



Rescuing Children. Restoring Hope. Transforming Lives.

Amani, located at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro, provides care and education for nearly 300 street children and orphans in Amani's home and in the local community.

The Brand New Amani Website! An Updated Window into the Work of Amani Children's Home

Amani Children's Home is proud to announce the launch of our new website! Still located at www.amanikids.org, the new site provides lots of information about the Amani children and our work to rescue vulnerable children from a life on the streets.

With an updated and expanded "[Meet Our Kids](#)" section, visitors can browse through photos and short biographies of all the children currently living at Amani, and

follow them as they make the transition into life at home with their families. Taking the time to read a few of these brief stories is a great way to learn why supporting Amani's work is so important.

The new website also features a [photographic history](#) of Amani Children's Home. You can take a look back at Amani's humble beginnings in the two-bedroom house where volunteers provided a safe place for children with no where else to turn.

The website wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of a small team of committed volunteers, among them Adam Smith, Colby Anderson, Matthew Todd, and Joachim Mangilima. Amani's new website is a great example of how concerned individuals are the backbone of our organization.

For those interested in supporting Amani's mission of rescuing Tanzania's most vulnerable children, our new website offers user-friendly online giving options, as well as numerous in-country volunteer opportunities. So check us out! Visit www.amanikids.org and take a look at the amazing impact your support can make in the life of a needy child.

It is our sincere hope that our new website makes it easier for you to connect with the Amani children, be inspired by their strength, and reach out to touch their lives.



Learn about the kids currently being
helped by Amani at www.amanikids.org.

Spreading Christmas Cheer to Needy Children

The Amani Children celebrate the holidays with a visit from St. Nick



Lumi Kandi excitedly opens his Christmas gift.

entire afternoon playing with their new toys and showing each other their gifts. It was heartwarming to see their smiles and hear their laughs.

Christmastime is a special time of the year for many families around the world. It's a time to reflect on the importance of our relationships with our loved ones and to let them know that we care. The annual Amani Christmas party is a special opportunity to spread love and happiness to children who've been separated from their families.

This year's party was a huge success. The children sang songs, played games and danced to Christmas music. Amani's acrobat club put on a show for guests from local schools and churches in the community. There was even an appearance by Father Christmas!

This Christmas the children at Amani each received a shoebox through [Operation Christmas Child](#), containing small gifts such as toy cars, notebooks and whistles, as well as a new outfit of clothes. The children spent the

Many of the children who have turned to Amani for help have known insecurity and neglect for much of their young lives. This holiday season the caregivers at Amani – and supporters like you – shared the spirit of Christmas with the children. Thank you all for your role in bringing joy into the lives of the Amani children.

Amani Ambassadors

Scottish Ambassador Shares his Homeland with the Amani Children

On the streets, children are deprived of basic needs like food and shelter, but homelessness also prohibits them from learning about the world around them. They miss out on opportunities to learn about Tanzania's relationship with other countries around the globe.

Steven Harris, an Amani Ambassador from Edinburgh in Scotland visited the Amani children the first week of January.

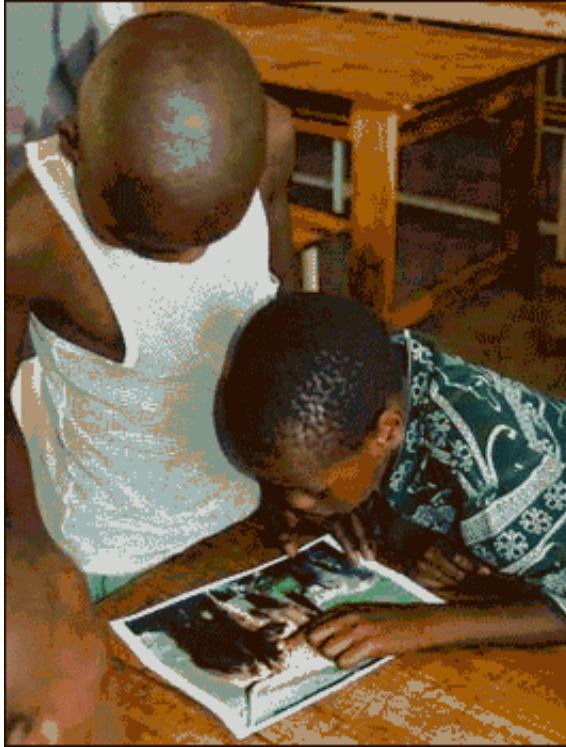


Ambassador Steven Harris showing the Amani children where he's from.

