

A TWIST OF FATE

A shocking and touching February 2017 local newspaper article caught SATF's attention and caused us to spring in to action. When we read how Godfrey Mnanka, the oldest son of seven children, became the head of his family and sole caretaker for his six siblings after the death of his mother in 2016, we knew the situation was urgent. It took a few days for SATF to get in touch with the story writer, Mr. Anthony Mayunga, a journalist based in Mugumu Serengeti, but once we reached him, the journey to assist the broken family began.

SATF staff traveled to the Mnanka family's rural village in Mugumu, stopping to consult with local leaders and Serengeti local authorities along the way to learn more about the situation. The family's story had already begun on a sad note when their mother was forced to enter a traditional marriage among the Kurya tribe known as *Nyumba Ntobo*. This involves elderly men marrying younger women to have many children and to be domestic caretakers for them. Once we reached the Mnankas, we saw firsthand the destitute conditions they were living in, and how they were being denied access to education, decent shelter, healthcare, food and basic necessities. We all agreed on the spot to work together to solve *these challenges!*

This heartbreaking situation required SATF to find a suitable partner organization to team up with, primarily one that could offer shelter to the seven siblings. The Women in Development Organization (Jipe Moyo Center), based in Musoma town banded together and agreed to take the lead and host the six youngest members of the family, and are also working to provide Education, Health and Nutrition. The oldest child, Mnanka (17), didn't meet the Center's age requirements and additional arrangements were needed to ensure he was also supported. At present, everything is nearly in place to send him to boarding school in Serengeti.

Through a twist of fate, what started with simply reading a newspaper article has suddenly transformed the Mnanka family story in to one that is now full of hope! Our sincere thanks goes out to the people who contributed to make these changes happen, helping to uplift these children from the limbo of poverty. In their new life story, these seven siblings remain together, but now with the essential necessities and support to ensure their lives can shine much brighter.





Above, the 7 siblings at their rented shelter in Mugumu Serengeti



On the right, Mnanka Godfrey, the sole breadwinner for all of his siblings since the death of his mother. He will no longer have to take on this difficult role, thanks to SATF.



A new chapter begins: The family relocates to Jipe Moyo Center, restoring their lost childhood. On the left, Social Welfare Officer, Maria Peter Mchala, Serengeti District together with Jipe Moyo Center staff prepare to move the excited family.



Sister Annuciate Chacha in a jovial mood as she receives her six new guests at the center



It was an unbelievable moment: The Mnanka family arrives at Jipe Moyo Center and instantly mingle and bond with the other children.



Local Leaders blessed the movement of the family from Serengeti to Jipe Moyo Center, Musoma



A new home, new beds and brand new futures!