SEE INSIDE FOR ARTICLES ABOUT: M-LISADA LIBRARY, MEMPROW ORGANIZATION AT M-LISADA, PREPARATIONS FOR THE DANCE OF HOPE TOUR AND OTHER EVENTS
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS .................................................. P. 3
PARTY AT GUEN’S ................................................................. P. 4
PERFORMANCES AND CONCERTS ........................................... P. 5
JUNIOR BAND ................................................................. P. 5
LIBRARY PROGRAMS ............................................................ P. 6

PEER-TO-PEER PROGRAM ......................................................... P. 7
- SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
- RECREATION ACTIVITIES
- REUNION OF CHILDREN WITH THEIR FAMILIES

WORKSHOPS .............................................................. P. 9
- NARRATIVE MEDICINE PRACTICE WORKSHOP WITH BAVUBUKA ALLSTAR FOUNDATION
- LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOP WITH SUE WILLIAMS

BOOK-MAKING PROJECT ......................................................... P. 10
DANCE AND PIANO LESSONS .................................................. P. 11
MEMPROW ORGANIZATION AT M-LISADA ................................ P. 11
DONATIONS OF LAPTOPS ...................................................... P. 13
VISITORS ........................................................................ P. 13
CHRISTMAS CALENDAR ......................................................... P. 14
PREPARATIONS FOR THE DANCE OF HOPE TOUR .................. P. 15
PHOTOS ........................................................................... P. 16
CHRISTMAS PARTY AT GUEN’S ............................................ P. 17
CONTACT ...................................................................... P. 18
DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

Another year passed by and I want to take this opportunity to have a look at 2017 together with you.

It was a year full of joy and love, progress and success, but also difficulties and changes. M-LISADA is developing all the time. Every single day, we are giving our best to achieve some of our objectives, even if they are only small. Positivity, happiness and the love towards our children are giving us the strength and patience to never give up.

The last three months ran fast and now we are standing here with 2018 in front of us. I thank all of you for taking us through the last year, for sharing lots of wonderful moments and for all kinds of support and helping hands. Let us keep this great work continuing for the year 2018.

May the Almighty God bless you abundantly.

Yours faithfully,

Emilly Donia
Director of M-LISADA Organization
PARTY AT GUEN’S

We started the last quarter of the year 2017 with our much loved party at Guen’s place. The weather god was totally on our side and all the children and also some staff members spent a long time in the pool. Besides swimming, the beautiful and big garden provided space for playing football and other games together with Guen and her children. A spontaneous performance from our M-LISADA Culture Troupe proved that it doesn’t matter what outfits they are wearing – even in towels they are able to bring the moves and the spirit. All in all it was a wonderful day and we can’t express in words how grateful we are for the support and love we are receiving from Guen and her family.
PERFORMANCES AND CONCERTS

The last three months were filled with several Brass Band concerts and performances of our Culture Troupe and acrobats. Our children were honoured to present their talents at weddings as well as at many Graduation Days of Primary and Nursery Schools. These days are characterized by parades through the corresponding areas. Our band performed at Makerere University and gave a free concert at M-LISADA. With every event our musicians, dancers and acrobats can improve their skills and increase their self-confidence. We are glad about the big interest and the amount of enquiries and we even hope to see both growing.

JUNIOR BAND

Last quarter, we recruited many new children to join our brass instrument lessons. Most of them are coming from the community around M-LISADA. During the school period, there was a lot of time to train them and they made great progress. It’s important for us to teach musical skills to our M-LISADA children as well as to those from the community, because there may be big talents hidden among them. We are looking forward to seeing them perform one day.
LIBRARY PROGRAMS

Our Library is a place that welcomes and invites everybody, not only the M-Lisada children, but also the staff members, community children and refugees, to read books or to expand their linguistic skills. Sue Williams teaches some of the Congolese refugees and also our German volunteers give their best in providing lessons for both younger and older M-LISADA and community children. Some of the children have begun to learn how to read and write, and others are simply enjoying coloring pictures or playing word-memory games. These classes are a benefit especially to the children who don’t have sponsors paying their school fees. Without the help from supporters and volunteers our library wouldn’t be as attractive and well equipped as it is today. That’s why we want to thank Kristeen Arnold, Sue Williams, Chris Weigers, Terry Chun and everyone else who has ever donated a book or supported us, and enabled us to turn our library into a room which is loved so much by our children. Always present and caring passionately for the library is Auntie Marie, our librarian. We are very grateful to have her as a part of our M-LISADA family.
Skills Development

