

## TRANSITIONS

As we mentioned in our last newsletter, change is coming! With our imminent departure from Tanzania in just a few short months, we are preparing for a lot of transitions. Read in this newsletter how we are transitioning out of our ministries and out of the region in Tanzania, as well as how we have made some impact in just 3 ½ short years.

## SPOTLIGHT ON A LULU PARTICIPANT – JACKIE ALLY

When Katie first became involved in the Lulu Project back in 2013, it was because she wanted to start some sort of group for girls in our neighborhood of Mabatini. It started out with identifying a need, and it came together when Katie and some local Tanzanian women met with SMA missionary Corine 't Hart and realized the benefits of making the group an official "Lulu" group. It's this connection that makes the Lulu Mabatini group one that is special to Katie. She saw the group from its infancy to what it is now, a registered Community Based Organization with 3 trained facilitators and many girls successfully doing businesses in their neighborhood.

This is why we want to highlight a girl from the Mabatini group, Jackie Ally. Katie first met Jackie right before the Lulu group was formed; Jackie was taking an adult literacy class at the parish. At 22 years old, Jackie, along with over 30% of all adults in the country, can't read or write. She lives by herself with her 2 children in Mwanza. Jackie was invited to join Lulu and she has barely missed a lesson since. She is one of the most driven Lulu girls, perhaps because of her lack of skills and resulting limited options for financial and personal independence. When she first learned handcrafts, Jackie made card after card, trying to sell as many as she could. Unfortunately, because her skill level was quite low, her cards were not of the best quality and had to be turned away because they were not good enough to sell. Yet, she did not give up hope; Jackie kept working to improve the quality of her product. Now she is one of the top producers of greeting cards in the group. In addition, Jackie has started a business of making and selling tea, chapatti, and maandazis (fried dough) to sell in the mornings. Though Jackie graduated from Lulu in December, she still attends many group sessions and regularly contributes to the group's savings and loan program.



When we look at young women like Jackie, and Teddy, who was featured in our last newsletter, we know that our time here in Maryknoll has been well spent. The skills that the girls have learned in Lulu can never be taken away; these women are building good futures for themselves and for the next generation. In addition, this program and its work will continue long after Katie is gone. For the immediate future, another MKLMer, Ashley Leen, will take over as Assistant Coordinator of the Lulu Project to help the Coordinator and all the senior and junior facilitators to carry out the work of the program. In the long term, however, it is all of our hopes that Lulu, which is built to be self-sustaining, will continue long after us "Westerners" are gone from this country.

## CHANUA: HELPING TANZANIA'S FUTURE BLOOM

We've shared several stories over the last few years about Chris's work with the group, Chanua. "**Chanua**" means "**to blossom**" in Swahili, and the organization helps these children to blossom into their full potential. Chris has helped organize and fund field trips, educational tours, and activity days as well as helping with tutoring and teaching lessons.

Twice a month the kids come for activities, and twice a month a select group comes for more intensive support. These are a few of the children of Chanua:

Hamisi (*top picture*) is a newer member of the group. He has just started Standard 2 and never misses a Chanua meeting. He spends his time developing his basic math skills and improving his writing. He is very happy to be a part of the group and always has a smile on his face.



The two girls in the bottom picture are Lilian (*left*) and Skolastica. Don't let Lilian's face fool you; these two girls are regulars of the group, and they love coming! These two are smart and funny and are especially inclined to act goofy on our game days. (*Please note that that is a Slinky wrapped around Lilian's neck*). Skolastica always volunteers to lead the group in opening and closing prayers. Recently, we asked the children in the group to draw pictures of what they want to be when they grow up. Lilian wants to be a doctor, and Skolastica wants to be a nurse. ***These are the dreams that Chanua works to help blossom.***



As Chris begins to transition out of this ministry, he will be leaving the work in capable hands. The group is overseen by Mrs. Mbogoma and is supported by a staff of excellent local workers, all of whom are dedicated to helping these kids thrive.

### NEXT STEPS

As you likely know if you are a regular reader of our newsletters, our contract with MKLM will be coming to an end in May 2015, and we have decided to return to the States. A lot of people are asking us what our next steps will be. We only wish we knew! Both of us are actively searching for jobs in South Carolina, as well as the Philadelphia, PA area, (nearer to Katie's side of the family). We plan to be back in the U.S. by the beginning of May to attend the Missioner Integration Program at MKLM in NY. By that time we hope to know what our next steps will be and hopefully you can read about it in our next (and final) MKLM newsletter. For now, please continue to pray for us as we seek out our next steps!

### SUPPORT OUR WORK

While we may be leaving in May of 2015, Maryknoll Lay Missioners still needs your support! You can now directly support our mission work with MKLM. Financial Support can be sent to MKLM, P.O. Box 307, Maryknoll, NY 10545-0307 or online at <http://tinyurl.com/ChrisandKatieReid>. Donations can be made to either to the **MKLM Missioner Sustenance Fund** or to our **Ministry Account**. All contributions are tax deductible.

As usual, we want to thank you all for your prayers, support, and contributions. We're just one small part of the whole that helps us answer the call to help the least of those among us. We couldn't do it without you! God bless!

**ASANTE SANA! THANK YOU!**