

Visiting the Huruma Centre Children's Home

This document is intended for Saint Paul Area Synod church groups who will be including time at the Huruma Centre Children's Home when they visit their companion parish in Iringa, Tanzania. Visiting the Huruma Centre is often a very meaningful experience for travelers to Iringa. Friends of Huruma is the Bega Kwa Bega affiliate that works with the Centre and the Iringa Diocese to help support the ministry of the Huruma Centre. Friends of Huruma volunteers have developed this document for you and are available to help you plan your visit. They can help you learn more about the Huruma Centre, Friends of Huruma, and about ideas for your visit. Thank you for your support for Bega Kwa Bega and for making the Huruma Centre a part of your visit to Iringa!

Your Time at the Huruma Centre

It is helpful to spend from two to four hours at the Huruma Centre, but visiting for just an hour can be meaningful, too. You'll find ideas here that will work for a short visit as well as ideas for longer visits. Friends of Huruma can help you prepare for your visit and coordinate with you so that Centre staff and children are available when you visit, and you don't overlap with another group of visitors.

Determine what your goals are before you travel and visit the Huruma Centre.

- Do you want to get to know the children? Then plan your time at the Centre around activities that can help you get to know a few children and one or two staff who care for them.
- Do you want to learn more about the ministry of the Centre? Plan to spend time with the Centre Director.
- Do you want to provide a more structured activity with the children and staff? Then plan for a visit of two to four hours and make sure you organize supplies and instructions before your travel.
- Don't forget to plan for a financial gift to Friends of Huruma.
- Remember: the most important thing you can do is spend time with children and staff, being supportive, and growing in relationship.

Ideas for a Shorter Visit

1. Meet with the Huruma Centre Director, Pastor Joyce Ngandango, to learn about the ministry of the Huruma Centre, and then receive a tour of the facility.
2. Playing a game with a few children is a wonderful way to get to know them. Play a short game, jump rope, or play soccer, or some other simple activity. Active children's games have universal appeal. If you bring along a game, keep it simple and make sure you provide a way to keep track of pieces and parts. In the past, something as simple as a big zip lock bag of Legos has worked well.
3. Teach the kids a song or two or ask them to teach a song or two to you, or both!
4. Create and bring along some large flash cards that have useful words in English on one side and in Kiswahili on the other side. Have fun helping the children learn some new English words and then have them test you on your Kiswahili.
5. Hoping to bring something for the children? Needs at the center vary. It is best to check with Friends of Huruma in the months/weeks before your trip to see what items of clothing or other resources would be most beneficial. Contact information for Friends of Huruma is listed at the end of this document.

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Ideas for a Longer Visit

1. Put on and participate in a talent show. You can experience the talents of the children and then you can demonstrate your talents, too.
2. Spend time with staff members, learning about their lives, how they became engaged in the ministry of the Huruma Centre, and what their work means to them. How do they feel about their work? You can share about your life and interests as well.
3. Decorate T-shirts with the children. For this project, you will need to bring along supplies (white T-shirts of various sizes, coloring tools, other design tools).
4. Purchase food at the Iringa market, bring it to the Centre, help the kitchen staff and children prepare the meal, and eat it together with the children and staff. Consider bringing rice, beans, sunflower oil, greens, maize, chickens (the live variety!), and other staples.
5. Provide a mini-VBS experience for a morning or afternoon, including basic craft ideas, bible stories, songs, etc. Break the kids into smaller groups and have one or two members of your team join each group.
6. Consider doing a simple service project, based on the advice and ideas of the Centre Director.
7. Put on a mini-play, where the children and members of your group play different roles. Be creative with costumes and have fun!
8. Bring and decorate mini-backpacks with paint, patches, colorful markers, etc. Purchase school supplies in Iringa and place them into the backpacks.
9. Bring face paint and have a face painting party with the children. Be sure to have them paint your faces, too! Sing songs and get to know the children while your busy painting. Bringing nail polish works well, too.

Notes:

- Be sure to keep in mind that some ideas may require more advance preparation before you travel and during your time in Iringa.
- It's helpful to the Iringa economy (and for the number of bags you bring along) to buy supplies you may need in Iringa. The main market area and the second-hand market in Iringa have a remarkable selection of useful items.
- Keep in mind that many of the children and staff have limited English skills when you choose items to buy and bring.

Support the Huruma Centre Financially

Gifts to Friends of Huruma support the daily operating costs of the Huruma Centre, essential health care, secondary school scholarships, and other essential services the Centre provides. You can learn more about making a gift by using the contact information provided below.

Getting Help to Plan your Visit

If you'd like assistance in planning your visit, Friends of Huruma is available to help. Friends of Huruma coordinator, Pastor Chris Smith, can be reached at the email and phone number listed below. Once you make contact, he will be able to get you started in planning your visit.

Contact Information:

friendsofhuruma@gmail.com

651-253-4997