Many different activities are going on at M-LISADA in our Peer-to-Peer-Program. During the last three months two big projects were conducted to develop the skills of the recruited boys: Liquid soap making and briquettes production. The responsible officer for the Peer-to-Peer-Program is our M-LISADA staff, Stellah. She has put a lot of effort into preparing market research for the single activities and keeping the recruited boys busy. Both productions were successfully completed. M-LISADA members and children are using the liquid soap for their own hygiene and in addition we are planning to sell it outside. The briquettes are going to be offered to the community, which hopefully will raise awareness of alternative products to charcoal, and also will give the boys a chance to earn their own money.

Recreation Activities

Besides the projects described above we are very happy to see the boys interacting with other M-LISADA children. It helps them delete a lot to create a feeling and understanding of home, protection and solidarity. Therefore we organized a football match where some of our M-LISADA children played together with recruited boys against another team from outside. The whole training, preparations and the match were a big success though it ended in a draw. Nevertheless, for our boys it was a chance to organize themselves in a team and of course to forget about any problems or issues. The plan is to continue the football training and on the way to strengthen the relations between all the children.
Reunion of Children with their Families

Another important part of the Peer-to-Peer-Program is our goal of reuniting recruited children with their families. It is a long process and takes a lot of care and organization. Children can only be reunited when they themselves, and also their families, are ready for it. Consultations and home visits are two of the practices we are taking to enable a peaceful resettlement for the children. Further we provide the families with necessities for their home. This quarter four children have been successfully reunited and we are hoping and planning to realize it for more of our children.

Generally we can say, that we are on a good path to recruit and rehabilitate more and more children and to give them useful knowledge and skills. We are exhilarated to continue this program next year with new ideas and activities. At this point we have to thank Interkultura for their great financial and managing support, without which we couldn’t realize these projects.
WORKSHOPS

Narrative Medicine Workshop

In October our dear friends and supporters from Bavubuka Allstar Foundation facilitated a very special and different workshop at M-LISADA. They hosted Ssanyu Birigwa from New York to lead this workshop together with Cyrus from Canada. Under the topic of Narrative Medicine Practice we, the staff members, practiced several exercises and methods to open ourselves to each other. Getting out of our comfort zone was part of the purpose of the training and it really helped to strengthen our commitment as care givers. It is important for our staff to keep on learning and putting focus on new things. We are grateful for that wonderful day and the time with Bavubuka Allstar Foundation, in particular with Cyrus and Ssanyu.

Life Skills Workshop with Sue

Sue Williams started a new Life Skills workshop series on trust and confidence-building for children of M-LISADA and some of the surrounding community. In their first session in November they shared fears and embarrassing moments using a secret box, so no one was identified and could speak freely. They discovered all the things everyone has in common. Sue was supported by Rebecca Kabz as a co-facilitator. We are glad to see our children enjoying and fully taking these chances to share and open up. Thank you so much Sue and Becky for your great work.
BOOK MAKING PROJECT

During the previous quarter, M-LISADA started to make books. This small project was financed by Emmanuel O’Kane to whom we want to express our gratitude. Now, we have just come up with a new and bigger book making project. Our director Emilly and Child Protection Officer Suzan attended a workshop at KCCA. They took all M-LISADA staff members through what they have learned there and announced that the organization was able to receive the Community Driven Development (CDD) fund from KCCA for supporting the book making project. We have established three committees—executive committee, management committee and procurement committee—which will help in the planning, organizing and marketing of the already made books. Part of the program will also involve the children who will represent the committees and of course produce books. We are looking forward to start the practical work in the new year, and can’t wait to see it developing and growing successfully. We appreciate the major support from KCCA and are very grateful!
DANCE AND PIANO LESSONS

Our long-term volunteers from Germany started to teach some of their own talents to our children. Together with Chiara they enjoyed dancing Zumba and Clara continued with piano lessons, which had been taught at an earlier time by M-LISADA resident Okema Bosco. Even many community children attended these lessons. We are so grateful to have our volunteers giving all children different chances to learn skills, to exploit their potentials and to improve in artistic talents.

