



## **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.

### **Repairing Houses, Rebuilding Families**

#### **Amani is making it possible for families to live together**

March brings heavy rains in Tanzania. Many families rely on these rains for their livelihood. Without them, crops wouldn't grow and animals and people would go thirsty.

But the rains also present a significant challenge for many families. The heavy rains can jeopardize the structural integrity of family homes, which are traditionally made from mud and wood. When the season ends, many families' homes are in disrepair. Families living in poverty are often unable to make the repairs necessary to live in a home that is safe, dry, and clean.



**Theresia, Cornell and Emmanuel Severin at home with their grandmother.**

At Amani, our goal is to find a safe and healthy home in the community for all of the children we work with. Finding a relative who is willing to care for a child is just one part of making a successful reunification. We must also ensure that the child has the opportunity to continue their education, enough food to eat, and a safe place to live.

This year Amani will be repairing 7 family homes by patching leaky roofs, replacing rotted wood, and repairing damaged walls. One of these families is the Severins. Cornell, Emmanuel, and Theresia Severin were abandoned by both their mother and father in 2004. A village elder, desperate to help the young siblings, brought them to Amani for help.

The Severin children lived at Amani for 3 years while our social workers searched for their relatives. In 2007 their aunt was located and agreed to care for the children. The kids began school and began a new life with their aunt. However, the aunt's neighbors produced homemade alcohol and it became apparent that the environment was unsafe for children.

The aunt suggested the children move to their grandmother's house in a nearby village. The grandmother was happy to have the children live with her, but when Amani's social

workers visited her home they realized that this wouldn't be possible. Her tiny one room house made of mud and sticks was unsuitable for the three school-age children.

"The children were so eager to live with their grandmother that they began collecting stones from the river," says Amani's Social Work Coordinator Japhary Salum. "When I asked them what they were doing, they told me they were going to build a new house to live in."

Japhary discussed the Severin's situation with Amani's Director and Board of Trustees and it was agreed that a second room should be built for Cornell and Emmanuel, the two young boys. Construction is now underway on the room. Amani is committed to giving children the opportunity to grow up as part of a loving family whenever possible, and in the case of the Severin children and many others, this goal will soon become a happy reality.

## Clowning Around

### The Children Go to a Waterfall with a Special Guest



The Amani children swim and play at a waterfall on Mt. Kilimanjaro.

As a professional clown, Evelyn Citroen loves to make children smile. In January she brought many smiles to the faces of the Amani kids by taking them to visit one of the many beautiful places Tanzania has to offer.

Evelyn arranged for food and transportation to take all of the children living at Amani to the Kinukamori waterfalls in a village on the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro. The Amani kids piled into two large busses, singing songs and playing hand-clapping games as they ascended into the cooler foothills of the mountain.

Evelyn hired local guides to lead the group on a nature walk into the forest. Afterwards, they ate lunch before shedding their shirts and jumping into the water. The kids swam and played in the cool mountain water for most of the afternoon.

"I felt very honored to be with all these beautiful children and share nature and adventure with them," says Evelyn, who resides in Holland. Evelyn studied the craft of clowning all over the world, working with the legendary Patch Adams.

As the sun began to set and many of the younger children grew sleepy, everyone began the trip back to Amani. In the bus, Evelyn brought out stickers and balloons, which she made into animals for the children. Before leaving, Evelyn told caregivers that she wanted the children to have a day of fun and adventure. Judging from the smiles on the children's faces, the day was a great success!

We're deeply thankful for Evelyn and the many other people who have brought joy into the lives of homeless children.

## Focus on a Child: Charles Hubert

### Amani Gives Young Man a Chance to Shine

Charles Hubert is one child who exemplifies Amani's mission to rescue children, restore hope, and transform lives. Once a homeless child living on the street, Charles has grown into a young man full of promise and hope.

Speak to our teachers and they will tell you that Charles is the model of a responsible young man. A standout student in Class A at Amani, he is taking the National Standard 7 Exam this year so that he may continue move on to high school. As the head of Amani's acrobatic troupe, Charles displays talents both in and out of the classroom. A natural leader with a gift for mentoring younger students, it came as no surprise when Charles was elected Head Boy, the highest student representative at Amani, by a vote of his peers.



Amani Head Boy Charles Hubert.

Polite, hardworking, and blessed with a talent for mathematics, Charles plans to attend university and become an accountant one day.

Seeing him now, it is difficult to believe that Charles comes from such a challenging background. Charles ended up on the street because his single mother was impoverished and unable to care for him. Facing the hard reality of a future without enough to eat, he made the difficult decision to try and make a life for himself by running to the streets. However, like so many other vulnerable Tanzanian children, Charles found his new life fraught with hardships. Malnourished, abused, and homeless, Charles didn't know where to turn for help.

Then one day Charles met Godfrey, Amani's Street Educator. Godfrey offered to bring Charles to Amani, a place where he would be safe, well fed, and loved. Charles accepted Godfrey's offer and hasn't looked back since.

At 15 years old, Charles is now on the verge of becoming an independent young man. A gifted athlete and student with a drive for success, Charles can look forward to a life full of opportunity.

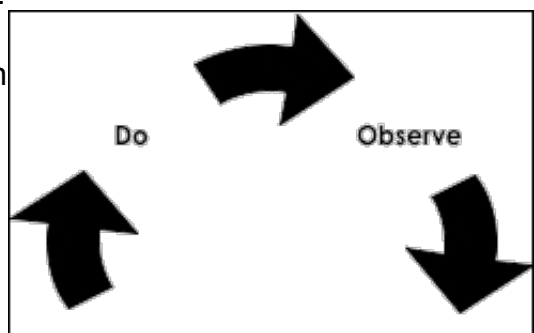
## Becoming a Learning Organization: Part 1

### Reflection and a Learning Environment Key to Achieving Excellence

One of Amani's core values is "The Pursuit of Excellence." Because we recognize that pursuing excellence means constant growth and development, Amani has made creating a culture of learning a key priority in 2009.

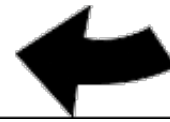
As we actively reflect on our experiences and learn from them, seeking to gain new knowledge and understanding, our practices continually improve.

One way Amani is developing a culture of learning is through incorporating the "Action Learning Cycle" into our meetings, discussions, and progress reports. This is a simple and powerful



tool where staff members reflect on their actions, the outcome of those actions, and what they can learn to carry forward when planning for the future.

Plan



Reflect

**The Action Learning Cycle.**

In a recent session, we reflected on a seminar that Amani held for children preparing to enter secondary school. Staff used the Action Learning Cycle to identify several ways to improve next year's seminar, including new topics to cover and a broader consideration of the children's and staff's schedules when planning the date and venue.

Afrique Martin, an Amani caregiver, says, "I like the Action Learning Cycle. It is a method which can be used by an organization to strengthen its day to day activities so as to achieve its vision and mission. It's also helped me in my specific job at Amani to achieve my goals more effectively."

As Amani continues to develop a learning culture, we will become better at reaching out to homeless children, helping them to heal, learn, and grow and, as the Amani mission says, "creating a path for each child that leads to a future filled with hope."

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