



# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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# A Message from The Executive Director

Dear Friends,

2016 has been an incredible year for Amani.

Last year, the Tanzanian Management Team and the Amani Foundation made a pledge to begin a journey towards financial self-sustainability.

With your help, we've purchased new farm land which we will plant and harvest this year; the home-grown corn and vegetables will be cooked in our kitchen— which is newly refitted with energy efficient stoves. With our on-site corn mill and small herd of livestock, we're able to sell milling services and milk to supplement our budget. We've enrolled new students into our fledgling primary school, and the profit from these school fees aids in covering our teacher's salaries. On top of this we were able to offer 10 full scholarships to students from the community who couldn't afford fees.



**Kate Thompson,  
Executive Director  
Amani Foundation**

2017 brings with it a new set of goals, challenges and dreams. We plan to finish construction on our primary school. Through collaboration with the Mto wa Mbu Social Welfare Office, this new school will also function as the first community centre in Nyasi and indeed the entire Mto wa Mbu area. When classes aren't in session, Amani English Medium School will offer adult English and computer lessons, host workshops led by Tanzanian NGOs on HIV/AIDS prevention and family planning, and will launch a community children's wildlife and scientific education program, sponsored by the Safina Center.

We couldn't have accomplished so much ground-breaking progress last year without you, and we cannot thank you enough for your generosity. As we continue to move forward, we hope that you consider continued support of our goals and projects in 2017. There is so much more we wish to accomplish and to bring to these children's lives, and we encourage you to join us.

With heartfelt thanks and warmest regards,

**Katharine ET Thompson**  
Executive Director

## **Executive Leadership 2015-2017:**

Emily Zink, Kalyn Chacon, Brenna Donnellan, Annie Burcham, and Andrew Zamora

## Mission

*Amani seeks to not only keep children from the streets, but to also enrich their lives and lead them to becoming active and engaged citizens upon reaching adulthood.*

## Programs

### Sustainable Farming



This summer, we raised \$5,620.00, which served to purchase a 2 hectare plot of land 5 kilometers from the Children's Home campus. We were able to install a new irrigation system and prepare the land for the 2017 growing season. With the profits from this farm, we hope to: 1. supplement our children's diets by directly contributing to our food stores as well as selling the surplus to purchase a variety of other food items and 2. selling any additional surplus to supplement staff salaries.

### Tanga Field Trip



With the generous help of donors, our children were able to travel to Tanga, Tanzania on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2016. During this weekend trip, our kids explored the cave systems and learned about the local environment. Many of our children saw the ocean for the first time!

### Computer Skills Improvement



In May-June 2016, our staff received a refresher course on Microsoft Excel and Word programs. We expanded and restructured our record-keeping facilities within the office in order to create a more efficient environment for our staff. Site Manager Gideon Mawenya continues providing technological skills training, as well as managing our website and designing promotional material that is distributed around Northern Tanzania.

# Financial Report

This has been Amani's biggest fundraising year yet!

<u>Donations</u>	in USD
Direct donations online	\$7,680.00
Direct donations on-site	\$4,380.00
Estimated worth of supplies purchased gifted on-site	\$2,500.00
<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>\$14,560.00</b>
<u>Expenses</u>	
On-Site Staff Salaries	\$4,195.20
Residential Care (food, hygienic supplies, etc.)	\$7,252.20
Hospital Bills	\$1,638.52
Educational (uniforms, fees, school supplies, etc.)	\$800.00
Infrastructure (building construction or repairs)	
Business expenses (website, etc.)	\$177.00
Bank, transfer, and on-line collection fees	\$477.68
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$14,540.60</b>
<b>Net:</b>	<b>\$19.40</b>

As we expand, we expect our budget will as well.  
We need your generosity and support  
to make our new programs and construction possible!



## Spotlight: The Launch of African Paraiso



We normally depend on Tanzanian tour companies to bring volunteers to our center. These drivers help our volunteers navigate northern Tanzania- they plan trips and keep them safe. However, we've found that most tour companies are permanently associated with other children's homes. This means they namely only support one organization, and even donate a portion of their profits to these charities. There is a growing number of children's homes associating with lodges, safari companies and tour agencies.

Therefore, we decided to do the same. Our collaboration with African Paraiso is another way for us to move towards financial self-

sustainability. Our goal is not only to increase the number of visitors to Amani but also expand Amani's international community, bringing together people from around the globe in one effort to help our children's home.

Amazingly, African Paraiso has also generously pledged to contribute 20% of its profit to Amani Children's Home. This reliable source of income helps us ensure we can maintain a predictable supply of food each month, can provide regular medical care, and can cover daily running costs and other expenses normally incurred at the center. So, for those who will choose African Paraiso as their option to plan for their safari in Tanzania, they automatically contributing to Amani Children's Home. We want to let you know that if you are planning a safari, plan with Paraiso! We would like to welcome guests whose itinerary includes touring in Northern Tanzania to plan a visit to our Children's Home and consider volunteering with us.

