

*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*

2018 has been a good year for Kids to School. In March Meryshel Gianan graduated cum laude for her Bachelors in Business Administration. Morine Otieno graduated as a nurse, Irene Saito completed her Bachelors in Business Administration with credits and Esther completed her Law studies with a diploma.



Meryshel



Morine



Irene



Esther

In 2018 we included seven new students in our program, two from the Philippines and five from Kenya. 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](http://www.kids2school.info).

### **Ten years of Kids to school**

The Kids to School foundation is ten years old now. A good opportunity for us to look back on what we have achieved so far.

Thirty-nine young people made use of the foundation and they were able to follow a study. The duration of the sponsorship varies from one to nine years. 19 of the students have graduated and we know that at least fifteen now have paid jobs. Unfortunately, two students had to leave the foundation prematurely, one because she received a sponsorship from an alternative organisation and the second because she chose to stop her education. A high school education costs between 550 and 600 euros a year. The costs for a vocational training are between 1,000 and 3,000 euros per year.

In the past year Ans has been in Tanzania and Kenya for a total of three months. She has clearly experienced the importance of having good contacts with people in the countries where we work. This is especially true for Kenya because we have the most students there and the students attend different schools and follow different courses. In Kenya we work with a Local Advisory Council (LAC). Five volunteers: Andrew, Nicholas, Alice, Carole, and Sr. Elizabeth assist us with advice but especially with action. They make the first contacts with the sponsored students who need help, they coach the students,, and they oversee a responsible financial policy in Kenya. In this newsletter you can see the members of the LAC in different photos.

In Kenya we work with three organizations, which help us and advise us.

Since 2012 we have been working with the Maasai Girls Education Funds (MGEF; [www.maasaigirlseducationfund.org](http://www.maasaigirlseducationfund.org)).

Since 2015 we work with Community Organization and Training for Risk Reduction (COTRR; [www.cotrr-africa.org](http://www.cotrr-africa.org)).

Since 2018 with Vijana Amani Pamoja. The name is Swahili and means: Youth Peace Together. (VAP;

[www.vijanaamanipamoja.org](http://www.vijanaamanipamoja.org)).

The contact with COTRR and VAP in particular is intensive because we work very directly with these organizations. They

are of great importance for introducing new students and coaching our students.

To ensure that Kids to School runs smoothly in Tanzania, we are in contact with The Baobab Home and the Steven Tito Academy. So far, we have only sponsored primary school children in Tanzania, but that will change in 2019, when we will also start to sponsor high school students.

In the Philippines we currently sponsor two university students. The program there runs smoothly thanks to the help of Sr. Gemma and the direct contact with the students.

We often hear that the special thing about Kids to School is that after high school we give the students a chance to follow a professional education. Another special feature is that we work with volunteers in the different countries.

**News from our students**

As stated earlier in this Newsletter, four students have graduated this year. Two students passed the final exam of high school and all the others started a new school year. We describe the new students here briefly. You can read information about all students on the website.

**The new students**

Kids to Schools has sponsored **Mercy Njeri** since July 2018. Andrew and Ans visited the family in November. Mercy lives in Muranga County. She is the oldest girl in a family with five children. Her father passed away a few years ago and her mother is now trying to support her family by selling second-hand clothes. It is impossible to pay high school for Mercy with her income.



Visit to the family of Mercy. From l. to r. Mercy, the mother of Mercy and Andrew, member of the LAC.

Kids to School has sponsored **Faith Muthoni** since July 2018. She is a second-year pharmacy student. COTRR has made it possible for her to go to high school. Ans got to know her during the student day in December 2018. She is a very enthusiastic and good student.



Student's day: From l. to r. Nelly, guest and member of COTRR, Faith, Andrew and Alice, COTRR and member of LAC.

**Harriet Petronillah** has been sponsored by Kids to School since September 2018. She started a training as a pre-school teacher. With Sr. Elizabeth, Ans visited Harriet's grandmother and uncle. Harriet is an orphan and was born disabled. She uses a leg prosthesis. Thanks to the Liliane fund, she was able to attend secondary school.



Visit to the family of Harriet. From l. to r. The uncle, grandmother, grandchild and Sr. Elizabeth, financial coordinator in Kenya.

