



ISL, CARGOLUX, INTERDEAN AND OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE AFRICAN CHILDREN WITH SHOES FOR CHRISTMAS

Cargolux, Interdean, the International School of Luxembourg (ISL) and other members of the Luxembourg community have joined forces to make a wish of 'Christmas with Shoes' come true for Tanzanian school children at the Second Chance Education Centre in Moshi.

ISL's relationship with this centre goes back some nine years. Groups of volunteer students have been travelling to Tanzania each summer to undertake various projects, including the construction of dormitories for female students and teaching lessons at the centre, all under the auspices of the Creativity, Action and Service component of the International Baccalaureate Diploma. The ISL volunteers can attest to the urgent need for shoes for the children of the Second Chance Education Centre.

The idea for 'Christmas with Shoes' was sparked by a recent letter from Mama Lucy Renju, director of the centre, to Cecilia Rodriguez, mother of one last summer's student volunteers. Mama Lucy pleaded for shoes as well as household linens and light summer clothes. She also asked for school bags, pointing out that "our students spend more than 10 years of primary and secondary school without ever having a school bag!"

Rodriguez decided that something had to be done to respond to this appeal. With the assistance of IB CAS Coordinator Valérie Isbecque, she spearheaded a collection project at the International School to make Mama Lucy's dream a reality.

ISL families brought their donations to the school during the last two weeks of November resulting in 59 boxes of shoes, clothes, books, little toys, linens and other small surprises. In addition, many other groups contributed to this effort, including NAMSA employees who brought nine boxes of new clothes and the American Women's Club of Luxembourg which donated a new printer. These items were added to a separate collection taken up by Cargolux staff and the Commune of Bertrange, for a grand total of 80 boxes of goods. Interdean graciously provided the packing materials and delivered the boxes to Cargolux for shipment to Africa.

The 'Christmas with Shoes' initiative could not have become reality without the generous support of Cargolux Airlines, which flew the shipment to Nairobi, free of charge, on the evening of 11 December. Cargolux has also been instrumental in arranging for the ground transportation of the goods from Nairobi to the final destination Moshi, Tanzania.

The shipment arrived safely in Nairobi, and was delivered to Moshi in time to make the holiday, for many children of the Moshi area, truly a 'Christmas WITH Shoes.'