

Asante sana. Thank you all for the support and interest in our foundation Kids to School. Without your help we cannot help our students and the Baobab Home. Therefore we also appreciate your help for the coming year

We have good news. Kids to School is performing well. Mary Orege finished her diploma study in Social Work and Community Development at the African Institute of Research and Development. She is now looking for a job. We wish her good luck.

We also welcome three new students in our program: Christine Mwendu Nzomo, Beatrice Maleno Kampatae, and Valery Libese. In September Christine started her study Community Development and Social work and Beatrice and Valery went on with the secondary school. Beatrice in form 2 and Valery in form 3. More information about these students and all the others can be found on the website: [www.kids2school.info](http://www.kids2school.info).

Much of the news in this newsletter is written by our students. First I give the pen to Jenny Salavante. Jenny has been studying for her bachelors in Elementary Education with specialization in general education at West-Visayas State University in Iloilo. She is our Filipino student and is in her last year. In March this year she will finish her study. In October 2016 Jenny wrote:



Jenny Salavante (2nd right) with 3 of her students

Currently, I am in my 4th year college and I'm having my practicum or practice

*teaching here in our municipality in Zarraga. The name of the school is Zarraga Central Elementary School. Happily, I'm teaching in my own town. The school is just walking distance away from home and it's to my benefit since I'm already familiar with the place and the people around the community. Our duty in school is from Monday to Thursday only. Every Friday we have classes on Special Topics at the university. I use to go back to the dormitory every Thursday afternoon until the weekend to finish and do some of the paperwork and instructional materials needed for our requirements in practice teaching.*

*I was assigned in Grade 6 Special Science Class. The adviser of the class is my cooperating teacher and she's handling all English classes in all sections in Grade 6 and one in Grade 4. She assigned me to have my demo teaching twice a week. At first, I took it as a challenge for me but I accepted it as a big chance to improve myself. I became more emotionally and socially matured in my 4 weeks of experience in being a student-teacher. My cooperating teacher is really an excellent teacher. She showed and gave me advice in teaching. I learned a lot from her and it motivated me to love my profession more. I was more inspired upon meeting my students. They are smart and very participative in class discussion. I already build relationships with them and I appreciate how they give respect to me as their teacher. My duty in off-campus (Zarraga Central Elementary School) will only last for 6 weeks and this is already my 4th week in the school. After having our practicum off-campus, we will go back to the university and have our next practicum. At this time, I will be teaching in the Integrated Laboratory School in my university. We will also stay there for 6 weeks.*

*After 6 weeks of teaching in West Visayas State University-ILS, we will go back to Zarraga for another 6 weeks of practicum. For now, I'm still enjoying my student teaching life at ZCES. I have already given*

*10 demo teachings and I have received positive reports from my critique teacher. I'm still keeping up my good work and applying all the strategies and techniques I learned to make my teaching more effective to the students. I gain more knowledge as I teach to the students. I was exposed to the different extracurricular activities inside and outside the school. Once I had to teach my students interpretative dance which I thought I cannot do. But I did my best and luckily, teachers were satisfied with the great performance of the students. Every afternoon, I help my cooperating teacher to train journalism to those students who participate in a contest. I take it as an honor to train them since I was once a journalist myself, way back in my elementary and high school. Right now, I'm still gaining experiences and still building my foundations and I hope to become good teacher later on. Thank you so much for all the generous support you have given to me. I'm in my last year in college and this is all because of the good people like you. After I graduate, I'm planning to take my Licensure Exam and hopefully, I can be enrolled to a Graduate School and take my Masters Degree. God bless everyone.*

*Truly yours, Jenny Salavante*

The second student who writes in this Newsletter is Emily Muriet Tumaina. Emily came into our program through our collaboration with the Maasai Girls Education Fund (MGEF). Kids to School has sponsored her since 2012. Emily finished her study in December 2015. Emily has written the story about the whole of her education from primary school to University. You can read this on the website. In this Newsletter we publish her experience since Kids to School came into her life. Emily is then in her 2nd year of her study *Tourism Management* at Kenyatta University.