**Lydia Awino** has been in our program since January 2019. In 2017, José and I met her much older brother in Loitokitok. Lydia is an orphan. She finished primary school at the end of 2017. Due to lack of money, she could not go to high school after primary school. Thanks to Kids to School, she is now going to secondary school.

We have sponsored **Rose Wambui** since January 2019. Rose is one of the girls who is active within VAP. Ans met her during her visit to VAP in November. In 2018 she obtained the Interior Design certificate; she is the captain of a women's football team at VAP and coaches a boys' team. Kids to School gives her the opportunity to get a Diploma in Interior design.



Visit to the football team of Rose. Rose is 2<sup>nd</sup> right from Ans.

Kids to School has sponsored **Daniel Ndegwa** since January 2019. Ans was able to get to know Daniel and his family during her stay in Kenya at the end of 2018. Due to the political unrest in 2008,

the family has lost everything and is now slowly trying to rebuild their lives. Daniel has started his IT studies.



Visit to the family of Daniel. Daniel is the 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left.



**John Louie Aspera** has been sponsored since September 2018. He is at CEBU Normal University and is studying to become a high school teacher with English as the main subject. The study will take 4 years



We have sponsored **Michelle Genilan** since September 2018 She is studying Business Administration at the University of Iloilo with accounting as her main subject. The study will take 4 years.

**Message from two of our students**

We are happy that two students are contributing to our newsletter this year. This time **Morine Dwino** and **Irene Saitoti** wrote their stories.

**Report of Morine:**

Morine was in our program from 2012 to 2018, graduated this year and is now a nurse.

*I remember the day very well. I had been waiting so long for it, and it finally came:*

*My first day in boarding school. All my problems were finally over. The daily walks to school in the morning and back in the evenings, sometimes in heavy rains, sometimes the rivers overflow to the extent that I could not cross, going to school without food at night, and the poorly lit lamps for reading at night. All this was over now.*

*All I had in mind now was to read, read and read. All thanks to a sponsorship that came in the village taking children from day schools to boarding schools. All my dad had to do was to pay a sum of 4000 Kes/- and the rest of the school fees was paid by them. This organization did not last long though and they pulled out having run out of funds because of sponsoring too many children.*

*Here we were, back to square one. My mom kept on coming to plead with the school repeatedly to let me study and then the fee was to be increased even though they knew very well that my family could not raise such an amount. Going to high school was such a struggle. My dad didn't have enough money to pay for my day schooling and I knew it already when I was in primary school. But I had one thing in mind, and that was to trust his words that he would do anything in his power to see me go to high school if I passed my final exams. When I passed my exams, he did everything, including talking to relatives and by God's grace my Aunt volunteered to pay for my school fees in a day school.*

*After several months, Sr.Theodora (bursar of the school) called me and the news she gave me was like a dream. There was an organization which wanted to sponsor five students who were hard working and whose parents were unable to pay for their fees. I was one of them. I was so happy and could go on singing and singing. God had sent a helper to me. The helper was the foundation KIDS TO SCHOOL. Sr. Mila came to the school to visit us. Also Ans visited our school in Raruowa. Each year we visited Nairobi to join the annual students' day of Kids to*

*School. During our first visit we met Ruud and Ans. I also met other students from other parts of the country who were in the same foundation.*

*My first mentor was Mr. Andrew and he struggled with me so much showing me the right way, we went through a lot together. Later on Mr. Nicholas became my mentor. I must say that he is a good listener and advised me on the right choices. He was there for me when I needed him the most. Everything was going on smoothly until my third year in High school when I lost my mom from cancer, may her soul rest in peace. It was so hard for me to cope with the loss of my mother.*

*The foundation supported me together with my teachers and family.*

*I sat for my final exams. Thereafter I did my computer packages with the support of the organization I was so lucky to be in this organization for they were ready to pay for my schooling not just in high school but also further studies which is so rare. When my results were out, I was a bit disappointed I expected higher grades. My dream always had been to become a medical doctor but for that my grades were too low.*

