.00	2'530.00	2'500.00	2'453.00	2'690.00	3'320.00	2'704.00	2'622.00	3'853.30	2'721.70	4'519.95	34'956.95
Total organization funds CHF													
Total	101'778.67	100'443.00	99'687.33	101'943.16	103'005.69	102'065.02	101'268.90	100'214.23	99'166.56	98'641.99	99'454.62	107'001.65	107'001.65

Expenses 2017 in CHF



Earnings 2017 in CHF



Charity Party: In January 2017 the cash proceeds of last year's party were transferred to us. The income from December 2017 only includes donations and profits from the sale of tombola tickets and hot dogs from the Party of 2017. The transfer of the entrance fees and cash proceeds is expected at the beginning of 2018.

Flea market and Christmas market sales: The income comes from flea market sales on 25.3., 29.4., 27.5., 24.6., 30.9. and 3.12. as well as the annual market on 3.5. all in Baden. The acquired profit was partly deposited in the following month, which explains the data deviations in the financial overview.

Christmas campaign: In December, generous donors financed 28 swimming lessons for our students. One lesson costs around CHF 30.

Staff expenses Kenya: In January, loyal employees received a small salary increase. In June, the induction phase of the new school director began. In July, bank accounts were opened for staff to facilitate salary payments and the costs were covered by us. In September/October a pregnancy replacement was financed. At the end of December 2017, the financed staff consisted of the new headmaster, 3 kindergarten teachers, 9 teachers and 2 cooks.

Postage: The school's postage account was introduced in April 2014 to cover small expenses such as official visits to the school. In December, an additional CHF 100 was paid for a projector for the school.

Further education for school staff: In 2017, two teachers received financial support for their further education. In addition, a 2-day team-building event including overnight accommodation for school staff took place in December.

Transaction fees/rate fluctuations: These costs consist of transaction fees and rounding up of the monthly amount transferred to Kenya for the rate fluctuations. In December, fees for payments and postal deposits totaling CHF 289.95 were invoiced by our Swiss bank.