Our **volunteer registration forms** are all available on our online website, and more information about booking can be found at **[africanparaiso.com](http://africanparaiso.com)**.

## Our Sponsorship Program

Amani Children's Home offers both on-site and boarding school sponsorships. These boarding school "scholarships" cover all of a student's basic needs, school supplies, tuition and transport. These opportunities are truly life changers for our students. According to Unicef, in [Tanzania](#) only 62% of children finish primary school, and only 53.5% of those students continue on to secondary school. The literacy rate in Tanzania is only 67.8%. For girls, an education allows them to avoid early marriage, a common occurrence in our region. Special thanks to our sponsorship coordinator, Juma Hussein, for all of his hard work!

### Anna's Story



Anna came to Amani in 2011 when she was 7 years old. Her father had died, and her mother could no longer care for her. Anna's mom brought her to the village Social Welfare Office, who brought her to us. Anna is Maasai, and comes from a culture that doesn't traditionally prioritize girls' education. Many Maasai girls marry in their teens and never graduate high school. When Anna came to Amani, she not only found a safe roof over her head, but safety from early marriage.

In 2013 a former teacher named Carole Obre visited Amani for the first time. She met Anna, who told Carole she too wanted to be a teacher one day. Carole has daughters and granddaughters of her own, and believed that no matter where a girl was born she should have a chance to achieve her dreams. Carole decided to sponsor Anna, and give her that chance.

Now in Standard 7, Anna consistently ranks first in her class across all subjects. In her last report card, her teacher's only comment was "Your work is simply excellent." Anna is not only performing great at school, but loves performing in general. She loves singing; before returning to boarding school after the New Year Anna and her best friend Laura did a goodbye duet for all our other students.

### 2017 School Year

**Girls Sponsored: 6**

**Boys Sponsored: 3**

### The Tanzanian Education System:





## 2016 Farm Project

In 2016, John McAuley donated 10-hectares of rented land for Amani to attempt a pilot farming project. We successfully harvested 70 bags of maize and 6 bags of sunflower seeds to press for cooking oil. However, the land was nearly a two hour drive from the Children's Home. After our successful pilot program, we decided our best move forward was to purchase a permanent farm closer to the site that would serve as a supplementary source of food and income for the children's home year in and year out.

### May 2016

During a combined management team meeting, we decided that – short of an endowment fund – Amani needed a long term plan for financial sustainability. Amani had been rocked by a number of food shortages over the last few years, and we felt enough was enough. We decided Amani would buy a farm.



### June 2016

The management team drew up a financial plan, detailing how much money we would need to invest in the purchase, renovations and construction of irrigation systems, and the labor for planting, harvesting, and purchasing seeds. We visited potential farmland plots and interviewed sellers about each site's history of crop productivity.

### July 2016

The Board of Directors launched our on-line fundraising campaign, based in America.

### August 2016

In a little over a month, we reached our goal of 5K USD! The Tanzania management team dove into the preparations- meeting with local government officials to initiate the land purchase process and visiting local farming companies to research the most successful farming methods for the local environment.



### Fall 2016-present

The Tanzania management team led the clearing, tilling and preparation of the land. They installed a well for year-round irrigation and will soon plant corn and vegetables as a way to improve the children's diet at Amani. The surplus will be sold at the local markets and the profit used to help cover child care costs.



## Looking Forward

In addition to continuing our sustainable farming initiative and launching community outreach workshops, Amani has three focal projects as we move into the new year:

### Amani Soccer Team

In East Africa and around the world, sports provide a way for children to gain confidence, build life-long friendships, and earn scholarships. Amani's children love soccer, but we can't afford the equipment and uniforms necessary to compete in a local league.



### Amani Primary School

In 2014, John McAuley funded the construction of two school classrooms and a teacher's office on the Amani campus. With four full time English-speaking teachers, Amani's school is one of the best in the neighborhood. We enroll children from the local community for profit, and our children are able to attend for free. However, in order to be a fully-recognized primary school, we need to construct another five classrooms.

### Conservation Education Program



Most Tanzanians born in the rural areas surrounding the Arusha region will never be able to visit their own National Parks. In January 2017, Amani Children's Home partnered with the Safina Center to take our kids and several from the community on

safari. Beginning with this visit to Lake Manyara National Park, we launched a conservation education program, based at Amani and open to children in the local community and other children's homes.