Emily Muriet at her graduation in June 2016 at the university and in the village with family and friends

*Emily: After secondary education I managed to score a better grade and proceeded to the university where I pursued a Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management at Kenyatta University. Life was good and when I was in my second year first semester, God sent other Angels (Kids to School-Ruud) through the late Barbara Lee Shaw. How this happened, I left it to always say thank you God. Meeting Ruud at Fairview Hotel Nairobi was a privilege. The story is endless. He told me that Kids to school will sponsor me through university. I felt encouraged for I knew for sure, I can't misuse the chance. I was bonded to a new family of Kids to School. This was a strong family too. I felt happy when it reached the MGEF mentoring workshop at the end of the year where I saw Ans the president of Kids to School (KtS) for the first time. The gift she brought me was just awesome and that still holds to date. By that time I was strong enough to encourage other people and tell them the importance of education. God can use people to uplift you from nowhere to somewhere. I could facilitate both in*

*schools encouraging young girls and boys in the far remote areas and also from my family.*

*Life was more interesting. Comfortable in school, everything provided by Kids to School and my part was to excel. Yes I did. I managed to be a second class upper division student with good aggregate points and I thank God for the whole family of Kids to School and MGEF for their good start and my parents too for always encouraging me to go on. This was the beginning of my life and for taking personal responsibility... It was the time that my parents and the whole family could expect something from me. The time to tighten the belts and download what the people, sent by God, have done for me. The time to realise, how my people live. The time to ask myself whether my family should stay hungry anymore. The load is huge but I knew that God will help me. I love His endless love.*

*I got an internship in the county government of Kajjado. I managed to get some cash through field work and was really grateful, for it marked the beginning of developing where I came from. I started by building a four room decent house for my parents because the previous Naborru house was very bad. It was a nice feeling indeed to have managed that. One can ask how was I able to do that. I earned some money by making people's hair and by doing small businesses and now my parents are in a decent and comfortable house. I thank God for that...I love my parents. Despite the fact that they had nothing to give, they had prayers and encouragement too and have never thought of marrying me off, as other parents would have done. The good work of KtS and MGEF. The willing hearts, supportive people, God bless you much.. I can write day by day explaining my gratitude but it's never enough. The family of Tumaina is now happy I can provide, no hustle any more... Comfortable living condition... Its not my might, but it took the hand of God*

*through the sent ANGELS. I can't pretend to pay you back, the overseer, the God of reward will purpose accordingly. Currently I am working in Real Estate Company. Hoping for the best in the near future, to be stable in sensitive areas to be able to support others.*

*SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO;  
The late Barbara Lee Shaw, MGEF founder;  
Lucy Ntayia, MGEF Director; Mrs.Saigilu, MGEF Loitokotok representative.  
Ruud Keulen, KtS; Ans Groener, KtS founder and president; José Boerrigter, KtS secretary.  
My beloved parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tumaina Naborru.*

The latest news is that Emily found a job in the field of her study and interest, in a lodge in Amboselli National Park.

As already mentioned Mary finished her study and received the official diploma certificate in November 2016. The next part is written by Mary.



Mary at her graduation for the certificate in June and in November as a young working woman.

*Dear family of Kids to School Foundation,*

*I want to take this opportunity to thank and appreciate you all as the family of Kids to School foundation for the support I have been getting from the foundation. Since I joined this organization, my life has been a successful one with the help of the good services you provided me with in terms of school fees, house rent, expense and also*

good advice and guidance. I want to thank also the Local Advisory Council members of Kenya for their support and hard work to the foundation by coming together as a team whenever there is any concern and also for making easy communication to the foundation between the students and their mentors. I thank my mentor, Nicholas for his support, his words of encouragement and advice that he used to give me and also for making easy communication when necessary. Let me give thanks also to my fellow students for being good and disciplined to the organization and I urge you to continue in that spirit to make the organization more proud and for the organization to be proud of us too. I am happy to meet and be with the family of Kids to School and more so when they visit Kenya from Netherlands with their friends. May we still remain as one family especially during this December holiday season as I wish you all, a happy Merry Christmas and a new year 2017. May our Almighty God continue to bless and protect the entire family of kids to school foundation for their good deeds.

Regards, Mary Okuku.

In December José and I visited Kenya to meet our new students and to have the annual student's day. We also had the opportunity to meet the members of Community Organization & Training for Risk Reduction (COTRR). We have started a collaboration with this NGO through Alice Waring. We met Alice last year as mentor of our student Joyce. We now have 2 students of COTRR in our program. Last year we reported about Joyce and this year we met Beatrice as one of our new students. José reports on our trip.

