

Asanta sana. Thank you very much 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.

2017 has been a good year for Kids to School. In March Jenny Salavante graduated cum laude for her bachelor's degree and in October Lilian Akinyi completed the theoretical part of her training. Lilian is now waiting for an internship. We also welcome four new students to our program. Two of these are boys. More about our new students can be read further on in this newsletter. More information about these students and all other students is on the website: www.kids2school.info.

Farewell of Sr. Milaluna Arranchado

The Kids to School foundation was set up at the end of 2008 and since April 2009, Sr. Mila has made an important contribution to our foundation. It is very unfortunate that she has to say goodbye to Kids to School in April this year. She is taking on a different function within her congregation.



Farewell Sr. Mila 2017

As mentioned, Sr. Mila has been involved with Kids to School from the very beginning as our financial expert in Kenya. Her social contribution was also very important. She knew all the students and always ensured good contact between the students and the Kids to School foundation. On the students' day in November we officially said goodbye to her. Her contribution stops at the end of March. *Thank you very much, Mila for everything you have done for Kids to School in recent years. You have made a substantial contribution to the growth and prosperity of Kids to School.*

News from our students

Jenny Salavante graduated cum laude in March for her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with specialization in General Education, *after this she passed* the exam for the education licence in September. In the Philippines this licence is essential to find a permanent job in public education.

Kids to School wishes Jenny good luck both in her personal life and with her career.



Jenny at the graduation



Jenny obtaining her licence

Lilian Akinyi officially received her diploma



Clinical Medical Surgery and Community Health at Kenyan Methodist University in Meru in October. Lilian also had to take the national Clinical Officers Council exam before she can start her practical

internship. She passed this exam in December. She will start her internship in September 2018. Congratulations Lilian and good luck.

The new students



Meryshel Sepacio Ginan is our new student from the Philippines. Meryshel studies Business Administration Major Financial Management. She is in her fourth and last year.



Elijah Mpasoi Kindi Kids to School have sponsored Elijah since September 2017. José and Ans visited Elijah's family in Suswa during our trip to Kenya.

He is one of the 14 children of a polygamous Masai family. Neither of his parents went to school. Elija is now in the second class of Tengecha Boys High School in Kericho.



Visit to the Elija family. Elijah is in the middle, his mother is on his left. His brothers and sisters are also on the picture



Julius Waithaka Gitau joined our program in January 2018. José and Ans visited the family of Julius last November. Julius has one sister. His father is disabled and therefore cannot

work. The family lives with the parents of the father on a small compound in the middle of the flats just outside Nairobi. Julius is in the second class of Kiambu High School in Kiambu.



Visit to the family of Julius. From l. to r. Julius, José, mother of Julius, Andrew, member of the LAC, and the father of Julius

Vivian Metiene Soilo also joined our program in January 2018. José and Ans, together with our former student Emily Muriel Tumaina, visited Vivian's family. Vivian is one of 22 children from a polygamous Masai family. Her parents never went to School school. She is in the first class of St. Claire Girls Secondary School in Rombo.



Visit to Vivian's family. Vivian is the 5th from the right. To Vivian's right is her mother. A number of sisters and other family members are also in the photo.

Visit to Kenya

José and Ans visited Kenya at the end of November/ beginning of December. In addition to visiting the families of our new students, the annual students' day in Nairobi is always part of our program.

Through the students' day we have personal contact with all students, and we hope that it contributes to a good relationship between the students, mentors and all other people involved. This year three former students were present.

We always start this day with an introduction round of all those present, then we have lunch and during the afternoon program we discuss a specific topic. This year the subject was "Experience sharing". Caroline Kisato, one of the members of the Local Advisory Council, invited two enthusiastic women to talk about their professional experience.

Evelyn Wasike talked about how she eventually became a radiologist. As a woman that was not easy because in Kenya the medical field is still mainly dominated by men. Although she had a family with two children she managed to study abroad twice, once in South Africa and recently 2 years in Australia to get her Masters. She now works at Kenyatta hospital.

The second speaker, Nancy Waweruy, told that she could not find a job after her study, and therefore chose to give education to a few young women at her home. Nowadays she has a successful company called Vijana Amani Pamoja (VAP). VAP is a community-based organization that has multiple programs to support people in society. After the presentations there was a fascinating discussion between the speakers and those present. For all those involved at Kids to School it was great to get to know such enthusiastic people. Both women have indicated that they want to stay involved with Kids to School. We increasingly experience that the contacts in Kenya are essential for the proper functioning of Kids to School there. Thank you all very much.



The students' day 2017, during the round



The guests Nancy Waweruy (2nd from l.), Evelyn Wasike (3rd from l.) and Helen (COTRR, 1st from r.). Furthermore Carole Kisato, José and Ans



Almost all those present at the students' day 2017

Just like last year, once again this year one of our students wrote a piece for the newsletter. This time it is Esther Patrobers. She is 4th year law student and has been in our program since 2012. She has written an extensive report. This is what Esther wrote:

Your destiny or fate is determined by your choices and actions. If you do not control and shape your destiny or fate, your future will be determined by what will happen - Dr. T.P. Chia

The above statement is a true reflection of my life. From the small village of Otok Rongo in Karachuonyo Constituency in Homabay County all the way to the City of Nairobi courtesy of Kids 2 School

Foundation; isn't God Great? As a primary pupil in a small town in Kenya, I had dreams, big dreams that I would pray every day to God



to make them come true. Having lost his job in my last year of primary school, my father and I were not sure of the possibility of joining a secondary school. Believing that dreams are valid, I sat for my exams and qualified to join a good secondary school but the joy was short lived as there was not enough money to enable me join my dream school. Through the help of few villagers, my father managed to collect some money and I joined a small secondary school in my village. Despite having reported later than the others I managed to pass well and as fate would put it I was the best.

