



Rescuing Children. Restoring Hope. Transforming Lives.

## 2008 Year in Review

Amani continues to grow as an organization and this year, we helped more vulnerable kids escape the dangers of the street than ever before. The following are brief overviews of Amani's lifesaving work with Tanzanian children in 2008.

Education at Amani: Amani's onsite Non-Formal Education (NFE) Program is an integral part of our mission of "transforming lives." Many of the children who turn to Amani for help have never had the chance to go to school and are far behind their peers academically. The children studying in NFE are in class five days a week, taking courses in Swahili, English, math, science, history, sports, and performing and visual arts. Amani has five full-time Tanzanian teachers, plus volunteers who teach special needs, sports and art, creating an environment for the children to thrive both mentally and physically.

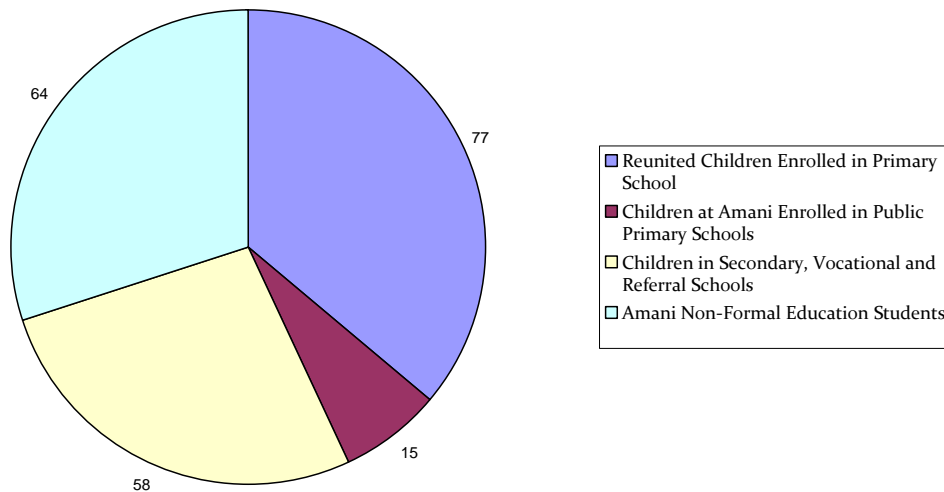
The program was officially registered with the Tanzanian Ministry of Education in late 2007, which means that the children studying at Amani are able to take the same Std. 7 exams and have the same opportunities for their future as students in government-run schools. In January of 2008, Amani's education department received exam results from Amani's first graduates. Five out of eight students sitting for their Standard 7 exams passed – a pass-rate of 62%. The national average in 2007 was 40%. In 2008, 6 out of 8 children passed the exam! This terrific success is the result of the Amani children's hard work in the classroom, as well as the dedication of the teachers.

A professional acrobat, Iddi, began teaching gymnastics and acrobatic routines to the Amani children in March of 2008. The children have responded with enthusiasm to his lessons and have impressed everyone with their talent. They did a big performance at the Amani Christmas party in front of local town leaders, neighbors, and staff, and amazed everyone!



In 2008, Amani supported the education of 214 children in a variety of programs.

Amani Children's Home Education Program



In June of 2008, graduate students from Columbia University in the US produced a 100-page report following their research in Tanzania on how to help older youth make the critical transition from life at Amani into independent living. Amani will be creating a policy out of these recommendations to help the older children graduating from secondary school and vocational programs.

Healthcare at Amani: Amani's healthcare program – led by nurse Rovina – continues to meet the medical needs of the children in Amani's care. This year there were over 600 instances of children being treated medically at Amani,



with the most common problems being scrapes, colds and coughs, skin problems, and sprains, as well as a few incidences of tonsillitis, heart problems, and circumcision.

In addition to running the health program at Amani, Rovina also provides healthcare to the children still living on the streets of Moshi and Arusha. She works closely with the Street Educator, offering care to children who otherwise would have nowhere to turn when they are alone, sick, and scared.

After faithfully offering healthcare on the streets for years, Rovina has become a familiar and trusted face. When she arrives, homeless children run up to her and tug on her hand, asking for help or bringing her to their friends who are in need. In 2008, there were over 700 incidences of Amani providing medical care to children on the streets, from problems as diverse as skin infections, wounds from accidents and fighting, chest colds, and STDs.

A continuing focus for Amani's health program is education on the prevention of STDs. Tanzania's national HIV-infection rate is estimated at 8% of the population and many of the children have lost one or more parents to AIDS-related illnesses, making it essential that they understand how STDs are transmitted and what is considered risky behavior. Rovina develops weekly health lessons on a variety of issues and follows up with evaluations to determine what information the children have retained from the lessons. One such evaluation showed that 85% of Amani kids understand how HIV/AIDS is spread and how to protect themselves from it.

#### Life at Amani:

We strive to create a happy, safe environment at Amani. Many of the children who turn to Amani for help have experienced fear and trauma that have devastated their young lives. In 2008, thanks to several donors who did fundraisers, Amani put up a playground for the children to enjoy. There are swings, a slide, tires to climb and a wooden bridge. Outside of class time the children can be found swinging, laughing and playing!

We took the children on two field trips this year. Tanzania is a beautiful country that the children are proud to call home. In April we took the kids to a snake and reptile park near Arusha. They learnt about the many poisonous snakes found in Africa and had the chance to hold a few of the friendlier ones. Later in the year, the children visited a Coca-Cola bottling plant, a major industry in the local economy. They were thrilled when, after the tour, the Coke plant manager let them drink their fill of the soda!



Our night-time caregivers do an exceptional job protecting the children and making sure that the evening schedule is followed. With an average of 90 children under our roof, that is no small task! Each evening before dinner the night-time caregivers hold an Evening Talk with all of the children at Amani. They discuss issues from the day, answer any questions the children have, and quiz the children on facts learnt that week at school.