Steven works as a chemistry researcher for a chemicals company in Scotland. "I really wanted to help and to make a difference. I got the very strong impression that Amani makes a big difference to the children it helps. I wanted to be part of that," said Steven about his motivation to commit a week of his holiday volunteering at Amani.

Steven made friends quickly at Amani and the children were very interested to learn about where he came from. "From the minute I walked in the door, I had kids all around

me. I had been a little apprehensive that my poor Swahili would be a problem. But I soon found out that their English was generally much better than my Swahili - and anyway, you don't really need to say much to play football, badminton, or just horse around!"



The Amani Children were surprised by the hairy Highland cattle!

Steven brought a Scottish flag, photographs from home, and a map showing his country's historic castles. Many of the animals in Scotland were new to the Amani children and they were surprised to see cows with long hair and hear about Scotland's famous Loch Ness Monster. Steven also donned a kilt, which made the children giggle. "I'm delighted to have been able to give the Amani kids a touch of insight into Scotland, to repay the loving insight into Tanzania that I am lucky enough to have experienced."

Before coming to Tanzania, Steven opened his home to friends and family. He served mulled wine and mince pies and told them about Amani Children's Home. "Then, I passed around a bucket and asked them to make a donation." Steven also mailed out an email to his colleagues, asking them to visit Amani's website. After hearing about his plans,

Steven's employer made a donation to Amani through their corporate responsibility program.

Amani's Ambassador Program gives supporters the opportunity to see first-hand Amani's work with homeless and orphaned children by visiting us in Tanzania. Ambassadors raise awareness about child homelessness in their home communities and fundraise to help Amani rescue more children from the streets before their visit. If you'd like information about Amani's volunteer program, visit our [website](#).

Looking Ahead to 2009

Amani Adapts to Toughening Financial Environment

As the global economic situation worsens, nonprofits are likely to feel the pinch of tightening belt straps. Economic downturns are especially difficult for small projects such as Amani, which depend entirely on the generosity of others to fund their activities and initiatives.

2009 may be a challenging year for Amani. In the face of a troubled global economy, the businesses that support Amani may be forced to reduce their charitable gifts. Individual donors, the backbone of Amani, may struggle to give when faced with increasing household costs and an uncertain job market.

Household costs are a major concern for us here in Tanzania as well. A recent article in The Citizen, the national newspaper of Tanzania, noted that prices for staple foods such as corn, rice, beans, and peas have nearly doubled in the past two years. Amani serves an average of 2,067 meals at our home every week. Rising food costs coupled with the decreasing value of the Tanzanian Shilling on the world market has forced our staff to look for creative solutions to the challenges of these tough times.

In order to ensure that the children in our care never go without a meal, Amani has increased our reliance on growing crops such as corn and bananas on our two-acre farm. Last year this harvest provided hundreds of nourishing meals for the children at Amani. We are hoping that this year we will be able to provide even more.

Unfortunately our creativity and hard work on the farm can only go so far. This year

more than ever we need the support of donors such as you, for without your generosity Amani would be unable to continue its lifesaving work.

By making a donation today, you are helping rescue more children from a life on the streets.

DONATE

Focus on a Child: Amina, Zulfa and Ramadhan John

Three young siblings begin a new life at Amani

Amina, Zulfa and Ramadhan were born and raised in Arusha, a large city east of Moshi. The three siblings lived with their mother, who struggled with alcoholism and would often physically abuse the young children. Together they scraped out a life in the dangerous slums of Arusha, their mother selling herself for money or alcohol and forcing the toddlers to walk the streets, begging for food.

Amani's street educator met the three children, all under seven years old, one night in April of 2008. He met with their mother and began counseling her, asking that she allow the children come to live at Amani where they could be given safety, food, and the opportunity to go to school. After months of discussion, their mother finally decided to allow her children to go live at Amani where they could be protected.

Since coming to Amani in September of 2008, the three siblings have gone through a rapid transformation – from frightened and malnourished toddlers to playful and healthy young children. Loved by all of the caregivers, Amina, Zulfa, and Ramadhan are beginning preschool classes this year.



Ramadhan, Zulfa and Amina John

Zulfa, the youngest of the three, is just four years old and the youngest child at Amani. Their mother has made several visits to Amani to see her children since they've arrived. Amani's social workers are working with her to locate relatives who can provide a safe and loving home for the three children. An aunt and uncle living in Singida, approximately 400km from Moshi, have been contacted and the possibility of reunification is being pursued.

Learn more about the children whose lives have been changed by your support at <http://amanikids.org/children-at-amani>.

If you'd like to unsubscribe from this quarterly newsletter, click [here](#).

www.amanikids.org