Six months after joining secondary school, a man famously known as Mr Owino announced in the village that he had contacts with some "white people" who could pay school fees and as the norm, I registered with him and transferred to St. Lucy's Raruowa Secondary School in Homabay County together with other girls (Levis Nyalando and Maureen Atieno) having promised to pay our fees. He never paid a dime to the school and I was once again helpless as my school fees arrears had piled up.

Then 'boom' along came the Carmelite Missionary Sisters; forever grateful for having met the wonderful and beautiful souls. With the help of Sr Milaluna who was already part of the local advisory council to the Foundation and also serving as the financial coordinator and Sr. Anthonia Ochike (Then Principal at Raruowa Girls' Secondary school where I

studied), five new beneficiaries were accepted in the Foundation! This marked the beginning of a beautiful story.

I am now in my final semester of four years at Kenyatta University Law School. This came after passing well in my final exams in secondary school meriting studying law in Kenya. I joined law school in September 2014 and since then I have been involved in many activities in and out of Campus. In first Year, I joined a Charity Group in school which focused more on helping out in children's homes, mentorship and also donations. We would sell commodities like sweets in school to raise money for our activities and this has been successful. I currently have two mentees who look up to me as their big sister.

After my second year, I went for Judicial Attachment at Makadara Law Courts where I got to learn more of the court system and the Kenyan Criminal Justice System. This was an eye opener for me as I got the opportunity to spend time with the judges and magistrates and learn from them. I also got the chance to write many judgments in relation to the criminal cases at the court. The site visits played an important role as they formed the foundation of my research paper on the Prevalence of Sexual Offences within the court's Jurisdiction and scoring highly on it. I still help the magistrate who supervised me to write judgements and other necessities like inquests to date.

It was also in my second year that I joined Africa Youth Leadership Forum, an organization that aims at training student leaders, mentorship and friendship. Through this organization, I realized my talent and interest in events planning and

public relations. I have been able to be part of many planning committees for their events like the Annual Student Leaders Retreat for all student leaders in Africa, Mega end year dinners where I am always the head of the team, the Annual Parliamentary Prayer Breakfast of Kenya graced by the President and many breakfast meetings. We are currently working on a Breakfast Meeting for Deans of Student Affairs in all Universities and main Colleges in Kenya.

In my third year in the University, I got the chance to undertake my internship at the Ministry of Water where I learnt many things. Got the chance to draft a lot of documents in relation to the Ministry especially contracts. Spending time with the State Counsels and learning more of what they do awakened my interest in the commercial world and would like to take that direction after school. I also did a research on Water Legislation in the country which impressed my supervisor. Later in the year, I applied to be part of the Youth Programme for Women Deliver Programme which was successful and I give thanks and Glory to God. This is a programme that seeks to empower young women advocates in advancing their career through monthly based meeting, workshops, community based programmes and conferences.

Without doubt, it is clearly evident that the scholarship has played a key role in enabling me achieve my educational dreams. Acquiring a degree in Kenya is very expensive when one has to pay school fees as a self-sponsored student, and due to the generosity of the foundation, the financial burden placed on my family to fund my education has been reduced.

Apart from fees, one has to worry about rent, food and other things. The foundation having reduced the financial burden then meant that I spent much of my time on my studies, research and extracurricular activities and less time worrying about my finances. Thank you very much for investing in my future and the future of other beneficiaries.

My last semester at Kenyatta University ends in May after which I will undertake my internship as I await graduation in December. I am interested in working with Companies, Parastatals, Banks and NGO's with legal departments and am in the process of researching and doing my applications for the internship to be able to get a place by the time I am done with school.

After attaining my degree at Kenyatta University, I hope to join Kenya School of Law in 2019(February) to be able to be admitted to the bar as an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and to attain my practicing certificate. I sincerely express my gratitude to the Foundation for investing in me, I hope to honour you with my success and also give back to see one succeed as I was uplifted.

My sincere appreciation to: Kids to School Board in Netherlands; Sr. Milaluna Arranchado Moralde, – Financial Coordinator; Sr. Anthonia Ngozi Ochike – Former Principal Raruowa Girls' Secondary School; Local Advisory Council; my Family; Kids to School Beneficiaries

May God protect you, reward you and bless all of you. You are jewels.

Love and Prayers. Esther Patrobers

The Baobab Home

The Baobab home and the Steven Tito Academy (STA) have made good progress over the past year. STA is the elementary school that started in 2012. The school was officially registered in 2017. This means that the children of group 4 and 7 can and must do the regional and national examinations. This is of importance for further education. All children have succeeded. This is an excellent result.

Congratulations STA

Further information about the Baobab Home and the Steven Tito Academy can be found on their website:

www.tzkids.org.

The foundation Kids to School

The board has not changed in the past year. However, because Sr. Milaluna is leaving, we have been busy finding a new financial expert in Kenya.

This has been successful. At the last Skype meeting we have met Sr. Elisabeth. We wish her success and hope for a fruitful cooperation with her.

How to help?

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

The bank account number (Triodos Bank) is: NL38 TRIO 0786 8391 04 in the name of Foundation 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). Kids to School has the ANBI status. Donations to our foundation can be deducted from the tax as a gift.

For further information you can contact Ans Groener ans.groener@planet.nl or José Boerrigter joseboerrigter@hotmail.com.

Many greetings,
Board of Kids to School