

Simbas Footprints Foundation NEWSLETTER 2019



SIMBAS COMMUNITY CENTER

We had a very busy year at Simbas Community Center and in our outreach programs. Our team has been working hard on providing youths with personal development through the programs in Simbas Club, as well as bringing new perspectives and knowledge to students in our EIK-clubs, equipping young women with practical skills in our Sewing Program and much more.

Our team has grown to a steady group of 11 employees and our programs reach more than 600 children every week. We are very thankful for each and every one of you who has supported us over the year and we will say it again; Without you, there would be no Simbas Footprints Foundation.



SEWING PROGRAM

Our Sewing Program teaches women the hard skills needed to produce textile products, as well as educating them in entrepreneurship skills to increase their employability and self-sustainability.

This year 15 women graduated the course with not only the skills acquired to mend and produce clothes for their own interest, but also with the expertise to mend and produce for business.



We were also delighted to hear that some of the graduates invested in their own sewing machine after graduating. This demonstrates confidence in their newly acquired abilities and it really epitomizes the fundamental goal of our Sewing Program: to provide women with the opportunity to become self-sustainable; both economically, and in the repairing and producing of their own clothing.

Bringing ladies with no previous sewing experience to a skilled and business minded disposition is a great success, and is everything we had hoped to achieve with the program.

In 2020 we aim to purchase 4 more sewing machines and Simbas will also open a small shop where the women can sell their creations.





EIK (Education Is Key) PROGRAM

This program continued to collaborate with four of the public schools in our community to offer extra-curricular classes such as English club and female empowerment through the Binti Yetu club (Our Daughters in Kiswahili). All clubs take place during school hours and at the schools sites.

ENGLISH CLUB

Two teachers have been working with the English clubs this year, providing an alternative and interactive method to both increase the amount of English taught to primary school students in grades 3-5 and to diversify the means of teaching English.

We conducted a verbal assessment to track the progress of the kids attending the classes and were pleased to find that many were able to respond to the questions well, compared with prior to being in the club. We believe this will help them cope better and excel in regular lessons at the school.

In addition to this, throughout the school year we have hosted workshops for teachers to explore different teaching styles and lesson structures in addition to that of primary schools in the community. This is a great way to empower the teachers and to help create a better classroom experience for both teachers and students.

In 2020 we will be collaborating with one more school in the community and start teaching the students in standard classes 1-2 as well. We believe this will benefit their learning process once the regular English classes start in class 3.

BINTI YETU

Binti Yetu is a program aimed at empowering the young women in our community. This year we had the privilege of meeting with 240 girls in standard 6 on a weekly basis, where two program leaders educated them on women's rights, female health and gender equality.

A big part of this club aims to reduce stigma around menstruation and increase knowledge on how their body functions. All the girls also get the chance to handcraft one washable pad and receive an instruction form on how to create additional ones.

New for next year is that each girl will be provided with material enough for 5 pads in total, and gets a snack in the beginning of the club. Starting 2020 we will also be collaborating with one more school in the community which means the program will be reaching out to over 300 girls weekly.

Pretty amazing if you ask us!



SIMBAS CLUB

Running from Monday to Saturday, this free after school program has over the year extended its clubs to more fun and rewarding activities for the youth in our community. The club is still free of charge and open to anyone and each day a snack is offered to all participants.



Around 50 children attend our sports program weekly where football and netball practices take place. This year we have worked hard on engaging the girls in our community in various ways, one of them football. To our big excitement, a dream team of girls is now practicing twice per week and has played a few games. We are especially proud of the girls' in our football team for their courage to break the norm and commit to a sport which by many is for "boys only". Our girls are devoted, enthusiastic and invested in the practices and we hope that they will inspire others to join in 2020.

Simbas going MAD (Music, Art, Dance & Drama)

Our Music studio has had a real makeover, and with the help from our partners Asali we have been able to get a drum set, more keyboards, a bass and a new guitar for our music students to practice with.

In Arts classes the youth have explored different ways of being creative. The Dance group has had the chance to practice both traditional and modern dance, and the drama group performed an amazing act at the end of the year, reflecting over their abilities in their community.