MEMPROW ORGANIZATION AT M-LISADA

In November our M-LISADA Brass Band accompanied a big charity walk organized by MEMPROW (Mentoring and Empowerment Program for Young Women). We have been in partnership with them for several years. As it is an organization that helps and empowers women, we greatly appreciate that partnership and are glad to strengthen it with every given event and project. The charity walk focused on the objective to end gender based violence in education. Several schools took part and joined the walk from Railway Grounds to Sharing Hall in Nsambya. Our musicians played very well and at the end of the walk at Sharing Hall many woman started to dance to the brass music which made us really happy.
After this successful parade, some of the MEMPROW members and students visited M-LISADA as they have in the past, have been coming over and again to talk, share and counsel both our boys and girls. This time they were welcomed with a performance by our Culture Troupe and afterwards we went into small counseling groups. We are so grateful for MEMPROW’s never-ending support and for their generous donations of clothes and books. We are looking forward to having them partnering again with M-LISADA.
DONATIONS OF LAPTOPS

Every time M-LISADA Organization receives donations, all of the staff members and children are filled with joy. This time Salesforce Company donated a total of 15 laptops. Uncle Bosco carried 4 of them on his way back from the U.S. and later Rochelle brought 3 more, so 7 laptops already found their way to M-LISADA. We donated one of them to Mummy Foundation. A huge thank you goes to Shannon, who connected Uncle Bosco to Salesforce Company and we also want to thank Scott Cowley, who created an IT program for M-LISADA. It is important for the organization to have technical equipment that works well, because we want to create a start up for an IT program together with the children. We are so grateful and greatly appreciate such donations. Now that we have the computers at M-LISADA, we are ready to start the IT work.

VISITORS

In November, M-LISADA was honoured to host the Director of Spreeuwen School, Mr. Tom and long term supportive donor Mr. Yves from Torfs Company visited us here. Tom, together with his school, has organized a solidarity week for years for M-LISADA. Our brass band and Cultural Troupe welcomed them with an amazing performance which everybody enjoyed. M-LISADA is deeply grateful for the support and cooperation with Torfs Company and Spreeuwen School, and once again we are saying thank you!

Another special guest at M-LISADA this quarter was Zari Hassan, who visited us just few days before Christmas. It was exciting for everyone to spend time with her and we are all hoping to have her again at M-LISADA one day. Thank you very much Zari for the support and love.
CHRISTMAS CALENDAR

For the month of December, our German volunteers prepared an “Adventskalender” for our M-LISADA children, as it is a tradition in Germany. They organized special activities like singing Christmas songs, making Christmas stars and writing Christmas letters for friends. It made the time waiting for Christmas exciting and special and our buildings and rooms looked amazing with the decorations the children created.
PREPARATIONS FOR THE DANCE OF HOPE TOUR

Holidays always give us a lot of time for practicing and improving skills. These Christmas holidays, our cultural dancers were using them in an even more intense way. In January 2018 the Culture Group is going to travel to the U.S. to perform in schools, performing arts centers, universities, museums and at festivals. This exceptional opportunity is offered by the Dance of Hope program. Our children were rehearsing every day and prepared a broad and varied program. They are all very excited and can’t wait to show their talents on big stages and to meet new people. We wish them all the best for their trip and the shows. We cannot imagine anyone better than our own children to represent M-LISADA organization, and it makes us really proud to see them spreading our mission and our passion.
CHRISTMAS PARTY AT GUEN’S

As we started this year with one of our cherished parties at Guen’s place, we are ended it the same way. On 22nd December all of our M-LISADA children and even many of the community children celebrated Christmas together with Guen, her children and our staff members. Besides good food, swimming in the pool and playing in the garden our kids performed and played the Christmas story. At the end, even Santa came and brought a personal gift for every child which probably was the highlight of this lovely day.

As Okema Bosco said in front of all guests, it’s hard to put that feeling of gratitude and appreciation, which we carry towards Guen and her family, in words.