*I applied for Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in a local University but didn't succeed. Then one day Sr. Mila suggested that I pay her a visit and I got a chance to talk to Sr. Irene who advised me to start a nursing course in the same school she was studying at that moment. I joined Cicely McDonell School of nursing. I was so happy to join the school. It was a very good school with cool learning environment, good food, and everything that one would wish for and had great expectations. In the school there were a lot of challenges such as standing for a long time during practical's and there was a lot to cover in a short time. But with time, I was able to adjust. Ans and Jose visited me during my first year and even though I wasn't able to take them round the whole hospital, I felt great and blessed to have them. This was such a great motivation. I had a lot to share with Jose since she is also a nurse.*

*During my second year, the school increased the fees by 40% since we had new buildings with better study rooms and hostels. I informed Mr. Andrew, my mentor at that moment and he informed the organization about the changes and my school fees was paid to completion. In my third year, I got sick from cholera and got admitted to the hospital. On discharge, the hospital bill had gone too high for my family to pay. Once again the foundation interceded on my behalf and there came a reduction in the bill. The foundation however was not planning to pay. Finally my family managed to raise 50.000 Kes and my classmates raised 78.000 Kes towards this. I can't fail to recognize the efforts of Mr Andrew and Mr. Nicholas during this time for they devoted their time to advocate on my behalf.*

*I sat for my nursing council exams and passed my exams. It felt so good to finish school and now I am a qualified nurse. During my graduation, Ans came and attended my graduation. This was such an honor and I am grateful that she created time to come. My father was so happy to meet her even though they had difficulty communicating to each other. He keeps telling me how sweet and kind she was. Thank you.*

*Here I am today, a grandaunt (graduate?) with diploma in nursing in the best school in the country. All this would have not been possible without Kids to School.*

*I am grateful for all the support from you and thank you also for shading light in my family. You have raised me to a point that I can take care of myself and saved me from early marriage and early pregnancy. Everyone in my village is proud of me and the confidence and joy in my father's face is beyond explanation.*

*Thank you.  
Regards, Morine.*

### **Report of Irene:**

Irene Saitoti was in our program from 2009 till 2017. She got her Bachelors in Business Management in 2018.

*I found my second family in Kids to School. Taking up someone's responsibility by being a parent to a kid, you never gave birth to, is a rare thing in today's world!!! It started in 2009 when Kids to School started to pay for me to be able to go to high school. This came at a time when we were about to give up on my studies. My parents had a willing heart but no money to pay my education. But for me it was not easy to give up, I told them to wait for a longer time till it was really no longer possible. I believe in impossibilities. Every student with whom I finished class eight had already joined high school. God brought a helping hand through Sr. Jocelyn Pecto, one of the founders of Kids to School. I joined Rombo Girls Secondary school. I finished after four years, which was back in 2012. Kids to School was so good to me and gave me the possibility to go to university. In Sept 2013 I joined Kenya Methodist University and started to study for a diploma in Business Management. It took two years and I managed to finish it with credits in 2014. The Foundation was happy with my achievement. I am one of the few blessed. While waiting for the diploma, Kids to School pay my computer studies in June and Aug 2015.*

*Sept 2015 I received the most welcoming news that I could apply for a degree course. I enrolled for a degree in Business Administration (Finance Option) in Kenya Methodist University. As part of the study it is required for all students to do an internship for a period of three months. I did this in Sanlam insurance company working as a finance manager in credit managing. The company wrote me a recommendation letter. My degree course took two years; I was able to finish in Sept 2017. I graduated on Oct 13 2018 with a Second Class Honors upper division. Currently I am searching for a job to utilize*

*my study into a real life thing. My dad is a happy man since he knows well that I will help him and my siblings out of the difficulties they have been going through because I have all what is needed. All this because of the Foundation Kids to School. Kids to School is my home and my family. Ans, as the president and a mother to us, is one of a kind. She is determined to see all of the kids happy after school and be able to become independent people. Every year at the annual students' day we meet motivated speakers who encourage us. José, young and determined. You are one by whom I was motivated through your desire of helping young people while you are still young!! God bless you too!!! Thank you dear. Members of the local advisory council you are not forgotten. You do so much for this organization God bless you all!!! Maasai Girls Education Fund, you made the journey smoother. Lucy and the organization I found a home there. May God continue blessing you. For the kids or rather students: work harder, take the opportunity given to you as a ladder to take you to another level. Don't take it for granted. Do as it is advised by the mentors and leaders and your life in the organization will be smoother. All the best sisters and brothers. We are not lucky but rather blessed to be given the chance for a bright future, God bless you so much and add you more years to see all of us becoming what we wanted to be. Thank you so very much Kids to School. May you get all you need for the foundation to continue.*

WARM REGARDS WITH LOVE  
IRENE SOILA SAITOTI!!