For the second time since I joined the board of Kids to School, Ans and I went together on the plane to Nairobi. This

time there were a number of special meetings planned. We visited our three new students. Christine in Kibera (one of the largest slums in Africa), Beatrice in Suswa, in the middle of Maasai land, and Valery in Kakamega, West Kenya. In these three places we got to know our new students and their families. All are motivated and grateful to be included in the foundation.



Visit of the family of Christine (2<sup>nd</sup> left) and her mother (1<sup>st</sup> tight). Also on the picture (2<sup>nd</sup> right) Caroline member of LAC.



Visit of the family of Beatrice (2<sup>nd</sup> right). Also on the picture father, mother and the 5 other children.



Visit of the family of Valery a (1<sup>st</sup> left) and her mother. On the picture also her grandmother and niece.

*Esther gave us a guided tour at Kenyatta University of Law in Nairobi We had an interesting conversation with the administrator, especially about the current situation in Kenya for finding employment after study. This information we could use well as one of the items to discuss on the annual student's day.*

*In Suswa we distributed books on behalf Biblionef. This foundation donates books to schools, but has difficulties getting the books to the right locations. Because we visited Beatrice in Suswa we were in the position to take books to a school there. We also met the NGO Community Organization & Training for Risk Reduction (COTTR). This organization is co-founded by one of our LAC members Alice Waringi. We met Alice last year through one of our new students Joyce. This year we were invited to attend their annual meeting. It was very instructive for us.*

*I am glad that through KtS we can contribute a bit to give a bright future to underprivileged children. That this is really true, we can see from the students who are part of Kids to School and we know now for some time. On our student's day almost all students were present. Here experiences are shared, and discussions are not avoided. It feels like a tight group and you see the students develop personally.*

*Meanwhile, there are two students who are leaving us this year as a student and stay with us as graduates. Emily has found a job and Mary is still looking for a job. In the meantime, she does voluntary work in Kisumu.*

*I want to thank our LAC members and Sr. Mila for their help throughout the year and in organizing the student's day. They are of major importance to keep our*

*organization going.*



The student's day: students, LAC members and board members.

### The Baobab Home

This year I have asked the director of the Baobab home to write a short piece for our Newsletter.

This is what Terri Place wrote:

*This past year's donation from Kids to School was again spent on building at our school. This time the money went toward a new classroom. Normally, one donor donates all of the funds to build a classroom but this one had to be built quickly to help us finish our school registration, so KtS was one of 5 major donors from around the world! We will add your name plaque we put out front. The classroom is currently being used for years 6 and 7 so Salama is in that building now.*



Salama



Nasra

*The two students you sponsor, Salama and Nasra are doing fine. Nasra is in grade 2 and she now plays netball as her extra sports activity together with the cooking club. Salama J is in grade 6 and she plays yoga as her extra sports activity together with the bicycle club.*

*Thank you all for everything you do to keep the Baobab Home and Steven Tito Academy going and growing. In this rapidly*

*changing world, it is more important than ever!*

Further information can be found on The Baobab Home website: [www.tzkids.org](http://www.tzkids.org)

### The foundation Kids to School

Since March 2016 we have a new treasurer. Peter van den Berg has taken over this job from Elisabeth van Egten. Welcome Peter, we are looking forward to working with you.

### How to help?

Both the student's project and the project of Terri Place, director of the Baobab Home can be supported through the Foundation Kids to School.

The bank account (Triodos Bank) of the foundation is NL38 TRIO 0786 8391 04 in the name of Foundation for Kids to School in Utrecht. Clearly state what project you want to sponsor. The Baobab Home can also be supported directly through the website of The Baobab Home ([www.tzkids.org](http://www.tzkids.org)). Kids to School has the ANBI status. Donations to the foundation can be deducted as a gift tax.

For further information you can contact Ans Groener ([ans.groener@planet.nl](mailto:ans.groener@planet.nl)) or José Boerrigter ([joseboerrigter@hotmail.com](mailto:joseboerrigter@hotmail.com)).

Many greetings,

On behalf of Kids to School  
Ans Groener