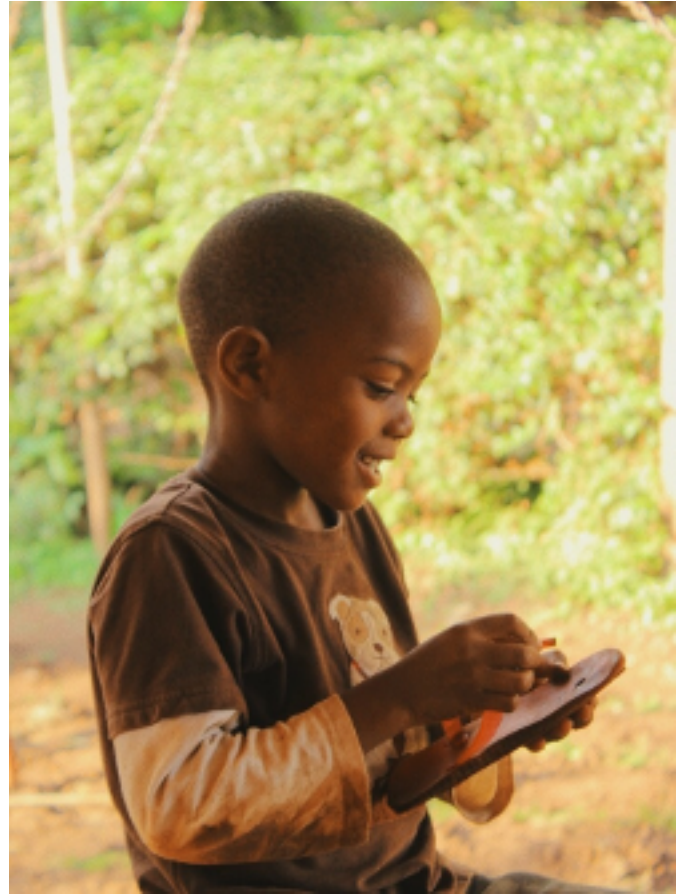
OUTREACH

End of the year Show

Every year Simbas throw a community event in the end of the year, where all the Simbas Club participants showcase what they have learned over the year. The women who graduated from the Sewing Program displayed their craft work and were able to make connections with new customers. On our open stage we invited other talented members in the community to perform, which in return could inspire others among them. The theme of this year's show was KIJANA AMKA SASA! which means Youth Gets Going.



Our drama group performed a play where they raised the importance of activities for youth in their community, to avoid them getting involved with drugs, alcohol or other risks. They encouraged the members in the community to get engaged and organized, to raise their voice to injustices and to stand up for what is right. The dance group performed a dance in the show, and the music students played the background music. Being able to do a production together showed great teamwork and dedication and we were so proud of them!



NGO Forum

Initiated by Simbas Footprints Foundation in 2017, this forum aimed to strengthening the ties and dialogue both between the NGO's in Kilimanjaro region but also with the municipal and governing officials. This year the forum has been growing with over 80 organizations participating, and in October we had an official opening putting light on the importance of partnering together for change.



WE HAVE ALSO:

- Collaborated with the local leaders in our community to identify and tackle the challenges faced in our community on micro, meso and macro level
- Equipped 22 children with school supplies for one year
- Donated ear and eye test equipment to the community hospital
- Invited parents every third month for involvement in layout of programs to have a stronger impact on their children attending Simbas programs
- Renovated of classrooms in the public schools to improve the learning environment for the youth in our community
- Hosted children's meetings to encourage leadership and democracy, something we have done both through Simbas Club and in the schools
- Installed dustbins & planting trees in the public schools in our community through our MAZINGIRA program, alongside with initiating and participating in CLEAN UP-days in our community
- Celebrated the International African Child Day with inspirational activities and much fun
- Sponsored of 5 youth at risk with school fees and supplies.
- Provided 30 of Simbas Club youths with health insurance for one year. In 2020 we aim to provide 60 of the most vulnerable children with full cover of health insurance.
- Hosted of a HOLIDAY CAMP for all children in the community in June

Thank you to our partners for the year: Simbas Footprints Sweden, Simbas Footprints Switzerland, Asali Non-Profit and UWC East Africa