In 1992, Venerable Huili embarked on a journey to Africa. He established the first “Amitofo Care Center” (ACC) in Malawi during 2004, dedicated to caring for African vulnerable children and where more than 85% of world’s HIV-positive children live. Today, many years later, the founder continues with his compassionate practice of Buddhism in Africa traveling to all corners of Africa, and helping countless precious young lives. Nowadays, he is known as the “African monk” or “Monk dad” in the eyes of thousands of children.

Many activities were suspended during the pandemic, and everyone tried their best to stay home. From the “Home Drawing Competition” held by the ACC Office in Taipei, impressions of Africa could be drawn and cultural customs seen through these drawings. Painting also helps relieve stress and nervousness. May 25 is the national holiday of Africa “Africa Day”. In addition to singing and dancing to celebrate the festival, the whole shelter held a “Draw the Most Beautiful Scenery in Africa” competition, and all the children volunteered together to draw and create what this topic meant to them. Volunteer teachers in the campus prepared all the painting materials: drawing paper, pencils, watercolors, markers, crayons, etc. After the dean’s mother explained the key points of the painting, the children were eager to give it a try and release their inner creativity. There was a bright and colorful scenery, elaborate buildings, national flags, various ethnic costumes, animals with African characteristics, natural desert landscapes, sea views, and the beautiful starry sky of Namibia. Even the ACC campus buildings, Buddhas, and Bodhisattvas were integrated into the local characteristics of a few of the drawings. We were amazed by the creations and unique ideas of children, and we also discovered several potential future Picasso artists. Have you ever seen a lion with black hair? Would you like to know the unique scenery of Namibia? Would you like to see the beautiful starry sky of Namibia?

The current pandemic situation is severe. Please take preventive measures at all time and pay attention to your health to maintain a positive energy and frame of mind in these unprecedented times!

It was originally planned that ACC Eswatini and Namibia would go on a trip in 2020, but it has not been made possible so far. Before Coach Wang Guangsheng returns to his hometown, we invite all the staff and children to enjoy a film. Coach Wang will lead the Eswatini ACC children’s performance “Taiwan Grateful Trip 2015”. The children got to see the wonderful performance of their Taiwan brothers and sisters, they watched like fans seeing their idols on screen. After that, they kept asking the teachers about Jingzang, Qingxiao, and Qingtian... “Where are they now? How old are they? Have they graduated?”

In order to answer all the questions in the hearts of the children, the dean’s mother invited the older children of Eswatini ACC to join “Online Friends”. Thanks to the arrangement of Eswatini ACC’s Director Amber, these little fans got to catch a glimpse of their idols! A huge thanks to ACC Eswatini for their Kung Fu, magic, “friends” song, traditional songs, Tibetan solos, and the Kung Fu Seven Stars! In the end, because of Namibia’s network disconnection, we had to say goodbye, but we are looking forward to the next online meeting!