



February 2019

Forever Angels

This month I got the opportunity to spend a few weeks volunteering and learning from Forever Angels Baby Home. This baby home provides temporary care for orphaned and abandoned children, newborn to five years old, in Mwanza, Tanzania. My time at the beautiful baby home will forever leave a mark on my heart. From the minute I walked into the home I could feel that they are focused around keeping families together and creating a family at the baby home.

The beautiful children living at this home are very well-cared for and well-loved by local caretakers, called mamas. The mamas are incredible! They spend full days and nights bathing, changing, feeding, playing, discipling, holding, and loving these vulnerable children. At the home, there is a preschool classroom where the younger and older children have separate classes every weekday. It was such a great experience to sit in and observe these classes during the day. I have so many new ideas to introduce to our daycare staff in Shinyanga.



Such a lively home, especially around meal times!



Playing at the playground! We took the special needs children to a local playground that was right on Lake Victoria. This sweet little lady is Blessing. She loved the freedom the ball pit gave her to wiggle and squirm around. I loved getting to know her bright personality. I am never going to forget the big smile she flashed at me every time I called out to her.



We scream for ice cream! One day for preschool, we went with the older children on a walk to get ice cream and learn about feeling cold. I was partnered with a young boy named Francis. He enjoyed the ice cream so much and trust me not a drop was left in the bowl. He was also so sweet to pick up everyone's trash and hold the trash bag the whole walk back.



Pool party! It was so fun to see the children learn to swim, or just be comfortable in the water. Most everyone had fun in the water. Even when their little bodies were shivering from the cold water, they did not want to stop splashing around.



Painting! While it may have gotten a little messy, it was so special to get to spend some one on one time with each child and capture precious memories with itty bitty hand prints.



Zoo field trip! We took the children to visit a zoo about an hour away from the home. We walked in the hot sun to see each exhibit some of which included pigeons, parrots, monkeys, and snakes. Some of the mamas and children were even brave enough to hold a snake or ride a horse. But my favorite part was holding sleepy children in my arms on the drive back.

During my time, I heard of so many stories of children being reunited with their family members or adopted into a forever family. While helping to feed some of the newborn babies at the home one morning, I was told that all four of the newborns in their care have already been adopted into families, paperwork pending. Praise Jesus!



And because they want to keep children in their own families, they started a program called Maisha Matters, which provides mothers with formula milk and training to care for their malnourished babies.

This program is so great at empowering Tanzanian families to care for their children in their homes. It gives initial life-saving support that will allow them to move themselves out of poverty and keep their children out of orphanages. What an AMAZING program!



Maisha Matters is every Tuesday afternoon at Forever Angels, where all the mothers and their babies gather. First, all the babies are weighed then the mothers are given the appropriate amount of formula for a week's worth of feedings. After every baby has

been weighed, everyone gets a snack and listens to a training session on hygiene, child development, HIV/AIDS, malaria prevention, or primary health care. On a case by case basis, they also provide families with funds for emergency surgeries or items which immediately increases their quality of life.

To see more information and stories of Forever Angels, visit their website at <http://foreverangels.org/>.

Prayer Requests

- Thanksgiving for our safe travels to Mwanza and an awesome experience at Forever Angels Baby Home.
- For Stephen, a young boy with autism that has been attending our daycare, and his mother.
- That the daycare would continue to grow and welcome in more young children from the surrounding community in order to spread the light, life, and love of Jesus.

How To Partner With Us Financially:

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Write "REED" in the memo line.

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You can give online using credit or debit card at our website.

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