Social Work and Counseling: We believe that the best place for a child to grow up is in a safe and loving home. Amani's social work department performed 198 home visits in 2008. This is a crucial part of the process of reuniting children with their relatives. Our social workers visit the homes of family members to learn if it would be a safe place for a child, to counsel the family on issues that may arise during and after reunification, and to follow up with reunited families.

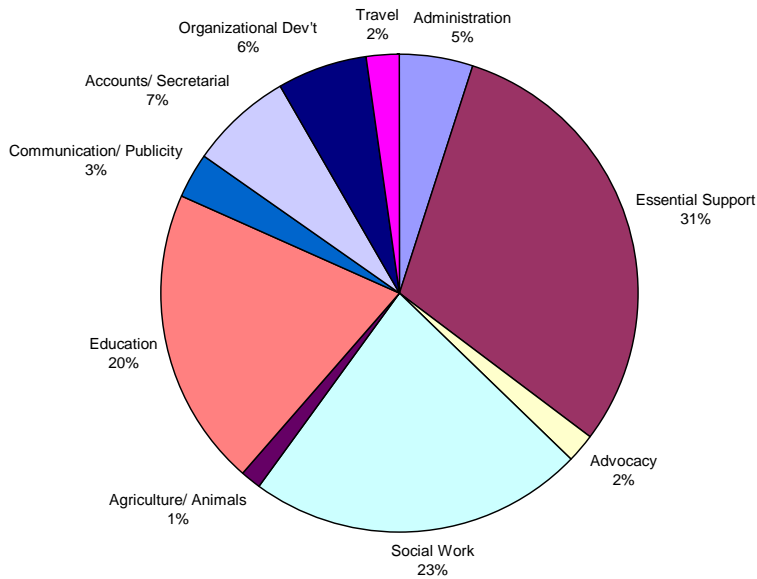
Amani's social workers have traditionally focused their time on family reunification and street education, which are central to Amani's work of rescuing children from the streets and bringing them into family-based care. In

2009, Amani's social work department plans to work with the social workers to develop programs in the following areas:

1. Counseling: one social worker will be responsible for Amani's counseling program designed to give more individualized care to each child at the Amani center.
2. Advocacy: Amani will sponsor legal help for the children we protect, as well as partnering with others to educate communities about children's rights.
3. Youth empowerment: helping older youth graduate into self-reliant adult living. The results of the Columbia students' report will be used as a foundation for this program.



## Looking Forward: 2009 Financial Year Program Budget



Total: 566m TZS or  
\$472,000 USD

The 2009 budget was approved by the Amani Board of Trustees in December 2008. At \$472,000 US, this represents an increase of 46% over last year's program expenditures. The rise in the budget is due to a number of factors:

- The price of food in Tanzania continues to go up. Amani serves an average of 2,067 meals at the centre each week, and additionally brings food to 48 formerly homeless children who are now living in the community.
- Some children are growing up and 19 older children will be supported with rent, food, and basic home furnishings as they transition to independent living.
- The network of children in the community supported by Amani is always growing, and as such we have hired new social workers and increased the number of home visits and follow-up visits done each month.
- There are 7 families who need repairs to their home in order to be able to provide their children with a safe and decent place to live. We plan to help with these repairs.
- Amani is strengthening its infrastructure, and has been able to locate two new qualified management staff, as well as a professional storekeeper to manage supplies.
- The number of students supported is rising, from 33 to 45 secondary school students, 8 to 15 vocational training students, and 156 to 195 primary students. The cost of additional school fees, especially for vocational training students, as well as uniforms and supplies, is significant.
- Sports, carpentry, and art have been added to the Education program.
- Amani is investing in organizational development, such as management training, networking with likeminded organizations in the country, teaching counseling to the caregivers, and doing Board development.

2009 Plans: Amani Children's Home is committed to continuing to reduce the number of children living on the streets in Tanzania in 2009. We anticipate an expansion of the number of children receiving care in each of our programs. The recruitment of professional staff members to fill management level positions means the quality of Amani's care will increase as well.

**Microfinance Program:** Amani has begun research into developing a microfinance program. Discussions are underway to decide whether to start a program of our own or connect with an existing microfinance group in the area. Amani has an extensive research report prepared in 2007 by volunteers from Duke University in the U.S. about microfinance organizations in northern Tanzania. We are also in contact with an American lawyer who does microfinance in Moshi and has agreed to advise us. We are being very careful in the research and planning of this program, so that it has the greatest chance of success to significantly impact the youth and families involved, and is an efficient use of Amani's limited funds.

**Solar Hot-Water Heater:** Thanks to our donors, Amani will be able to purchase a 300-liter solar hot-water heater. Solar power is environmentally friendly and a great idea in a place like Tanzania, which has a lot of sunshine! During the cooler months of the year, it can be difficult to coax children into taking cold showers, and having warm water will be a big help in encouraging good hygiene.

**Expanding Home-based Support:** In 2009, Amani will expand its program to assist impoverished families and help them remain together. One important factor in the break-up of families is the inability of parents to provide basic necessities like food, shelter and healthcare. Amani will help an increased number of reunited families with food support in their homes, as well as begin to assist families in repairing homes that have become unlivable.

**Graduating from Amani:** In the new year, eight children will graduate from Amani. When children reach their teenage years and finish secondary school or vocational training, Amani assists them transition to an independent life in the community. Amani provides startup supplies for trades such as carpentry and mechanics, basic home furnishings such as beds and pots, and helps with rent and finding employment. In 2009, eleven children will begin post-graduation vocational internships, sponsored by Amani, which will prepare them for future employment.