***See our work featured with National Geographic***

<http://voices.nationalgeographic.com/2017/01/31/building-home-and-friendship-in-africa/>

## A Heartfelt Thanks from Our Tanzanian Team

“Housing 47 children is hard work for everyone here. We feel each day the amount of stress it brings, amount of effort it takes- to outsiders seems to be *just* hard work. However, the feelings of joy this work brings is beyond words. We get the privilege of spending most of our time around these children, seeing them growing day after day and year after year. This is more than blessing to us- it’s an honor to be part of the team that brings hope, love and comfort to our children.

There is hard work. But it’s wonderful work. Our team works tirelessly towards empowering not only those who are with us at the center but also orphans and street children in the community. We care deeply about our education and new outreach programs which provide vital services to the children beyond our campus. Both at Amani and in this community, our children have known suffering. We seek to provide daily needs as well as to restore their hope which was lost at first help them build a better future.

Our hard work wouldn’t accomplish much without your hard work! We could not do this without you, and so I think this is good opportunity to say thank you for your support in giving hope, love and a future to each of our children.”

-Gideon Mawenye, Site Manager



## We Need Your Help

As you've seen, Amani Children's Home *cannot continue* without your support. Over the next several years, we hope to become an entire self-sustaining institution through profits from our organic farms and private school. However, we need you now!

### Every Penny Matters

Visit [www.childrenofamani.org](http://www.childrenofamani.org) to donate today. We deeply appreciate pledge commitments. These reoccurring monthly donations allow us to predict our income more accurately and plan with confidence towards the future!

**You can also donate by mail:**

Amani Children's Home c/o Kate Thompson  
35 Marlin Road, Centereach, New York 11720,  
USA

EIN: 36-4806201

### Volunteer and Help Make a Difference

Not everyone can make a financial contribution. We need people who are willing to contribute their time, skills and energy right here from their home countries. We need volunteers interested in accounting, social media, website and newsletter design, fundraising coordination and more.



- ☐ Volunteer with fundraising campaigns and financial management
- ☐ Volunteer with communications and online design
- ☐ Volunteer in a different way: \_\_\_\_\_

Please visit our website [www.childrenofamani.org](http://www.childrenofamani.org) to learn more, or call us at 631-522-3217. Send this form by mail to our office:  
35 Marlin Road, Centereach, New York 11720, USA

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Thank You to All Our Donors

Both those here who have donated online or through sponsorship, those who have asked to remain anonymous, and the countless more that have donated supplies on-site!

### \$1,000 and Above

Brooke Allison  
Karen Sheldon  
Patricia Aeby Martinez  
John McAuley  
Eddie Verhoeven  
Troy Allison  
Catina Panda

### \$1,000 - \$500

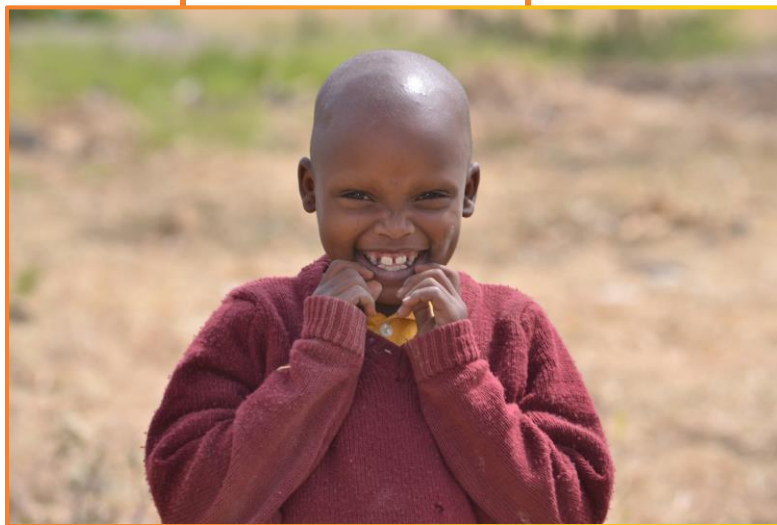
Patricia Aeby Martinez  
Brenna Donnellan  
Eva Van Den Brand  
Kristina Sisu  
Sharon Menard  
Carole Obre  
Ombretta Fammana  
Patrizia Santarelli  
Tyler Boyce

### \$500 - \$100

John Price  
Richard Seymour  
Tyler Rybacki  
Gus Platas  
Robert Roady  
Emily Zink  
Hannah Granney  
Andrew Chasan  
Michael Sexton  
The Safina Centre

### \$100 and Below

Khaled Abdallah  
Patricia Bikowsky  
Amani Abdallah  
Maureen Nicolson  
Farrell Graves  
Richard Bankoff  
Kyle Sheely  
Jen Hacking  
Jack Buehner  
Beth Puliti  
Paulette Cooper  
Noble





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