**Visit to Tanzania and Kenya**

In the past year, Ans spent three months in Tanzania and Kenya. Unfortunately,

due to her Masters study, José was unable to take the time to come along.

**Tanzania**

Ans has been to Tanzania with three friends (To, René, and Johanneke). Together they visited the three students that Kids to School sponsors there and together they spent two weeks at The Baobab Home where they helped at the school and in the garden.



Visit to the orphanage in Lusotho where Anna lives. From l. to r. René, Mama Enna (director of the orphanage), Ans, To, Anna and Johanneke.

**The Baobab Home**



Terr Placei, director of the Baobab Home, and the children of the orphanage.

The Baobab Home is growing and becoming more self-sufficient. The herd is growing, the garden is getting better and the Steven Tito Academy now has 120 students.



Visit to the Baobab Home. This is a picture of the ceremony of the weekly opening of the Steven Tito Academy.

The STA is an officially registered school with eight classes. All eight students in grade 8 have successfully completed primary school. Kids to School sponsors the school and the orphanage. Moreover, we sponsor two children Salama J and Nasra to go to the school



Visit to the families of Nasra, left, and Salama J, right.

Nasra is now in group 4 of the STA. Salama J has finished primary school. We recently started to sponsor four children, including Salama J, to be able to go to high school. The school fees are paid by the government in Tanzania. We pay boarding school fees and, depending on the parents' income, further school supplies.

Further information about the Baobab Home and the Steven Tito Academy can be found on their website: [www.tzkids.org](http://www.tzkids.org).



Visit to the Baobab Home: this is a picture of the day trip with the children of the orphanage.

**Kenya**

In Kenya, Ans went to Loitokitok and Nairobi. In Loitokitok she was able to extensively get to know Sr.Elizabeth, our new financial coordinator in Kenya. In Nairobi, she has strengthened contacts with COTTR and VAP.

**The annual student day 2018**

Like every year, together we all look back on the previous year. This year, special attention was paid to the fact that Kids to School turned ten years in November 2018. We always start this day with a round from all those present, then we have a lunch and during the afternoon program we discuss a certain topic. This year it was Life skills. The presentation was enthusiastically given by **Herman Ojowi Aduol**.



All attendees on the students' day 2018.



The first 2 male students, Julius and Elias, together with Nicholas (member of the LAC).



In the middle Carole, member of the LAC, surrounded by from l. to r. Rose, Christine, Lilian, Morine and Josephine.

## **The Kids to School foundation**

The board in the Netherlands had to say goodbye to our treasurer Peter van den Berg this year. Peter has been active for Kids to School for three years. Peter many thanks to you for your contribution to Kids to School.

In Loitokitok Ans met Caroline Houben from Alkmaar. Caroline will take over the treasurer's role from Peter in April 2019. We wish her good luck and hope for a good cooperation.

Because Sr. Milaluna has left Kenya, we have been busy finding a new financial co-ordinator in Kenya. We succeeded. Since April 2018, Sr. Elizabeth has been active within Kids to School. Welcome Sr.

Elizabeth, we are looking forward to a good and active relationship with you.

### **How to help?**

Both the students' project and The Baobab Home can be supported through the Kids to School Foundation.

The bank account number (Triodosbank) is: NL38 TRIO 0786 8391 04 t.v. Kids to School Foundation in Utrecht. State clearly which project you want to sponsor. The Baobab Home can also be supported directly via the website of The Baobab Home ([www.tzkids.org](http://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](mailto:ans.groener@planet.nl) or José Boerrigter, [joseboerrigter@hotmail.com](mailto:joseboerrigter@hotmail.com) .

Many greetings.

On behalf of the Kids to School board  
Ans Groener, chairman  
José Boerrigter, secretary