

***This report is a short summary of the activities of Rainbows4Children in the year 2017. More details on any specific issue are available by contacting Max & Kathryn Robinson at [info@rainbows4children.org](mailto:info@rainbows4children.org)***

## **Project Progress - Nicolas Robinson School**

### **I. Building and equipment installed during 2017**

At the secondary school, we continued to build informal eating areas for the students. These are being enjoyed by the students and also some of them serve as spectator areas for sport. A donor continues to help us with the landscaping of the school, supporting the purchase of many trees and bushes as well as supporting the salaries of the gardeners. 2 volunteers trained gardeners and scientists in compost making in February and November and this helps to make the soil more fertile. The sponsored walk in 2017 raised enough money for us to extend and improve the sports facilities as well as purchase more text books and other equipment for the school.

In 2018 our aim is to continue landscaping, install a water purification unit in the primary school, donated by Aqua Pura, and to organise the drilling of a bore hole on the school site, so that we can have water at all times.



*Extended sports facilities in the Secondary School*



*Students busy in the labs*



*Landscaping in the secondary school*

### **2. Students and performance**

In the school year 2017-18, the student registration was 268 students in the kindergarten, 803 students in the primary school (grades 1-8) and 367 students in the Secondary School (grades 9-12). Approximately 70% of the students come from families where the parents have disabilities. The male:female ratio is 50:50, and there is no discrimination on gender, politics, religion or race. In every year since 2012, when the first students took national exams, 100% of the students passed the national exams at the end of grades 8, 10, 12. The Nicolas Robinson School was ranked no.1 in Mekele after an evaluation by the Education Bureau.

2 of our workshops are now being fully used for training in hospitality skills; waiting at table and food preparation. Technical drawing classes take place in another room and in the 4<sup>th</sup> room, students are currently using this for constructing models and experiments in their science and technology clubs. In 2018, it is planned to start ICT training.



*Training in the hospitality workshops at Nicolas Youth and Adult Learning Centre*



*Grade 10 in class*



*KG learning by play*



*IT classes start at grade 1*

### 3. Sponsorship programme

By the end of 2017, 450 students were sponsored to go to school through the Rainbows4Children sponsorship programme thus giving them a chance that their families could not otherwise afford. In addition, 35 sponsored school students are also now sponsored in their University studies, after they left the school. We still need 400 more sponsors to support students in the school.

### 4. Supplementary food programme

Started in 2011, the supplementary food programme continued for all students at the school. Every day the students are given extra food to provide better nutrition (protein, vitamins) in the form of eggs, banana, milk, orange or other seasonal fruit. This program continues to pay dividends in the form of better health - especially elimination of anaemia, skin ailments and better levels of concentration and learning in class.



*KG children enjoying their milk in the eating room*

### 5. Volunteers

During 2017 approximately 20 volunteers from Europe and the US gave their time and skills to teach science, English and teaching techniques. We continually have a need for volunteers and thank those who visited in 2017 for their great support: they really make a difference.

### 6. Care for the Whole Child

The school's student welfare director ensures the welfare of all the students in the school and she also provides home counselling when needed. At the end of 2014 the school and Rainbows4Children had to act quickly to save a young student diagnosed with leukaemia. She had to be flown to Bangkok for medical care and treatment. In July she returned home to Mekele for maintenance of the



programme and returned every 6 months to Bangkok for follow up treatment. In May 2017 she had the all-clear at her final check-up. A special appeal was launched which raised \$40,000 to support her. We need about \$10,000 more to complete the programme. The speed of reaction demonstrated a high level of cooperation within the school and showed that we can provide care for the students which is second to none in Ethiopia. We have some students who are suffering from a particularly bad diet or food supply issue due to family circumstances. If they are sponsored we have asked their sponsors for extra help. Otherwise we have supported them with extra food from the supplementary food programme.

#### **7. Fund raising activities in 2017**

Our annual Swiss fundraiser raised about CHF 73,000.

The charity shop in Stade, Germany (sales of second hand clothes and household items) has had to close, but they have kept their German registered foundation active to enable German tax payers to make donations through them and benefit from tax deductions.

Other major donors: 2 Swiss Foundations, 1 US Foundation, 2 Rotary clubs, 6 company donations, many private individuals. Thank you all for your help.

#### **8. Legal and accounting.**

The statements of the 2017 accounts for the UK Foundation and Swiss registered foundations will be submitted to the appropriate governing authorities after being audited. The trustees of both foundations during 2017 were:-

Switzerland: Richard Max Robinson, Kathryn Robinson, Jean-Paul Rigaudeau.

UK: John Bateson, Paul Reynolds, Philip Stockbridge, Kathryn Robinson, Richard Max Robinson.

Reported by:  
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