

It's been nearly a year since our last fund raiser and your donations and volunteer efforts have allowed us to continue with our programs in Tanzania. We've accomplished a lot, yet still have much to do.



### Our Kids



The kids at the TACODA Children's Home have had a great year. They have bonded into a family of brothers that would be the envy of many of us.

They are learning English at a rapid pace, thanks to last summer's volunteers and the pen pal relationships they've started with a students in Virginia and Connecticut. We're in the process of adding a third group in Colorado!

This summer, along with our US volunteers, we have our first teacher coming to work with the kids and our first guidance counselor coming to work with the staff. This teacher started the first pen pal program, making her visit all that more special!

We need to have more of these specialized visitors but we need increased financial support to make it possible.



April 2007 Newsletter

Have you checked out the new TACODA website yet? You can find it at [www.tacodachildren.org](http://www.tacodachildren.org) It was created by a group of our volunteers.



### Our Volunteers in Africa



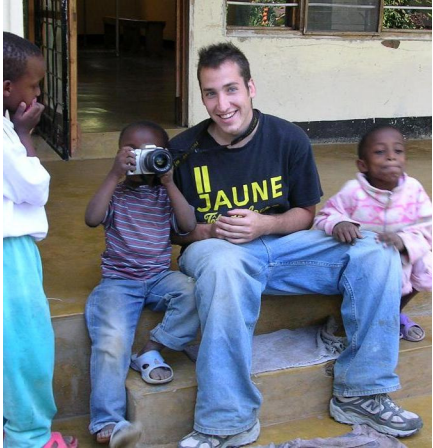
Our US volunteers working in Africa prove to the TACODA children that they matter.

They prove the same thing to the community when they share their skills in carpentry, electricity and plumbing. Like Jeff here, with his TACODA helper, much is being taught.

The US volunteers also help the kids with their English, reading and math.

And, with Chris, they're learning a little about photography. Do you know that the kids hadn't touched a camera or had a picture taken of them before we came!

This program needs more volunteers like Jeff and Chris to come every summer. To do that we need volunteer sponsors. Will you consider being one? If so, contact Donata at [donata@jimarden.org](mailto:donata@jimarden.org)

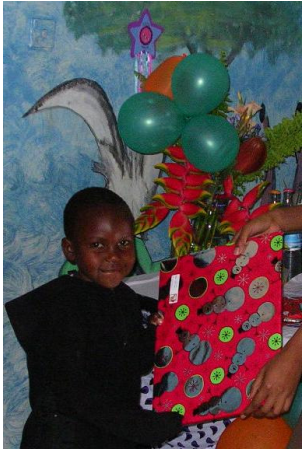


### Our Volunteers in the US

We have been very fortunate to have volunteers in the US who can and do help us in many ways. They've donated:

- More than 400 early readers in English
- 6 laptop computers
- School and art supplies
- New and "gently used" clothing
- Bath and bedroom linens
- Mosquito netting
- Christmas presents

But the boys keep growing; the shoes are pinching and the shirts aren't buttoning. We're currently conducting a shoe and clothing drive for any size grammar school boys shoes and clothing. Can you help? If you can, contact Mary at [mary@jimarden.org](mailto:mary@jimarden.org).



Please take a minute to check out the new TACODA website at [www.tacodachildren.org](http://www.tacodachildren.org)



## ***Our TACODA Soccer Teams***

We were able to field two soccer teams last year and host the first ever TACODA Cup Soccer Tournament.



This year we were also able to field two teams thanks to the McGinty's of Briarcliff Manor and the Chandlers of Cape Cod.

To make the season even more exciting, 4 of our players were selected to play in the National League playoffs on one of the competing teams.

And, the team with our players won!!

Will you consider being a team sponsor next year? If so, let Jim know at [jim@jimarden.org](mailto:jim@jimarden.org).

## ***Our TACODA Scholarships***

We currently are providing very modest scholarships to ambitious young people from the community to enable them to attend secondary schools and college in various fields.

Bernard majored in mechanical engineering, while Pallangyo and Junior majored in tourism. They all graduated in December of 2006.



Ramadhani is attending vocational school, Ezekial secondary school and Patrick primary school. Although primary education is free, some parents still cannot afford to purchase the required uniforms and school supplies for their children. Would you consider providing scholarships for deserving youngsters?

Have you seen the Foundation's updated website yet?  
You can find it at [www.jimarden.org](http://www.jimarden.org)



### ***Our Supporters in Tanzania***

The local Arusha community is supporting TACODA in a number of ways:

- Food is being donated by hotels and a bakery;
- Food, legal and financial advice, by Barclay's Bank of Arusha; and
- Medical assistance, by a doctor on our Board.

### ***Our Staff***

Our staff is strong and dedicated. It includes a director, cook, art teacher, housekeeper, security guard, coach and sports team manager.

All other services are donated to us by volunteers.

### ***The Children's Home – Unexpected Urgent Need!***

We have been renting the Children's Home for the past two years. Recently, we've been exploring the opportunity of purchasing our own.

We have located a suitable building, providing ample room now with plenty of space to grow. There is a large yard for recreation, a garden and an area for raising chickens. The house was built in the late 1950's.

We are currently leasing the property. We were doing so with the hope of being able to purchase it in the not too distant future. The cost of the house is \$50,000 US and repairs and renovations are expected to take another \$20,000 US.

Unfortunately, this week the Tanzanian government notified all orphanages that they must purchase their children's homes' within six months or they will no longer be able to operate. We cannot allow this to happen to TACODA. We must keep the promise we made to these children to give them a home until they are grown.

Our need to move forward in purchasing a house is now an imperative. Yet, we cannot undertake the purchase of a home dependent on the ups and downs of annual contributions. We must have specific commitments from our donors to meet this obligation.

We need your very generous support to undertake this work at its inception. We need it now to keep our work TACODA going.

**Please make a capital contribution today!**

April 2007 Newsletter

**The Jim Arden Foundation**

PO Box 4, Cos Cob, CT 06807



*Tanzanian Community Development Alliance*